

land and improvements, £7,682,897; capital value of land value alone, £3,132,191. The total rates in 1927-28 were 10d. in the £ of land value. To obtain the same revenue from land plus improvements, the rates would require to be approximately 4d. in the £. It is certainly a temporary victory for the local landowners—equivalent, it seems, to a gift of £78,300 a year. But in the land speculation that will provoke, the townspeople and their trade will see no benefit. "Of the future," Mr P. J. O'Regan writes in the *Liberator* of 31st July, "I have no doubt at all. We shall regain Wanganui and hold it. The retaxation of improvements will come into operation next year, and there will be deep indignation when the majority find themselves called upon to pay increased taxes. I venture the prediction that our majority there will be so emphatic on the occasion of the next poll that nobody will suggest another appeal to the ratepayers."

AUSTRALIA

The Henry George Foundation

The *People's Advocate* (Adelaide), in its issue dated 21st August, carries an extensive report of the speeches delivered at the dinner in Melbourne, 11th July, given in honour of Dr Edgar W. Culley, who by his generous gift has brought the Henry George Foundation of Australia into existence.

Dr Culley, who has been resident in Melbourne for more than twenty years, was born in Avon, Livingstone County, New York. He is Doctor of Osteopathy and a graduate of the Kirksville, Missouri, College of Osteopathy and Surgery.

At the dinner one hundred guests were present. Dr Paul G. Dane occupied the Chair. Mr Cyril F. James, of Bendigo, proposed the health of Dr Culley, and the Hon. F. G. Hagelthorn, of Queensland, seconded the Toast.

Dr Culley, making response, said how as a youth on the farm in the Genesee Valley (New York), on which he grew up, he became an ardent and unbending Free Trader. On reading *Protection or Free Trade* and other works by Henry George, he realized that George, by his simple, natural solution of the land problem, had shown it was at the bottom of the social question. "Early in life," to quote briefly what Dr Culley said as he proceeded, "I felt, and I felt keenly, that I must do something to promulgate the teachings of Henry George, so I began to work and save for this Foundation some twenty-seven years ago. It has been a long, steady, hard pull. The getting together of this Foundation has meant labour, some painful effort, a bit of grim energy. I have had the joy of working for a great cause, and I only mention the difficulties to excite the Trustees to greater effort to keep the Foundation firm and true to the Georgian principles and teachings which will prepare mankind for the coming day of social emancipation. There are two ways in which you can do me a great favour. First, let my name pass to the background and push the Henry George Foundation to the front. Do not associate my name in connection with this Foundation. Second, the Foundation will be for some time a receiving and a distributing body, and I want to give and bequeath and get others to give and bequeath to this Foundation. It seems to me that we, who have seen the light that Henry George saw, have a social obligation to leave an imprint of some value in the sands of time. I cannot help feeling that somehow, somewhere, sometime, Henry George's prayer must be answered, and while I do not believe the answering of that prayer will bring the millennium, nor act as a panacea for all the social ills, I do feel that it will bring into the world some equality of opportunity and justice

and place a foundation under society in which there will be no unearned wealth, no undeserved poverty."

The Inter-State Conference

Two of the subjects discussed at the Inter-State Conference of the Australian Leagues, held in Melbourne on 12th and 13th July, were the choice of a common name for the movement and the question of publishing one joint Federal "monthly," which, if agreed to, would mean the amalgamation of *The Standard* (Sydney), *Progress* (Melbourne), and the *People's Advocate* (Adelaide). Resolutions were adopted "That this informal conference of followers of Henry George is of opinion that a uniform name throughout Australia is much to be desired and we respectfully suggest the name, 'Henry George League,' as the most suitable for Australia." The opinion was also declared that "one journal for Australia is vital to the best interests of the cause, and requests the different leagues to give the matter their early and favourable consideration."

It was held to be desirable than an Inter-State Conference should meet not less frequently than once every three years, and in various States and in Canberra in rotation.

Dr Paul G. Dane, who presided, spoke of his visit to Great Britain last year, and urged the importance of the Australian movement being officially represented at next year's International Conference in Edinburgh to promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. Mr Craigie pointed out that such a representative could bring with him a detailed statement of the progress in each State, compiled with the help of those best acquainted with the facts; and with this and his general knowledge of principles, he would be able to answer any questions. The desirability of sending a representative was agreed, and a sub-committee consisting of Dr Dane and Messrs Powell and Valentine was appointed to consider ways and means, invite nominations from the Leagues, and decide who should attend at Edinburgh in their behalf.

TASMANIA

A General Election took place in Tasmania on 28th May which resulted in the defeat of the Labour Ministry and the return of a Nationalist Government. Our co-worker Mr Wm. E. Lloyd was one of the Labour candidates for the Denison division. He made a sterling propaganda fight on the issue of land value taxation—unfortunately without winning his place in Parliament. Returning thanks to those who supported him he said his chief object in being a candidate was to point out the folly of penalizing, with unjust taxes on industry and the results of industry, the producers of wealth. He urged upon political leaders of all parties the justice of the principle of taking for the community as revenue to meet public expenses community-created land values. This would render it unnecessary to tax citizens on their industry and enterprise. Unemployment could be quickly swept away. Unemployment was simply the non-use of land. Men were not out of work because they did not desire to work. They were rendered idle in Tasmania because opportunities to develop the natural resources of the State were fenced from them by a few privileged persons. With 26,000 square miles of lovely country it was a crime that there should be any poverty or unemployment in Tasmania.

Mr Lloyd is one of the Trustees of the Henry George Foundation of Australia.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an Invitation to become a Subscriber. Monthly 3d.; by Post 4s. per Annum.