

H. G. CHANCELLOR

Henry George Chancellor, Liberal M.P. for Haggerston from 1910 to 1918 and an untiring advocate of land-value taxation, died on March 15 at the age of 81. He was born at Walton, near Glastonbury, and at the age of 20 entered the firm of C. Chancellor and Co., of which he became ultimately proprietor until its conversion into a limited company. From 1885 onwards he was a very active Liberal and Progressive worker in London. For some years he edited a Progressive paper, *The Londoner*. In January, 1910, he was elected to Parliament for the Haggerston division of Shoreditch, which he continued to represent until 1918. He was an energetic member of the Parliamentary Land Values Group, and lost no opportunity of helping this cause in and out of Parliament. He had been President and afterwards Treasurer of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values for a long period, and was a member of the United Committee for many years, to which he always brought wise counsel and tireless enthusiasm.

The Times in its obituary notice said:

"Chancellor was a slight, rather short man, with a small pointed beard, and a kindly, friendly manner which masked an unquenchable enthusiasm for a variety of causes. He was long one of the most familiar figures in London Liberal circles, but the causes he worked for went far beyond the limits of any one party's programme. A gentle, but resolute, enthusiast, the temperance and peace movements took up much of his energy, and he was also a tireless worker for such measures as proportional representation and the taxation of land values."

It would be difficult to measure the assistance which he gave to many good causes by whom he will be sorely missed. We tender our sympathy to his family.

The following Motion, submitted by the Preston branch, is on the agenda of the Annual Delegate Meeting of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers being held at Blackpool, May 2 to 4: "This A.D.M. realises that the initial difficulty in providing houses at reasonable rents is the high prices of land and building materials; also that the demand for sites and materials for post-war housing and reconstruction will tend to raise prices still higher and make the proper re-housing of the people practically impossible. It therefore urges the Government to take immediate steps to make land and materials cheaper by taxing and rating all the land, used and unused, on its selling value, thus making it unprofitable to withhold land suitable for housing and other purposes, and stimulating the production of materials and building operations."

Extra copies of the supplement to last month's *Land & Liberty*, entitled *Full Employment at the Liberal Assembly*, containing and commenting upon quotations from Sir William Beveridge's book, are available price 1d. each.

LIBERAL LIBERTY LEAGUE

Successful meetings of the League were held at Cranston's Tea Rooms, Renfield Street, Glasgow, on March 16 and at St. Mary's Hotel, Edinburgh, on March 17. At each, the company was entertained to tea. The Glasgow meeting, presided over by Major E. J. Donaldson, was particularly well attended and the support of the audience was shown in the considerable number of new members enrolled as well as in the large sale of literature, the "best seller" being the pamphlet *The Problem of Employment: Beveridge Fails to Solve It*; and practically every person asked for and obtained a copy of the revealing quotations from Sir William Beveridge's book, published as a supplement to last month's *Land & Liberty*. Major Donaldson, introducing the speakers, Messrs. Ashley Mitchell, J. Brunton McLennan, A. W. Madsen and Wilfrid Harrison, explained how vital it was to uphold the principles of Liberalism expressed in the equal rights and equal opportunities of the individual and its practical policy of economic freedom attainable by land value taxation and free trade. Following the speeches there was much interesting discussion, suggestion being made that a Scottish Section of the League be formed; but it was held that since the departure from Liberal principles affected the national body much less than the Scottish Liberal Federation, the best method of advancing the crusade for which the League was formed was for individual Liberals to join the League and support it financially.

At the Edinburgh meeting, Mr. Andrew D. Haxton, St. Andrews, presided, the speakers as in Glasgow being Messrs. Mitchell, McLennan, Madsen and Harrison. An excellent report appeared in the *Scotsman* of March 19 from which we take the following with appreciation of the publicity thus given to the League and its objects:—

The Beveridge Plan, adopted by the National Assembly of the Liberal Party, was severely criticised at a meeting held in St. Mary's Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday afternoon, under the auspices of the Liberal Liberty League.

Mr. Andrew D. Haxton, who presided, said that to all people who had the Liberal outlook, who were sure that a man could choose his own life more wisely than those who would direct him into a way of life of their own choosing, had come a challenge as great as had ever been made. Unless Liberals shook themselves free of the modern proposals to make men servants of the State, there was no place for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Ashley Mitchell, chairman of the League, said that the League was started over a year ago in consequence of the neglect of two great phases of the Liberal policy—the taxation of land values and Free Trade. The position in the Liberal Party Assembly last year was worse than it was in 1943, and the Assembly was preparing to accept a policy which entirely jettisoned those two great planks in the Liberal Party. When the party began to advocate a policy of State control, direction and interference of every kind, it was disavowing its basic philosophy. The whole of Sir William Beveridge's policy was based upon wild and reckless expenditure.

Mr. J. Brunton McLennan, Innellan, Argyllshire, said that the new leaders of the Liberal Party were driving it into a quagmire of Socialism and Collectivism. Sir William Beveridge was out-socialising the Socialists. They could only survive as a Liberal Party, and a distinct party, if they kept to their own ideas and refused to compromise on principle.

LAND & LIBERTY
LIBRARY

A long-awaited consignment of books from America have been delivered. Retail prices are as shown

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George L. Rusby - 6s.

MORE PROGRESS, LESS POVERTY.

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Henry George. Compiled by
Joseph S. Thompson - 3s.

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A brief life-sketch by his
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