

in the interests of the people so that they will have a just system of taxation."

PRIME MINISTER'S PLEDGE

The Prime Minister congratulated the deputation on the manner in which it had stated its case. He did not think anybody could get away from the fact that the land was the common property of all men; the proposition was unanswerable. He agreed that all available information should be made public, as whatever befell it was essential that they should have the truth. So far as the use of the profits of municipal trading departments was concerned, Mr Savage said that no one would waste time arguing about that, because the case made out by the deputation was unanswerable. There was much more to be considered besides the securing of revenue. It was just as well for them to realize that at the very beginning. Revenue, of course, was very handy for the Minister of Finance, but it was not the only consideration.

What the Government was concerned about, and what the people wanted, was a more equitable distribution of production. The Government stood for industrial development, but under the present state of things there would be greater benefit to the land speculator than anybody else. When they were talking to the factory proprietor about increasing wages and shortening hours they had to see to it that the benefit did not go to the landlord.

Mr Savage said he would not like to argue with a Henry George man against the proposition that had been put forward regarding the land tax. At the same time he would remind Mr O'Regan that the Government had inherited many of the sins of the past. In dealing with taxation and development generally they had to make sure that they were not going to benefit the speculator alone.

"The day of the speculator has gone," declared Mr Savage. "The day of the producer and the person who gives the services is here. Our job is to see that those who give the services are going to get the benefit. I feel that we will have your co-operation in doing that." (Applause.)

The Government was out to lay the foundation of prosperity in New Zealand, he continued. It was no use relieving the farmer of a tax he had never paid and substituting a number of other taxes which he did pay. He had heard Prime Ministers in the past say that the land tax was being reduced to help the struggling farmer, but the day had gone when the people were to be fooled in that way. They abolished a tax which did not affect the farmer and substituted another—the sales tax, for instance. The members of the Government had burned the midnight oil in studying such problems as had been dealt with by the deputation, and they would use their intelligence in reaching a solution of their difficulties. The land tax was certainly a more equitable form of raising revenue than the sales tax. The big man probably paid land tax—not nearly enough—but the little man paid none at all. He assured the deputation that they could safely leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This is the centenary year of the foundation of South Australia. Some reference was made to its early history in our February issue (p. 29), and we are glad to supplement this from a remarkable article by Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., which appeared in *The Mail*, Adelaide (11th April). In 1835 the Secretary of State for the Colonies had appointed Mr George Fife Angas and other gentlemen as Colonization Commissioners. They were to secure sufficient funds for the purpose of founding and governing the colony by the sale of land, and the price was fixed at 20s. an acre, in lots comprising 80 country acres and one town acre. Difficulty was met with in finding purchasers and the project languished. Eventually a joint stock company was formed by Mr Angas and others who purchased sufficient land from the Commissioners but at the reduced price of 12s. per acre. The purchasers of the first 437 lots were given priority of choice and were apparently able to purchase at the rate of 12s. an acre, the remaining town lots being sold in 1837 by public auction at prices ranging from £2 2s. to £14 14s. The Governor of the new colony

had landed on 28th December, 1836, and the auction was held in March, 1837.

Including the land comprised in the preliminary land orders the whole 1,000 acres of Adelaide was sold for £3,856 8s.

The assessed unimproved value of the same land to-day is £11,783,174.

The history of individual sites is even more remarkable. The most valuable acre in Adelaide is at the south corner of Rundle and King William Streets. It was bought in 1837 for 12s. and is now valued at £265,880 apart from the improvements. Acre No. 37 was bought by Mr John Batley Thorngate of Gosport, Hampshire, for 12s. It is now valued at £48,130, and in the meantime the purchaser and his heirs have drawn in rent from it £39,575. This particular purchaser acquired four of the preliminary land orders which entitled him to four acres in Adelaide and 536 acres of country land. "A search through the books in the land titles office made some time ago revealed that this estate for the small expenditure of £324 had been able to take approximately £700,000 out of South Australia in the form of rent and payments received from sale of portion of the land, and then had approximately £200,000 of land values standing in the name of its owners." The increase in value is, of course, due to nothing that the owners have done, and they may never even have set foot in Australia.

By a somewhat ironic chance an advertisement of the Adelaide Development Co. Ltd. appears at the foot of Mr Craigie's article. It says: "There is a saying: 'Get a good piece of Real Estate, buy it wisely, pay for it, keep it, and it will keep you.' There is wonderful sense in the above advice. You only have to take a note of the richest families in the State and you can see that wealth has come to them mainly through the rise in real estate property, particularly in the City of Adelaide."

CANADA

Milk River in Alberta derives the whole of its tax-revenue by land value taxation, buildings and other improvements being entirely exempt. Mayor of the town is Mr Fred Pease and prominent upholders of the land value policy are the Messrs Ellert who attended the Henry George Congress in New York last autumn. There was a mayoral election in Milk River on 11th March and opponents of the land values system did their best to prevent the return of Mr Fred Pease. In reply to the petition they presented for a change, it was pointed out that for every \$1 the smaller ratepayers would gain in reduced land value tax, others would gain \$20, while the smaller ratepayers would lose heavily by throwing taxes upon buildings and improvements; that land prices would be increased for those who wish to build homes, that rents would be raised against those who do not own homes; the local Treasury would also lose, causing a cessation of public improvements. The sentiment for land value taxation won, Mayor Pease being returned by a three to one margin over his opponent.

Station CJOC, Lethbridge, Alberta, gives a weekly broadcast every Wednesday evening from 8 to 8.15. Students of Mr J. B. Ellert's economic class speak on this programme.

In Toronto a Teacher Training Class of "graduate students" of the Henry George School of Social Science has been formed. It will meet for nine weeks every Thursday at 30 Classic Avenue, 8 p.m., and review *Progress and Poverty* with a different graduate in charge of the lesson each week. Every Thursday at 1 p.m. members of the Single Tax Association meet for lunch and discussion at the Lora Martha Tea Rooms, 90 King Street West. Visitors should ask for the Single Tax private room. Another weekly discussion group, with Mr Cadwell as chairman, meets at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, at 69 Bloor Street East. Each evening some particular topic is presented and discussed, and active committees have been formed to work for land value taxation in a number of different ways—training and supplying speakers, organizing articles and letters for the press, studying other reform movements, and attending meetings of various political and religious organizations.

During the summer season, the cyclostyled *Bulletin* of the Single Tax Association will be edited by Miss S. M. Rose, 15 Harvard Avenue, Toronto. News Service correspondents are Mr and Mrs John Garland, of 89 St Clair Avenue East. They ask to be supplied with news clippings and any interesting material for passing on to *Land & Liberty*, as well as information for its Canadian page. A corps of seven assistants is helping in this. For the Henry George School of Social Science, the new extension secretary is Mr Frank J. Leach, 55 Exeter Street, and thorough preparations are being made to collect students for next winter's sessions of the classes.

Interesting to note is that Stephen Leacock, senior professor of Economics at McGill University, has just written a versified burlesque of that science—as usually taught—which he calls “Hellements of Hickonomics.” His foreword to the book deserves serious consideration. He says, in part: “Forty years of hard work on economics has pretty well removed all the ideas I ever had about it. The whole science is a wreck. For our social problems there is about as much light from the older economics as from a glow-worm. Only one or two things seem to me clear. Cast iron Communism is nothing but a penitentiary. . . . I believe that the only possible basis for organized society is that of every man for himself and those near and dear to him. . . . We need, not a new game, but a new set of rules.”

Premier Mackenzie King gave hostages to fortune in the public statement he made when on 14th October the Liberal Party won its resounding victory. Invited to repeat the statement in Parliament he did so on 11th February. The following are some of the more striking passages: “The results make clear that the people of Canada are opposed to planning for scarcity by the restriction of production, of trade, and of employment, and that they are not satisfied with the Ottawa trade agreements, and welcome the prospect of their early revision.

“The election is an unmistakable verdict in favour of the liberation of external and internal trade. . . . It constitutes a demand for the abolition of the extravagant increases in the tariff, together with the removal of arbitrary taxes and regulations . . . which have had the effect of strangling the commerce of the nation, exploiting consumers, and robbing railways of business.

“It is an overwhelming condemnation of the policies of economic nationalism, economic isolation, and economic imperialism, upon which the present government has proceeded in all its legislation; and a corresponding demand for the substitution of policies which will make for economic freedom, national expansion, and international good will.

“It is a verdict in favour of a more equitable distribution of wealth, with increasing regard to human need, to the furtherance of social justice, and to the promotion of the common good.

“In the new era which dawns to-day, the struggle for the rights of the people will, in the realm of economic liberty and security, be carried on as never before. Poverty and adversity, want and misery, are the enemies which Liberalism will seek to banish from our land.”

These are lofty ideals, but it remains to see how they will be translated into practice.

ARGENTINA

We have received the first number of a new weekly journal devoted to the advocacy of progressive ideas based upon land reform. It is entitled *Nueva Argentina* and published at Peru 84, Buenos Aires. The purpose of the paper is stated in a leading article by Mr A. M. Molinari as follows: “We are liberals in that we believe that liberty is the most fruitful social formula. Our liberalism commences in the relations between man and nature, and we affirm that access to this should be absolutely free. Hence we lay down as the indispensable basis of the social order the nationalization of the rent of land, as this rent is the sole result of collective action. We therefore limit the functions of the State to what is strictly necessary for the administration of the public services, and we deny the intervention of the State in private relations so far as they

do not affect the public and general interest, for from the moment that man is not impeded in his access to nature he does not demand this intervention.”

DENMARK

As we go to press we receive the issue of the *Det Frie Blad* of 15th May containing announcement that the Danish movement has lost one of its great advocates in Dr Axel Dam, who died after a brief illness. Dr Dam was one of the founders of the Danish Justice Party and was held in high regard by the Danish Henry George adherents and by all people whose aspirations are for a just social state. He had taken a prominent part in the public life of Denmark especially as a member of Parliament representing the Justice League. Sincerely we associate ourselves with the fine tributes that have been paid to Dr Dam's life and work by the many contributors to this special issue of *Det Frie Blad*.

A Youth Group for Correspondence

An admirable opportunity for young men and women in the Henry George movement to co-operate with one another, and gain new adherents, is to join the association of correspondents that has been formed by the Youth Section of the Danish League of Justice. Readers of *Land & Liberty* in every country whose ages are from 15 to 35 years are invited to join. Mr Dyssegaard gives us a list of 14 young Danes, most of them able to write English, who are already willing and eager to engage in such correspondence, and through Mr Dyssegaard's agency other names and addresses are being collected so that any one may be put in touch with any other. The fundamental object is, of course, to promote the teachings of Henry George and in several ways: the correspondents can consult with one another in their letters as to what they are doing and giving suggestions as to what may or should be done. They can also be placed in touch with others who want to make friends by post with any one at a distance in a general correspondence, which, handled by a follower of Henry George, would very likely make new converts for the movement. Some of those on Mr Dyssegaard's list wish to write in Esperanto; two are able to do so in German and one in French. One is a member of the War Resisters' International and one specially desires to have correspondence with an agriculturist. In his letter, Mr Dyssegaard writes: “The world is dominated to-day by forces that are working in the exact opposite direction to the ideal of the just state, these forces being protectionism, militarism and a selfish nationalism. The peoples are desperate in view of these hopeless conditions and are standing on the brink of a new world war. Henry George has given the world a policy that will save society from destruction. It is for us, who are the young, to make this policy known and understood.” The aim of the Youth Section of the Danish Justice League is to make the young people of Denmark Georgeist-minded and a further aim is to build up a World Union of Young Henry Georgeists who will collaborate with one another in this way.

Everyone interested in this new activity should write for full information to Mr Sv. Bonniwe Dyssegaard, Kostskole, Bagsvaerd, Denmark.

By HENRY GEORGE

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