

mode of propaganda very successful. Open-air meetings have been held weekly in Winnipeg when the weather would permit. Literature has been sold and distributed free in considerable quantities.

F. J. DIXON, Secretary.

Many correspondents have sent us cuttings from Canadian papers showing a remarkable growth of sentiment in favour of Land Values Taxation. We expect big things of Canada in the near future.

NEW ZEALAND.

SPEECH BY MR. FOWLDS ON THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES.

The annual "Henry George Dinner" was held on October 9th, at the Burlington Cafe, Wellington. There was a good attendance. Mr. P. J. O'Regan presided, and Mr. George Fowlds, M.P., was the guest of the evening. Responding to the principal toast, Mr. Fowlds is reported by the NEW ZEALAND TIMES as saying in the course of his remarks:—

I have to thank you for the honour you have done me in making me chief guest at this Henry George anniversary. It is well for mankind to keep in remembrance the lives of their great men, and the man whose memory we commemorate this evening was undoubtedly a great man. In my judgment he was the greatest English-speaking man that the nineteenth century produced, and I firmly believe that long before the present century comes to an end that unique position will be universally accorded to him by men of every nationality. Unlike many of the heroes and patriots who are remembered because of some great deed done for King or country, the work of Henry George was carried out in the interests of universal man, and the anniversary of his birth is celebrated not only in English-speaking countries, but in every country where the light of civilisation has penetrated. To-day in every civilised country throughout the world the lamp of truth which he lighted is being borne aloft by his devoted followers. The truth which Henry George wrote down with such clearness that unlettered men might read and understand was no new truth. It was the truth which has been written in the laws of nature from the foundation of the world. Truth clearly perceived by primitive man in all ages, truth which has only been obscured by human selfishness and greed. Truth of universal application, without the recognition and adoption of which, our western civilisation will go down to destruction as did the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and from the same cause.

What was the great truth proclaimed by Henry George? . . . "That all men have an equal right to the use of the earth." This equal right to the use of the earth is deduced from the axiom "That all men have an equal right to life." I have never yet found any person to dispute that axiom, and surely nothing could be clearer or more convincing than the deduction that if all mankind has an equal right to life every man must have an equal right to that by which alone life can be sustained, namely, the use of God's earth. The problem, then, which society must solve or perish is: How can this equal right to the use of the earth be realised in harmony with our complex civilisation? The key to the solution of this problem has been handed over to us by Henry George, and it is our duty to see that the masses of mankind are put in possession of this key that will throw open to all on equal terms the great storehouse of nature. Twenty years ago the followers of Henry George in this country were branded as fanatics and fools. To-day they find themselves fighting in company with Cabinet Ministers of the Mother Land and co-workers with the men of keenest intelligence and the men with the largest hearts of every country in the world. Everywhere men of all shades of opinion are recognising that "land value," which is the product of the community as a whole, is something entirely distinct from "wealth," which is the product of individual human labour, and that the State is not only justified, but compelled to recognise the difference between the privilege of land-owning and the possession of private property. It is true that many of the men holding these opinions would protest vigorously that they have no sympathy with the philosophy of Henry George, but they are nevertheless acknowledging the truth of his philosophy, and are holding opinions that are the product of his life and work. But the great mass of mankind are still a long way from realising the power of his teaching to emancipate human society from the economic suffering that comes from the violation of natural laws. Our duty, then, is to proclaim to the people with full conviction that only by the adoption and application of his principles can social justice be established.

OTHER SPEAKERS.

The chairman, Mr. P. J. O'Regan, said the gathering that night was a remarkable tribute to the great man whose memory they were honouring. They had every reason to feel gratified

with the progress made. Last year they had in England the Lloyd George Budget. Then progress has been made in other respects, culminating in the overthrow of the greatest bulwark of land monopoly—the House of Lords. (Applause.) When they looked at the Commonwealth of Australia they also saw that great progress had been made. He alluded to the Federal Land Tax, and said it was in accordance with the fitness of things that this should have been carried by a Labour Government. He criticised the New Zealand Arbitration Act and the Lands for Settlement Act.

Mr. A. Wither proposed the toast of the "Parliament of New Zealand."

Mr. D. McLaren, M.P., said the agrarian and land monopolists had practically controlled the bulk of the representation in Parliament.

Following Mr. Fowlds' speech, the Chairman, Mr. P. J. O'Regan, Mr. A. Wither, Mr. D. McLaren, M.P., and Professor Mills spoke.

The gathering, which was largely attended, concluded with cheers for the guest of the evening (Mr. Fowlds) and the enthusiastic singing of "The British Land Song."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Henry George Commemoration Social was held on August 29th, and was a great success. The President of the League (Mr. James Rogers) occupied the chair, and in a few well-chosen words referred to the progress of the movement, and indicated the work that would be undertaken in the future. The Vice-President (Mr. R. L. Driver) read the Joseph Fels Fund Report, which showed that £223 12s. 1d. had been collected during the year. This amount would be supplemented by Mr. Joseph Fels. The money had been spent chiefly in connection with the local rating campaigns, but it was the intention of the League to bring the Free Trade aspect of our question prominently before the people. Mr. E. J. Craigie delivered an address on the "Life and Work of Henry George." The gathering was a record one from both a social and financial aspect.

The Henry George Social in connection with the Purnong League was held on September 8th. This League was established on the River Murray by a few enthusiastic Single Taxers. This gathering was their second commemoration. In response to an invitation, I went there to deliver the commemorative address. The president of the League is Mr. J. H. Groth; and the secretary, Mrs. I. Evans; both very energetic workers who have a fine grasp of Georgian principles. The hall was crowded, many of those present coming about fifteen miles to be there. Those responsible for the arrangements are to be congratulated on the success that attended their efforts.

The Budget proposals have just been introduced in the State House of Parliament, and are similar to those introduced last year, with the exception of the increment tax, which has been omitted. It is proposed to reduce the railway freights on firewood and wheat, to abolish the stamp duty on receipts, to increase the income tax exemption from £200 to £300, and to make up the deficiency by an additional all-round Land Values Tax of 4d. in the £. It is doubtful if these proposals will be carried. The Legislative Council, (elected on a property qualification), is the stumbling block. If they again reject the proposals (as they did last year) there should be an appeal to the country. Whether the Government will do this time alone can tell.

Another poll in connection with the question of Rating on Land Values was held at Norwood, on September 23rd. The figures were as follows:—

For the proposal	786
Against	449

Under the Land Values Assessment Act of 1893, it is necessary that at least 25 per cent. of the ratepayers on the roll shall vote in the affirmative before the poll is effective. As there are 4413 on the roll for Norwood this poll was lost, despite the fact that a majority of those recording their votes were in favour of the principle. The small vote is due to the poll being taken on an off-day to the annual elections for councillors and aldermen. It was arranged in this manner for the sole purpose of defeating the proposal. This League did a lot of work in trying to arouse interest in the fight. Meetings were arranged and addresses on the principle given, literature was freely distributed, and a house to house canvass arranged, but our efforts were unsuccessful as far as getting the required number to the poll was concerned. A motion for another poll on December 2nd has been tabled in the Council, but there is not much chance of it being granted. The Legislative Council steadfastly refuse to amend the Act to allow a majority of those going to the poll to decide the question. Another amending Bill is now before the House, and it will in all probability meet the same fate as its predecessors.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Secretary,
South Aus. S.T. League, Adelaide, Sept. 26th.