

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

An Organ of Fundamental Democracy

Policy: FREE LAND, FREE TRADE, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Vol. II, No. 154

Registered at the G.P.O., Adelaide, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper

ADELAIDE: JULY 21, 1934

Post free, 2/- per year, in advance

Repeal of British Land Value Tax

Our readers will know that under the provisions of the British Finance Act, 1931, introduced by Viscount Snowden, provision was made for the making of a valuation of all land in Great Britain with certain exceptions. It was expected that the valuation would occupy two years, and when completed was to be made available to the public by registers relating to each district being deposited for public inspection at the offices of the local authority. It was estimated that the cost of making the first valuation would be between one and one-and-a-half million pounds. Subsequent valuations, to be made every five years, were estimated to cost about £165,000. The large cost of the first valuation was due to the necessity of preparing maps, registers, and other records of permanent value, which were needed to give the nation a true record of what the national resources really are. Some time ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Ramsay MacDonald) became associated with the Conservative Party in what was called a National Government. Shortly afterwards the Land Values Act was placed in the background by the Conservative section, and now it has been repealed.

The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values issued a manifesto in regard to the position, and the secretary (Mr. A. W. Madsen) had some correspondence with the Prime Minister on the matter, in which he showed that: "Claiming to be 'National' the Government has clearly revealed, in its surrender to the landed interests, who are the real masters of this Parliament." Strong protests against the repeal have been uttered by many prominent newspapers and organizations. The executive of the National Liberal Party stated: "This executive regards this action as yet another proof that the National Government has capitulated to the dictation of the Conservative majority."

Labor and Liberal members of the House of Commons made strong speeches in opposition to the proposal to repeal the Land Values Act. In the course of his speech, Mr. Malleson (Liberal) gave some interesting facts regarding the privileges conferred upon the landholders. He said: "It is not surprising, if this be a Tory Government, that they should wish to repeal the Land Tax, because almost daily they are legislating for special favors for their privileged friends, provided that these privileged friends are wealthy enough to make expensive clamour, or unscrupulous enough to hold up the Government to ransom. . . . It would be wise for us to consider for one moment the extraordinary proportion of the expenditure which is made upon national development of all sorts which in fact goes to the landed interests. There is, for instance, an estimate which I have never seen questioned, about Charing Cross Bridge. The total cost of the scheme was to be £16,865,000, and of that £16,865,000 no less than £11,000,000 was to go in buying out the land and all the rights necessary to erect the bridge. In the case of the Lambeth Bridge the cost of the total work was £839,000, of which over £102,500 has to be expended for the purpose of buying out the landowners and the various rights needed for the bridge. Not only does one compensate the landowners for certain rights one takes over from them, but one makes an absolutely gratuitous present of increased value to all the surrounding land when the work is done. In the particular case of the Lambeth Bridge it was not surprising to see very shortly afterwards that the small amount of eight acres on the Grosvenor Estate was sold by the Duke of Westminster for no less than £1,000,000. Just after that sale the 'Times,' on March 19, 1930, made this very true statement:

... it is the building of the Lambeth Bridge which has stimulated this development and has so enormously increased neighbouring values."

"A tax on the value of land would have taken some of that increased value of the land back to the community which had expended the

The Greater Illusion

Mr. F. S. Alford has rendered a valuable service by the publication of his book, "The Greater Illusion; a critical review of Australia's fiscal policy." Representative Gregory, who has done excellent work in the Federal Parliament against high tariff duties, writes the Foreword, in which he states: "He lets daylight into our methods of tariff making; he shows how duties have been collected for months and years without parliamentary authority; and he shows, too, how the privileges granted the sheltered industries—the manufacturing ones—have well-nigh crushed the life out of the unsheltered industries—the primary ones." Mr. Alford's book of 18 chapters is packed with material which is of great interest to every wealth producer in the Commonwealth. In a very trenchant manner he deals with the protectionist policy of Australia, starting with the new protectionist policy and working through to the high duties in operation today. He makes special reference to the "Harvester" wage award of 1907, and shows how this basing of the wages of labor on the cost of living figures has been of immense harm to Australian industry.

Mr. Alford quotes extensively from the Tariff Board reports, and shows that warnings have from time to time been issued by that body. He provides some illuminating facts regarding some of the sheltered industries, such as glass, textiles, wire netting, farm implements, and many other lines. Special chapters are devoted to the primary industries, and interesting information is given showing the effect of the tariff on the cost of producing wheat. The matter dealing with the disabilities of the smaller States is both instructive and informative. The claims of protectionists are examined and shown to be fallacious, and it is made clear there is no hope of rehabilitation of industry until the tariff question is dealt with, and the duties lowered or abolished.

The effect of the Australian Navigation Act is shown in the book, and in concluding an excellent review of the whole economic position of Australia, Mr. Alford writes:

"Self-sufficiency, particularly the more extreme form of economic nationalism expressing high protection, merely fosters the extraordinary and erroneous belief that a country can become rich by making everything dear—that overseas trade can be run on a single track or one-way basis; that is to say, that a country can sell its products abroad without buying in return! Indeed, the national advantages of self-sufficiency, the general benefits of high protection, are simply and definitely an illusion—THE GREATER ILLUSION."

We commend this book to all our readers. It contains valuable information and should be in everyone's library. We can supply copies at 1/6 post free. Send at once for a copy.

Study Circle

Weekly meetings of the Study Circle are held each Tuesday night, with the exception of the last Tuesday in each month. The class is still studying "The Science of Political Economy," by Henry George; and great interest is maintained under the leadership of Mr. A. S. Bayly. A cordial invitation is extended to all to be present.

money on the works. You cannot justify the removal of the valuation, because any system of land value taxation, whatever you may think about that particular tax of 1931, must be based on a valuation such as the one repealed. It is the repeal of the provisions as to valuation which was absolutely uncalled for and indeed iniquitous."

For the time being vested interests have triumphed, but it is only a matter of time when community-created values will be taken for the benefit of the people responsible for their existence. The time necessary to realise this ideal depends entirely upon the people who will benefit by its adoption. They have the power if they will but use it.

Protest Against Motor Body Duties.

During the visit of the Tariff Board to Adelaide on July 18 evidence was heard in regard to a proposal to reduce the duties on motor body panels. There has been a great amount of propaganda for the purpose of retaining the existing high duties, and during the debate on the Supply Bill Mr. A. V. Thompson, M.P. (Labor member for Port Adelaide) asked the Premier to use his influence against any reduction. Mr. E. J. Craigie (Flinders) said ("Hansard," July 12):

"I did not intend to speak on this subject until the question of the duty on motor body panels was introduced by Mr. Thompson. When the Treasurer is giving consideration to the request of the honorable member he should remember there are other sections of the people who should also receive consideration. If there is one section of the community which is having a very bad time it is those who are unfortunate enough to own motor vehicles. They seem to be singled out for special taxation. Because there is a possibility of the Tariff Board doing something in the way of lowering the iniquitous duties which have been placed on motor bodies and panels a considerable amount of propaganda is being indulged in in all parts of the country. Apparently some other members of Parliament have also been approached in regard to this particular matter. The Treasurer must realise that motor vehicles are a very necessary mode of transport, particularly to those who reside in the outback country areas and have long distances to travel. Motor cars are not a luxury to these people, and when an attempt is being made, as at the present time, to have the duties lowered or removed I do not think the Government should hold to the exceedingly high rates we are paying today. The duty to be paid on motor panels for a single-seater is £20, a double-seater £30, and if it is for a sedan type of car with fixed or movable canopy top the duty is £37 10/-. As to the actual duty on the body itself, it is £40 on a single-seater, and £60 on a double-seater. When the Bruce-Page Government was in power a tax of £30 was levied on a sedan type, but when Mr. Scullin took control, in order that the poor working man might be able to secure a sedan type of car at the lowest possible price, he lifted the duty from £30 to £35. I hope that when the Treasurer is giving consideration to the very pathetic appeal that has been made by the honorable member for Port Adelaide on behalf of the big monopolist of South Australia, he will also take into consideration the struggling farmers on the West Coast and in other parts, as well as other people who desire motor cars at a lower price than they are today."

"The Standard"

An Australian Journal to advocate the rights of the people in the land, abolish taxes upon trade and industry, and tax land values.

Subscription, 2/- per annum, post free.

A. G. HUIE, Editor and Manager,
114 Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Literature on Single Tax

Owing to the generosity of the Henry George Foundation (Australia) we now have a good supply of Henry George's celebrated pamphlets. These have been reprinted in Australia by the Foundation. There are six titles, viz.:

Thy Kingdom Come,
Thou Shalt Not Steal,
Moses,
Scotland and Scotsmen,
The Crime of Poverty,
Justice the Object, Taxation the Means.

These pamphlets are available at one penny each, postage one penny, or the SIX post free for eight pence. Readers are strongly recommended to send for this valuable set, which is splendid value for the small amount charged for them.

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE,
George Parade, 11 Carrington Street, Adelaide.

"The People's Advocate"

ADELAIDE: JULY 21, 1934

PARLIAMENT OPENS

The second session of the present Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on Thursday, July 12. The Governor's Speech, which always indicates the intentions of the Government for the coming session, was one of the most barren ever presented to Parliament. Very little of practical benefit was indicated in the speech. It was asserted that "public interests demand careful and economical administration of existing laws rather than an enactment of new ones." Seeing we have already more than two thousand laws upon our Statute Book, there certainly does not appear any immediate need for an addition to the number. The Government should repeal a number of the existing statutes, especially those which interfere with the liberty of the individual and take from him the results of his labor. Action along that line is long overdue. It is pleasing to know that action will be taken to secure a consolidation of the many laws, and for a complete reprint in a style which will make them more easily accessible to the people. It is proposed to introduce the new Companies Bill and a Local Government Bill. Other Bills dealing with road traffic, the Murray waters agreement, dangerous drugs, and a few other questions are to be introduced.

Reference is made to the fact that the figures dealing with unemployment reveal that the number of persons out of a job have fallen from 47,000 to approximately 39,000, and the annual cost to the State from £622,000 to £334,000. Any reduction along these lines is due more to outside influences than to any action on the part of the Government. The speech states that the Government is "acutely conscious of the many difficulties which still confront primary producers, and intend to pursue such policies as will alleviate those difficulties and promote production on sound economic lines." If the Government intend to give effect to a policy on sound economic principles it will need to make a big change in the line of action previously adopted. Action is to be taken to secure for producers a reduction of 20 per cent. in railway freights on their produce, and this is estimated to give relief to the extent of £120,000 a year. If a sound economic policy was adopted, as intimated, it would be possible to give a general reduction of 33 per cent. on all commodities carried over the railways, and this would afford considerable relief. This can be brought about by making the interest payments a charge against land values which arise by reason of money spent on railway construction, thus calling upon those metropolitan landholders who do not at present pay their fair quota to do so. In this way the country producers who now contribute the bulk of the railway interest in high rail rates and fares would get the burden lifted from their production.

One fact stands out clearly from the Governor's Speech and the criticism levelled against it by the Leader of the Labor Opposition, that is neither party has any practical suggestions to offer as a solution of our present troubles. Both parties believe in restrictions and interference with industry, and neither believes in taking the taxation burden from industry so that costs may be reduced and production placed on a profitable basis. The policies of the political parties deal with the effects of our present bad system, but have no concern with the cause of the trouble. There is only one way of successfully dealing with the existing conditions, and that is to remove the taxation burden from industry and collect for revenue the rental value of land. Until this is done there can be no social betterment.

Henry George Society Ltd.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of shareholders in the above Society will be held at the rooms, George Parade, off 11 Carrington Street, Adelaide, on Tuesday, July 31, at 9 p.m. The annual report and balance-sheet will be presented, and the Committee of Management elected for the coming year. Nominations for offices will be received at the League office up to Saturday, July 28. An invitation is extended to all shareholders to be present.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Secretary.

Meeting at Overland Corner

In response to an invitation from the Overland Corner Agriculture Bureau, Mr. F. H. Sharley visited that centre for the purpose of analysing the problems of the wheat industry. Mr. Edwin Atkinson (chairman of the bureau) presided, and there was a good attendance of members. In a very interesting and instructive manner Mr. Sharley investigated the various causes of the troubles which now affected the wheat growers. In the course of his address he touched upon a wide range of subjects, such as the high tariff taxes, the Canadian wheat pool, the Argentine wheat position, a home-consumption price, the marketing of primary products, as well as many other phases of the subject. He dealt with the question of compulsion versus voluntary co-operation, and showed that the latter was the better policy to adopt. He concluded an interesting and instructive address (which we regret that pressure of space alone prevents us from printing in full) by intimating that **DESPERATE DISEASES NEED DESPERATE REMEDIES.**

The present plight of the farmers is far more desperate than many people realise. The farmers provide us with a big portion of our food, and as we must eat in order to live it naturally follows that we **MUST SAVE THE FARMERS IN ORDER TO SAVE OURSELVES.**

Briefly summed up, the wheat industry has been crippled firstly by **INEXCUSABLY** high tariffs, which have forced the cost of production up to a point beyond the selling price of wheat, and secondly by the adoption of uneconomic business principles on the part of those controlling the destiny of the farmers. It therefore naturally follows that the only possible way of restoring prosperity to our primary industries is to **REDUCE TARIFFS** to a point which will make production again profitable, and to steadfastly and faithfully observe those economic business principles which have stood the test of centuries, and will do so again. **THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF TAKING THE LOAD OFF THE FARMERS' BACK.**

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- The recommendation of the system of raising revenue, commonly known as **LAND VALUES TAXATION**, to meet the cost of government.
 - Force into use all good land within assured rainfall areas, to which farmers from doubtful rainfall areas, or areas otherwise unsuitable, could be transferred.
 - Provide farmers with the best possible land at the lowest possible cost, it being a well known fact that under Land Values Taxation the amount of economic rent paid by farmers would be only a present the occupiers of land in the hundred of Waikerie consisting of 160,640 acres, the unimproved value of which is £186,714, contribute in land tax only £583 9/8, which is £151 5/- LESS than the land tax levied on one acre of land in the City of Adelaide, known as the "Beehive Corner," which pays £734 14/8.
 - This proposal would also considerably increase the purchasing power of the people by providing a more equal distribution of wealth, and thus help to solve the unemployment problem, thereby reducing the farmer's taxation.
- That the interest on capital expenditure on public utilities such as the railways, roads, harbors, and tramways be a charge upon the land values of the State. This would make it possible to reduce freights and fares, probably by about 40 per cent.
- That voluntary wheat pools be extended, and that the best men available be engaged to manage them in the interests of the farmers.
- That strong efforts be made to unite all primary producers politically with the object of forcing down tariff barriers, with international free trade as the ultimate objective.
- That efforts be made to revive interest in the Murray Port proposals in order to provide the cheapest possible means of transport for all wheat and other produce within reasonable distance of the River Murray.
- That instead of seeking an inflated price for wheat used for home consumption, efforts be made to have the unjust burdens now

Australian Glass Manufacturers Co. Ltd.

The Australian Glass Combine is one of the great monopolistic industries developed under the shelter of the protectionist policy of Australia. Its nominal capital is £2,000,000, but the amount paid up is £1,105,478 in 930,478 fully paid ordinary shares and 175,000 £1 preference shares, also fully paid. The company was originally floated in 1915, and has acquired many glass concerns since that time. Its profits soared to the highest point in 1929, when a profit of £207,000 was made, and its net profit for the twelve months ended March 31, 1934, was the best since 1930. The net earnings for the last term, after allowing for the amount needed to pay the dividend on the preference shares, worked out at 12½ per cent. on the ordinary capital. The directors kept the dividend to a modest 9 per cent., however, no doubt with an eye on the "equality of sacrifice" we hear about these days. The sum of £5,000 was placed to the superannuation fund, and the nice little sum of £25,109 was added to the reserve fund. For years prior to 1928 ordinary shareholders received regular dividends of 10 per cent., and in 1929 they received 12½ per cent. It is interesting to note the dividends paid, and the position of the reserve fund since that date.

Year.	Dividend.	Reserves.
1930 ..	12½ per cent. ..	£471,350
1931 ..	6 " " ..	476,540
1932 ..	7½ " " ..	465,141
1933 ..	9 " " ..	506,087
1934 ..	9 " " ..	531,186

The balance sheet shows that the company is in a sound position. The following are its assets:

Freehold Properties at cost, less depreciation	£101,821
Machinery and Plant at cost, less depreciation	224,786
Stock in hand at valuation	468,976
Sundry Debtors, less provision for doubtful debts	317,188
Loans at short call and investments	551,562
Bank current account	7,226
Goodwill	114,500
	£1,868,258

The security against the preference shares amounts to £8 13/11 per £1 share. The share market shows that buyers are paying 60/- for the ordinary £1 shares.

This is the combine that secured an embargo against the importation of glass from overseas, so that it might have a monopoly of the Australian market. Because of that embargo restricting the imports of glass from Belgium the Australian barley growers lost the Belgian market. Yet we have a Government in power in the Federal Parliament which claims to be interested in the wellbeing of primary producers! All tariff taxes and embargoes should be swept away and trade allowed to flow along natural channels. This is the only way whereby an equitable distribution of wealth can be secured.

Douglas Credit Debate

On June 27 there was a public debate in the A.N.A. Hall, Adelaide, on "Single Tax v. Social Credit." Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., stated the case for the Single Tax, and Mr. F. E. Blake dealt with Douglas Credit. There was a very big attendance, many being unable to secure admission, and about one hundred were unable to get seats. Those who expected to hear a statement of the Douglas Credit proposals must have been very disappointed. Although Mr. Blake was supposed to expound the principles in his first speech, instead of so doing he merely proved by his criticism of the Single Tax that he did not understand anything about it. One statement of his is worth printing. He claimed that under the Single Tax a struggling farmer with 640 acres of poor land would pay 640 times as much to revenue as the holder of one acre in the main business centre of the city. The audience realised the absurdity of this, and roared their disapproval. In the column report of the debate which appeared in the "Advertiser" it was stated that "Mr. Craigie had the best of the debate." Rev. Principal Kiek presided.

borne by Australian primary producers removed.

7. That efforts be made to have harbors (docks, etc.) reduced to those in force in other wheat-producing countries.

Mr. Sharley was warmly thanked for his interesting and inspiring address.

Taxing Mining Land

By E. I. S. H.

It is open to anyone to go away into the bush on crown land and pick up nuggets of gold if he can find them, and he owes no man anything. But when another or more men discover the spot where nuggets may be picked up, he has no right to prevent them. All each man gathers is his natural wages. But when he, or any of the others wish to secure a piece of ground for themselves, so that others are excluded from it, then the one who desires to exclude his fellows must agree to give those who are excluded some of the gold he wins, for permission to do so. The value the community (small or large) puts on various lots will decide how much he must pay, either as a price for a period, for a block, or at a percentage of the gold won.

If the community fails to enact such an arrangement, and allows ground to become the property of an individual, he will make a very much similar arrangement with those who wish to work his ground. Indeed, persons who may be at a loss to decide how land should be treated by the community will see light if they glance for a moment at how it is treated by those who are at present allowed to own it.

The owners of a mine who do not wish to work it themselves have no trouble in letting it "on tribute." The "tributor" who will offer the largest percentage being accepted. Once the terms are decided, all the gold won, less the agreed percentage, belongs to the "tributor." If the expectation of rich returns is general, the tributor will have to pay a large percentage. When his term has expired, if he has done well, and the general expectation is that the mine will be still more prolific in the future, the percentage will naturally be more. But if on the contrary a smaller return is expected, permission to work the mine will not cost so much.

"That is all right" you say "for surface scratching, but what about cases where a company has to be formed, deep shafts sunk and expensive machinery provided?" A company promoter generally starts off by drawing up a prospectus, showing what is to be expected from mining on a certain piece of land, and the estimated cost of getting to the ore. There is a sure thing at a certain depth, but there is water and other difficulties to contend with. All these having been considered, and ample allowance made for their cost, and even for remote contingencies. It will require so many thousand pounds, but once these difficulties are overcome shareholders may expect all their money back in a very short time (time mentioned), after which regular dividends can be expected.

Now if few people are attracted, and inclined to invest their money on this land, it will be assessed at a low figure for Single Tax purposes. If many are breaking their necks to mine just there then the tax will be accordingly high. They pay for the privilege of doing what they want to do on that land, and for preventing other people from doing it. When they have done all that they set out to do in the prospectus (or held the ground as long as was required by the prospectus to recover a certain sum) they receive the natural reward of their venture, perhaps more than they expected, perhaps less, perhaps nothing, and the mine is open for reappointment. The price of shares will indicate the land value. If it has no value beyond machinery buildings, &c., mining can be continued without payment of tax. If it is desired to cease operations, all buildings and machinery can be removed. If anyone wishes to retain possession of the holes that have been made, he can do so for as long as he likes by paying the annual value (whatever it may be) into the Single Tax fund. If wholly abandoned any future company will value such workings and pay Single Tax on them as if they were natural formations caused by an earthquake or pre-historic people.

It does not appear that there is anything more hostile to the mining industry here proposed than now exists. There is nothing hostile to real mining and honest proposals. Shares would rise and fall according to expectations of richer or poorer finds between each term of reappraisalment, just as shares in a tribute do now. This applies to all land. It happens under private ownership; it will happen under Single Tax.

As now, when a landowner has leased his land too cheaply or the tenant has paid too high a price, the one will charge more next

time, or the other pay less; just so will the State act when it becomes collector of all ground rent for the whole people who are the real owners of all land.

Visit of the Tariff Board

The Tariff Board visited Adelaide on July 20 for the purpose of taking evidence in connection with an application that had been made to reduce the present general rate of duty on farm implements down to 15 per cent. and place British implements on the free list. This was an excellent opportunity for many alleged friends of the farmers to speak a word in favor of lifting the taxation burden from their implements and general requirements. The implement manufacturers, accompanied by the secretary of the Chamber of Manufacturers, attended in great force to OPPOSE any reduction of duties. The only person to appear in support of the REDUCTION and to ask that the duties BE ABOLISHED was Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P. He presented a case showing the injustice of the present burden placed upon the man on the land, compared the prices of farm implements in Canada, United States and New Zealand with Australian prices, and showed how the Australian farmer was at a disadvantage. We hope to publish the evidence in a later issue.

The Wimmera Federal Seat

Mr. Gordon Anderson, who is engaged in farming at Murrayville, is contesting the Wimmera seat in the forthcoming Federal elections as a Henry George candidate. Mr. Anderson is a good platform speaker, has a fine grip of the Georgan principles, and is well and favorably known throughout the electorate for his work on behalf of better conditions for the wheat growers. In company with Mr. J. Atkinson, secretary of the Victorian League, Mr. Anderson is now making an extensive tour through the district and is being well received. During the month Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., visited Mildura and other centres and addressed ten meetings in the farming areas in support of Mr. Anderson's candidature.

Probate and Succession Duties

We have frequently shown the iniquity of collecting revenue by means of probate and succession duties. We have recently inspected the documents relating to a deceased estate, the gross value being £5,680. The amount taken by Federal and State Governments in duties amounted to £661 16/9, and in addition to this sum, the costs payable to the Governments amounted to an additional £27 15/-. It will thus be seen that the beneficiaries under the will suffered a loss of nearly £700 by reason of this unjust system of collecting revenue. Present day Governments have nothing to learn from Shylock in the matter of getting their pound of flesh.

HENRY GEORGE COMMEMORATION

Appeal from Refreshment Committee.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The annual social to commemorate the birthday of Henry George will be held at the Caledonian Hall, King William Street, Adelaide, on September 5. The refreshment committee are anticipating a big attendance, and solicit the help of all friends of the movement with a view to making the gathering a success. They respectfully solicit donations of refreshments or cash for the purchase of same.

Contributions in cash may be sent to the office of the Henry George League, and donations of refreshments may be left at the hall on the day of the social.

Thanking you in anticipation,

For the committee,

Mrs. E. M. CRAIGIE,
Mrs. A. CHAPPEL,
Mrs. F. E. PENNY. } Convenors.

"PROGRESS"

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS.

Monthly. 2/- a year posted.

"PROGRESS,"

Henry George Club, 18 George Parade, Melbourne.

Obituary

It is with deep regret we record the death of Mrs. A. E. Hilton, of St. Peters. Mrs. Hilton had been in bad health for a considerable period, and passed away at her son's residence at Wallaroo on July 16. Our late co-worker took a keen interest in connection with the Henry George Commemoration Societies.

The movement suffered another loss on July 22 when Mr. Arthur Wheaton, of Gover Street, North Adelaide, died. The late Mr. Wheaton saw the truth of the Georgan doctrine late in life, but when he discovered it he became a strenuous worker for the cause. He occupied the position of president of the league for one term, and for many years rendered excellent service at the Park meetings in connection with the distribution of literature. He was always ready to serve the movement in any capacity, and he will be much missed by his co-workers.

We tender our sincere sympathy to the relatives of our deceased members in the time of their sad bereavement.

Revolt in the Desert

The African press correspondent, Anna Nyas, reports from the Algerian Sahara on April 1, that revolt is brewing among the tribes inhabiting the oases. The French Government has dug so many wells that there is an overproduction of water. The flourishing business formerly done at the oases with desert travellers has declined disastrously. Water of the quality described by Kipling in "Gunga Din" sold for from ten to twenty francs a gallon. Now the price is less than a centime for fresh, clean water. The water magnates claim they are facing ruin. They are backed by the farmers who complain that abundant water is stimulating growth of crops, and food is so plentiful and cheap that universal starvation is imminent. Furthermore, medicine men, grave diggers and professional mourners have suffered serious losses from the spread of good health. The holy mullahs who attend to the spiritual wants of the magnates denounce the new wells as a sinful interference with the will of Allah. The magnates further complain that waterbearing lands which used to bring fabulous prices can not now be given away. They demand that the Government refill its wells or poison them. That this will be done is doubtful, but the Government is considering compensation to oasis owners for their loss and the levying of a stiff protective water tax. Another proposal finding favor is to imitate the N.R.A. in America by having well owners form an association and fix water prices for different grades and qualities ranging from "slightly clean" and "guaranteed formerly fresh" to "nearly sanitary" and "guaranteed fresh as a vaudeville joke."

A small bunch of radicals are trying to tell the people that an abundance of water is a blessing, and that the complaints made are but wails for loss of profits derived from human misery. They say that misery is an evil. Of course such agitators will be suppressed.

Henry George Literature

Progress and Poverty, cloth 1/6, postage 3d.

Protection or Free Trade, cloth 1/6, postage 3d.

" " " " " paper 3d., postage 2d.

The Condition of Labor, cloth 1/-, postage 2d.

Social Problems, cloth 1/6, postage 3d.

Life of Joseph Fels (Mary Fels), cloth 2/6, postage 5d.

Gems from Henry George, paper 6d., postage 2d.

Work and Wages (Wedgewood), paper 1d., postage 1d.

The Story of My Dictatorship, paper 6d., postage 1d.

What is the Single Tax? (L. F. Post) cloth 2/-,

postage 3d.

The Basic Facts of Economics (L. F. Post), cloth 2/-,

postage 2d.

The Perplexed Philosopher (Henry George), paper 1/-,

postage 3d.

My Neighbour's Landmark (F. Verinder), paper 3d.,

postage 2d.

You are urged to read the works of Henry George, and learn more about this great reform. The books can be obtained from Henry George League of South Australia, George Parade, Adelaide. Send for free literature and further information regarding this vital reform.

If you would like a meeting in your district, write The Secretary, Henry George League, and arrangements will be made.

Send a subscription for "The People's Advocate," containing information relating to social problems. Post free 2/- per year.

The Case for the Single Tax

(Continued from our June issue.)

Area and Unimproved Value S.A. Farm Land.

Name of Hundred.	Unimproved Land Acres.	Land Value.	Land Tax Paid.
Far North:			
Arkaba	96,820	46,290	144 13 1
Pichi Richi	66,169	69,176	216 3 6
North:			
Baroota	79,369	128,812	377 10 9
Booberoo	69,120	338,672	1,058 7 0
Tongala	69,120	221,862	678 5 9
Belalie	92,160	654,102	2,944 1 4
Lower North:			
Crystal Brook	63,040	380,942	1,190 8 10
Stanley	87,920	416,064	1,261 2 0
Barunga	82,500	493,778	1,332 12 7
Balaclava	70,400	362,488	1,132 13 3
Mundooro	56,960	182,432	413 17 10
Nuriootpa	64,820	601,146	1,868 18 3
Yorke Peninsula:			
Maitland	84,480	487,586	1,323 12 1
Cunningham	88,760	378,476	1,178 7 3
Tipara	171,520	649,024	2,034 9 0
Warratoo	74,880	256,924	798 19 6
Murray Lands:			
Waikerie	160,640	186,714	583 9 8
Holder	140,160	96,912	312 4 6
Peelunga	109,820	24,762	77 7 0
Balinga	105,680	79,762	249 5 2
Bookynong	194,560	311,940	974 18 2
Molinsarr	97,000	81,242	251 9 8
Mandarie	63,160	63,546	198 11 8
Pinnaroo District:			
Pinnaroo	141,460	468,428	1,463 6 9
Bews	138,240	384,854	1,202 12 2
Parilla	138,560	310,862	971 8 8
Peake	90,560	76,712	239 14 6
Price	102,400	116,590	364 6 11
Roby	91,620	47,555	148 12 5
Eyre Peninsula:			
Leath	65,000	185,600	426 17 6
Mimbrie	64,400	31,116	97 4 9
Colton	90,240	61,328	191 13 0
Ripon	81,920	41,238	128 17 5
Alan	64,000	52,540	164 3 9
Yaranyacka	72,960	171,126	584 18 5
Fyery	42,880	75,044	243 17 9
Cordilve	76,800	82,934	259 6 6
South East Lands:			
Binnam	95,360	211,428	660 14 3
Grey	63,260	206,158	644 4 10
Penola	61,440	149,782	468 1 4
Hindmarsh	62,720	316,474	988 19 7
MacDonnell	66,560	208,094	656 10 10
Gambier	62,720	452,434	1,413 17 1

CITY OF ADELAIDE UNIMPROVED LAND VALUES.

Town Acre No.	Unimproved Land Value.	Land Tax Paid.
Town Acre No. 46, Cr. King William and Randle Streets (North side)	235,114	734 14 7
Town Acre No. 79, Cr. King William and Randle Streets (South side)	238,762	730 9 6
Rundle Street Acres:		
No. 41	143,904	449 14 0
No. 42	198,970	621 15 7
No. 43	178,054	556 8 4
No. 44	193,880	605 18 1
No. 45	175,733	558 10 10
Town Acre No. 78, Cr. King William and Hindley Streets (South side)	196,488	620 5 5
Town Acre No. 108, Cr. King William and Greenall Streets (Imperial corner)	220,686	689 16 2
Town Acre No. 202, Cr. King William and Waymouth Streets ("Advertiser" corner)	129,118	403 9 10

The foregoing figures have been compiled from the books in the Land Tax office, therefore are reliable. A study of the tables will show that ONE ACRE in the City of Adelaide will contribute as much to revenue under the land value system as a whole HUNDRED in many of the farming areas. The values shown are representative of all the farming areas in the State of South Australia. The values given are not specially selected because they are low; as a matter of fact they are taken from the best farm lands in the State. The land in the Hundred of Belalie and the land on Yorke Peninsula is generally admitted to be the finest in the State for wheat growing, yet it will be seen that a whole hundred in those parts will pay about THREE TIMES the amount paid by ONE ACRE in the City of Adelaide. In the light of these facts, compiled from official sources, it will be seen how unfair and untrue is the contention of opponents of the land value principle that farm lands will be called upon to pay an unjust proportion of the revenue if existing taxes on industry are abolished, and revenue raised solely from the unimproved value of land.

MELBOURNE AND COUNTRY LAND VALUES COMPARED.

The following table gives some representative rural lands in various parishes in Victoria.

It shows the District, Parish, Area in acres of each Parish, unimproved land value, and land value tax payable at one penny in the pound.

Parish.	Area in Acres.	Unimproved Land Value.	Land Value Tax.
(Mallee District):			
Beulah	18,200	64,800	270 0 0
Barurpa	23,600	67,200	280 0 0
Manangatang	26,600	39,900	166 5 0
Ouyen	35,400	70,800	295 0 0
Danyu	37,300	41,700	173 15 0
Carwaray West	58,900	95,000	445 16 8
(Wimmera District):			
Kalkee	34,600	311,400	1,297 10 0
Kiata	27,000	114,750	478 2 6
Teddywaddy	36,900	147,000	615 0 0
(Northern District):			
Runnymede	27,000	162,000	675 6 0
Wanaia	17,951	89,755	373 19 6
(Western District):			
Willaura	31,000	162,750	678 2 6
(North Eastern):			
Lilliput	17,250	60,375	251 11 3

The land values used above represent the parish at the present time, and were obtained from the Victorian Land Tax office. Now note the difference in the value of city land.

Half-acre corner Swanston and Flinders Streets, unimproved land value \$329,000. One penny land value tax on this, \$1,370 16/8.

Half-acre corner Swanston and Collins Streets. Unimproved land value, \$378,400. One penny land value tax on this, \$1,568 6/8 (This is the Manchester Unity corner).

Half-acre corner Swanston and Bourke Streets. Unimproved land value, \$364,350. One penny land value tax, \$1,518 2/6.

Half-acre corner Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Unimproved land value, \$317,650. One penny land value tax, \$1,323 10/10.

A comparison of the above figures obtained from official sources shows that 34,600 acres of farm land in the Wimmera district, at an unimproved value of \$3 per acre, would pay \$270 less in land value tax than one half-acre where the Manchester Unity building now stands.

A further comparison shows that in the six parishes shown in the Mallee area there are 167,600 acres, yet all that land would pay \$233 less in land value taxation than the half-acre block at the corner of Swanston and Collins Streets.

The foregoing comparisons from South Australia and Victoria prove that although a farmer may hold a large AREA of land, its VALUE is low when compared with city land values. It is, therefore, in the interest of the farmer that there should be a change in the method of collecting revenue along the lines suggested in this pamphlet.

A Final Word to the Farmer.

This statement of The Case for the Single Tax has been written more especially as an appeal to primary producers to give the principle more serious consideration in the future than has been accorded it by many in the past. The wheat growers of the Commonwealth are in an unfortunate position, and whilst many palliatives are suggested the CAUSE of their trouble remains untouched. Unfortunately during the years that have gone by many farmers looked askance at the Single Tax, fearing it was going to do them injury if put into operation. Many farmers looked forward to the time when they hoped to dispose of their farms, and to profit by the appropriation of the community-created land values. They were more concerned with this prospective return from unimproved land values than they were with the immediate effects of the present system of raising revenue. They overlooked the fact that first and foremost they were FARMERS and not LAND SPECULATORS. They also failed to realise that while they were waiting for about twenty years to realise on the land values when they retired from active production, they were exploited during that period of a bigger sum by direct and indirect taxation than they could ever hope to make out of the increment in land values. The neglect to do FIRST THINGS FIRST and to give support to sound economic principles has brought the farmers into the insolvent state so many are in today. And it is wrong to think their conditions can be improved by "having a bigger dose of the dog that bit them." Whilst it may tickle the ears of many to say the wheat grower has a right to have the same measure of Protection as sugar and such like industries, the fact stands out clearly that such a policy cannot operate. The bounties and privileges that have been given to certain industries have come out of primary production, where all wealth comes from. If "Protection" was given

to the wheat growing industry it would be merely another confidence trick worked upon the farmer.

The time is ripe for all producers to face the facts. The great twin evils of the men on the land are land monopoly and trade restrictions. Land monopoly forces the producer to pay a high purchase price or rent for land, and there is no power on earth to deal with that monopoly apart from taking the rental value of land into the public treasury, thus making speculation in land unprofitable. Trade restriction can only be effectively dealt with by removal of all tariff barriers, embargoes, and all taxation levied upon trade in any form. The farmer has to sell his produce in the market of the world under FREE TRADE conditions. He is compelled to buy in a closed market under high tariff conditions. What has been the effect? Take the case of a binder as an example. The cash price of a 6-foot Massey Binder in 1913-14 was \$39, and the average price for wheat that year was 3 8 per bushel. Now the farmer is enjoying the blessings of the tariff on binders—he has to pay approximately \$85 for the same type of machine. But the price of wheat at the time of writing is 2/3d per bushel at main ports. It will thus be seen that in 1913-14 a farmer could get a binder for 213 bushels of wheat, whereas at the present time he has to give 742 bushels of wheat to get a similar machine. If this line of reasoning is applied to all the machinery, wire, netting, galvanized iron, iron and steel, food, clothing, and the hundred and one things needed by the primary producer, it should be apparent to all how he has reached the insolvent position he is in today. Tinkering with the problem will not avail. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies, so we are told. No half measures will be of benefit. The whole economic system must be changed. The wealth producers in all phases of industry can only get just conditions when special privilege of every kind is abolished. None of the existing party policies propose anything of that kind, but as a matter of fact each party vies with the other in offering the greatest amount of privilege for the sake of securing votes. The remedy lies in the hands of the producers. They should refuse to produce at a loss, and demand the removal of all imposts upon industry. They must allow reason and not prejudice to guide them. When this is done they will realise that the Single Tax principles are the only just principles for all who toil, and they will combine to put those principles into practical operation. The clarion calls. The time is ripe for action. Will the producers respond and look after their own interests, and the interests of the younger generation who are asking the right to earn their living under just conditions? Or will they go along in the old way, seeking favors here and there, and gradually getting deeper in the financial mire? I believe that many are realising the cause of their trouble, and will gird on their armour and fight for social justice. May we enrol you as a standard bearer for the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness on earth?

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Incorporated

The monthly meeting of members of the League was held at George Parade on Tuesday, June 26, the president (Mr. A. Chappel) presiding over a fair attendance. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed, and an interesting budget of correspondence was received. One resignation was accepted. The secretary rendered a report of country activities and a debate with a social credit exponent. He was to go to Victoria to help an independent Henry George man in the Wimmera district who was standing for the Federal elections. A statement for a reduction of duties on agricultural implements was to be prepared and presented to the Tariff Board. Mr. D. Hudson reported on Park meetings. Financial statement was adopted, and accounts passed for payment. Five new members were admitted to the League. It was announced that the Caledonian Hall had been booked for Wednesday, September 5 for the annual commemorative social, Miss Perry being in charge of the programme. The Executive was voted the power to arrange a speaker, and convenors for the refreshment committee were appointed. A report from the committee appointed to go into the question of occasional social evenings was rendered, but owing to immediate difficulties the matter was further adjourned until after the annual gathering. The advisability of holding an annual conference was discussed, but owing to certain circumstances it was deemed superfluous to hold it. Two delegates were appointed to represent the League at the annual meeting of the Proportional Representation Group, and a discussion on minor matters of interest terminated the proceedings.

Next Meeting, Tuesday, July 31, at 8 p.m.

Printed and Published for the Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide, at the Reliance Printery, 46 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.