

## E. J. CRAIGIE, M.P.

## New President of the International Union

Among all those who might have been candidates for the chief office of the International Union none is more suited to fill it with ability and zeal than Mr E. J. Craigie upon whom the choice fell. He is the worthy successor of the two previous Presidents, the late Charles O'Connor Hennessy and Mr Bue Björner and, as in their case, the Union in honouring him honours itself. It is an appointment which we feel sure will be specially appreciated among our colleagues and co-workers in Australia, where Mr Craigie's name is a household word in the Henry George movement. For many years a leader in South Australia, secretary of the League in Adelaide, and editor of the *People's Advocate*, Mr Craigie was elected to the South Australian Legislative Assembly in 1930 as independent representative for the Flinders Division and was successfully returned at the two succeeding general elections. In the House as in his division, indeed among the public of South Australia, he is held in the highest respect for the sincerity and the clarity with which he has ever stated his views, and for his strength and urbanity in meeting or overcoming his opponents in controversy. We could wish that some day his speeches in the House, in all that relates to land value taxation and free trade, might be published. It would be a book not alone informing but a model of the way in which arguments should be taken up and dealt with. His Parliamentary reputation was shown in the Dinner at which he was entertained prior to his departure to New York, where 30 Members of Parliament were present, including the Premier, the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition who all spoke; over 80 members of the League also attended. By the Premier he was granted special leave of absence and "Pairs" on all important questions.

Mr Craigie was appointed by the Henry George Foundation as the official delegate for Australia at the New York Conference and it was in that capacity also that he attended the International Conference in Edinburgh, 1929, after which he addressed a series of meetings in this country, in Keighley, Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Burslem and other centres. He was heard everywhere with great acceptance. His literary contributions to the Edinburgh Conference were his papers on "Land Value Taxation in Australia for Federal, State and Local Purposes" and on "The Blighting Influence of the Tariff in Australia." For the New York Conference he has brought the former paper up to date (it is Paper No. 12 of the set) under the title "The Taxing and Rating of Land Values in Australia," where every particular of the practical legislation in each of the Australian States is given; and its reflections upon the provisions in the various Acts make it a very complete guide for any student. The Australian Henry George Foundation is placing it at the disposal of interested advocates by ordering from the International Union a special supply of 1,000 copies.

On his journey to New York, Mr Craigie was entertained by friends in Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland and Vancouver. The Auckland papers (the *Herald* and the *Star*) reported interviews with him, and from Mr Aubrey in Vancouver we have an interesting account of the meeting there. After the New York Conference Mr Craigie visited Washington, Rochester, Chicago and other places and he was, with Mr Douglas, one of the speakers at the impressive Centenary Meeting in Montreal. He leaves Los Angeles on 13th October on his return to Australia.

## MONTREAL

A company of 150 persons assembled at dinner at the Windsor Station, Montreal, on 7th September, to celebrate the centenary of Henry George. Mr John Anderson occupied the chair and opened the proceedings with an admirable statement of the fundamental economic and social principles developed by Henry George. Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., Mr F. C. R. Douglas, and Miss Teresa MacCarthy, secretary of the Henry George School of Social Science of New York, and Mr A. C. Campbell of Ottawa also addressed the gathering. The speakers were introduced by Miss Margaret Bateman, Mr L. Boudler, Mr James Johnston and Mr Henry Moreau. The evening was an unqualified success and testified the strength of the movement which has been built up by Mr John Anderson and the able group of men and women associated with him in Montreal.

## TORONTO

On his way from Pittsburg to Montreal, Mr F. C. R. Douglas stopped at Toronto on 6th September, where he was entertained to dinner by Mr Arthur Roebuck, Mr Alan Thompson, Mr E. J. Farmer and other friends. After the dinner there was a meeting of the Single Tax Association at which Mr H. T. Owens gave a report of the New York Conference and Mr Douglas spoke on the movement in Great Britain and other countries.

Mr Ashley Mitchell, who was in Canada before proceeding to the New York Conference, was present at a picnic on 11th August held at the summer cottage of Mr and Mrs W. S. Hall at Ward's Island. He was also entertained to luncheon on 16th August at the Dutch Inn. He met many Toronto friends who were happy to have another opportunity to meet Mr Mitchell in his occasional visits to Canada.

## CALIFORNIA

A Henry George Centenary Commemoration was held on 31st August in Elks Temple, Los Angeles, which is described to us by Mr Clyde W. Silvernale as a remarkable success. It was the most impressive and best attended meeting, associated with the Henry George movement, that has ever been held in Los Angeles. Joint organisers were the Henry George School of Social Science and the Henry George Fellowship of Los Angeles, supported by a large number of prominent people not only in Los Angeles but also Glendale, Pasadena, San Gabriel and Santa Anna. At 6.30 there was a banquet and social hour, followed at 8 p.m. by a series of addresses, beginning with the welcome address by Dr Ordean Rockey representing the Mayor, Fletcher Bowron. The well-printed programme announced an "intellectual treat" which was not an extravagant promise since the speakers and their subjects were as follows: William C. de Mille, eminent author and director, on "The Philosophy of Henry George and its Vital Importance To-day"; Hamlin Garland, Dean of American Literature, on "My Friend, Henry George"; Hon Dudley Field Malone, international lawyer and former assistant Secretary of State, on "Henry George the Man"; Hon Jackson Ralston, distinguished authority on international jurisprudence, on "World Progress toward an Unshackled Civilization"; and Hon Carey McWilliams, State Director of Immigration and Housing, on "Land Tenure in Rural California." Mr Bill B. Truehart acted as organizing secretary. He and his colleagues are to be heartily congratulated.