

UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES

Dinner to Celebrate the Twenty-first Anniversary

A Reception and Dinner to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the formation of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values brought together a company of more than 120 friends and supporters of the movement at the St. Ermin's Restaurant, Westminster, on the evening of Monday, 23rd July. The position of Chairman was ably filled by Mr Charles E. Price, Member of Parliament for Central Edinburgh from 1906 to 1918, and former Chairman of the Land Values Group in the House of Commons. The Committee had invited as guests of honour the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, of New York, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade; the Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P.; Bailie Peter Burt, J.P., President of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values; Mr P. Wilson Raffan, J.P., former Secretary of the Land Values Group in the House of Commons; Mr F. Folke, of Copenhagen, President of the Danish Henry George Union; Dr J. J. Pikler, former Chief of the Valuation Department of the City of Budapest; Mr Pavlos Giannelia, of Vienna; Sir Edgar Harper, F.S.I.; and Mr Andrew MacLaren, M.P.

It was a large and representative gathering of ladies and gentlemen. Among those present were Sir Henry Ballantyne of Haddington, Rt. Hon. George N. Barnes, Cecil Wilson, M.P., H. G. Chancellor, ex-M.P., G. H. Godfrey of Sydney, N.S.W., Mrs Peter Burt, Mrs P. Wilson Raffan, M. J. Dikshit of India, J. Crabtree, Becket Henderson, Ashley Mitchell, F. Skirrow and R. W. Jenkins (Yorkshire), D. Cameron (Glasgow), J. H. McGuigan (Portsmouth), Alderman Rupert East (Aylesbury), Mr and Mrs A. H. Peake (Cambridge), E. M. Ginders, Councillor and Mrs A. H. Weller (Manchester), A. D. Haxton (Fife), Chapman Wright (Birmingham), Major R. R. Stokes (Dumfriesshire), E. J. McManus and F. R. Jones (Liverpool), Mr and Mrs L. P. Jacobs, E. J. Jacobs, B. A. Levinson, W. F. Adkins, Mr and Mrs George Crosoer, Mr and Mrs Charles H. Smithson, Mr and Mrs H. A. Berens, F. Batty, Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart, I. T. Garrido, Fredk. Verinder and the Misses Verinder, Mr and Mrs A. W. Madsen, and Professor Stanislav Ruzicka of Bratislava. Unfortunately Mr Snowden and Mr MacLaren were detained at the House of Commons.

The menu card was suited to the occasion. It carried a striking quotation from Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, and a statement describing the nature, objects and work of the United Committee. It was adorned by one of the late J. W. Bengough's illustrations, "A Cloud of Witnesses," drawn specially in 1902 for the catalogue of the Scottish League Bazaar.

Messages were received from many friends not able to attend; the greatest regret was expressed that Mr John Paul, editor of *Land & Liberty*, had been prevented from coming owing to illness. Mr Snowden wrote at the last moment explaining his absence: "I regret to have to write to say that it will not be possible for me to look in at the Dinner on Monday, even for a few minutes. The Report stage of the Finance Bill has been set down for that day, and as I am in charge of the Opposition on this Bill I shall have to stick to the benches every minute. I am very sorry to have to miss the opportunity of meeting you all, and particularly my old friend Mr Price. With best wishes for a successful and useful gathering."

Regrets were also intimated from Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley, late speaker of the House of Commons, Rt. Hon. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., W. T. Kelly, M.P.,

Thomas Johnson, M.P., E. Belfour, J.P., Mrs Lewis H. Berens, John S. Higham, ex-M.P., Richard Brown, G. B. Waddell, S. W. Challen, F. Fox; and from abroad: Sam Meyer (France), S. Berthelsen and J. L. Björner (Denmark), Ingjald Nissen (Norway), Hans Krüger, Otto Karutz, Alex. Paletta, Arnold Schwarz, Margaret Calder (Germany), Ernest G. Geoghegan and Moses Gatt (Malta). The letters and telegrams from these friends conveyed cordial greetings. Mrs Lewis H. Berens in her letter recalled the formation of the Committee, of which the late Lewis H. Berens was an original member and one of its most able and devoted active workers. She took occasion to send a contribution of £10, asking that this might be the nucleus of a "Quarter Century" fund for the Committee's finances. The Edinburgh League wired: "Heartiest congratulations to United Committee on 21 years' work well done and warmest greetings to honoured guests." On behalf of the Danish Henry George Union Mr Berthelsen cabled: "Danish Henry George friends thank United Committee for many years' excellent work for our great cause. Lead us further forward to victory, freedom and justice all over the world." Mr Halfdan Hansen cabled from Norway warmest congratulations. Similar greetings were received from friends in Australia and elsewhere.

The Chairman's Address

MR PRICE said:—

"We have listened with very great pleasure to these greetings from many parts of the world. I was particularly glad that Mr Whitley, the late Speaker, did not forget us because he was my predecessor as Chairman of the Land Values Group in the House of Commons, and personally I never ceased to regret that he gave up that position. He knew the subject so well. We all hope he will greatly enjoy his well-earned rest.

"This is the first time I have appeared in public in this capacity since I retired from Parliament in 1918. I came here at Mr Paul's urgent invitation, who suggested that I might renew my youth. This subject of ours is bigger and greater than any other we can touch. I have no hesitation in saying no cause has suffered more disastrously, no cause has been more completely betrayed than this has been by the politicians in Parliament. That is my deliberate conviction and it applies to every Party because, as you all know, there is scarcely a responsible statesman who has not delivered some speech in which he has not bowed his head to this subject.

"But I have great faith in Mr Snowden. Where Mr Snowden is, this subject will never be forgotten. It is a real regret to me he cannot be with us to-night. Parliamentary duties have detained him at a very important stage in the discussion on the Finance Bill, which he has so brilliantly fought throughout. He leads the Opposition in demanding land value taxation, and in his speeches in the House of Commons, as on the platform, he has eloquently upheld that policy as the answer to the fantastic scheme of so-called rating-relief that the Government is now rushing through Parliament.

"Since Henry George propounded his gospel the movement has spread to all corners of the earth. It has been given us to realize what the poet has said: 'Get the truth once uttered, and 'tis like a star new-born, not all the tumult of the earth can shake.' The truth once born, may be delayed or set aside for a time

but, depend upon it, another generation will come and justice will be done to this subject.

"I have no intention to speak at length, but there is one man I want to pay a special meed of praise and esteem, and that is our colleague and friend, John Paul. No man has held him in more profound veneration than I have done. His enthusiasm, his knowledge and his devotion to this cause are beyond words, and in the darkest day his faith never failed him to exhort and encourage us all. He never spared himself; perhaps it would have been better if he had done so. I do pray he will soon be restored to health and strength. (Applause.)

"For the United Committee we as politicians—before an election—have a very healthy respect. We then claim to be very great friends of this Committee and its policy. What happens afterwards is often another question. Politics can only be influenced by the persistent education of the public mind, and in my judgment no body has done better work in this direction than the United Committee, whose 21st Anniversary we celebrate. Nor do I know of any journal that may be compared as an educative force with *Land & Liberty*.

"I welcome all who are present to-night, and am glad, for instance, to see here the Right Hon. George Barnes and Sir Henry Ballantyne. They know how valuable *Land & Liberty* has been to us and to everybody else. If we could afford it, I would like to see the journal given to every householder in the country; it would do more to win votes to this cause than anything I know. We have also to acknowledge very fully and frankly our indebtedness to the United Committee for the work it has done.

"I give you the toast 'The Guests of the Evening,' and to the names on the toast-list I add that of our friend John Paul."

The toast having been received with acclamation, the Chairman in happy phrase introduced each of the guests who responded, calling in turn upon Bailie Peter Burt of Glasgow, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy of New York, Mr Folke of Copenhagen, Dr Julius Pikler of Budapest, Mr Pavlos Giannelia of Vienna, Mr P. Wilson Raffan, ex-M.P., and Sir Edgar Harper. The Chairman also invited Messrs W. R. Lester and Charles E. Crompton, as treasurers of the United Committee, to join in the speaking.

Bailie Peter Burt, J.P.

MR BURT said: "It came rather as a surprise when I was asked to make the first response to the toast of the guests. I don't know that I am able to say that I occupy the prominent position that some of our guests do. What speech I may make must be prefaced by a word of deep regret that illness is responsible for the absence of one to whom we should do chief honour on an occasion of this kind when we think of the destinies of the United Committee. In all the years I have been associated with the movement, this is the first time at such a gathering that my friend John Paul has not been present. I have in my hands a message to John Paul, which reads as follows, which is signed in your behalf by our Chairman, Charles Price:—

TO JOHN PAUL: We who are assembled at the dinner to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values learn with deep regret of your inability, owing to illness, to be with us at this commemoration, and express our earnest wish for your early restoration to normal health; further, at this anniversary, which has been made possible largely because of your constant devotion to the truth Henry George sought to make plain, we gratefully put on record our sincere and affectionate regard and our appreciation of the many years' loyal service and genuine leadership you have given to the cause.

"I move that we send this message." [By unanimous agreement the message was despatched by telegram.] "I am sure Mr Paul and with him Mrs Paul are with us in their thoughts, grieved not to be here but eagerly following the events of the evening.

"Mr Price has referred to the early struggles we have had in connection with this movement. Our question has such truth and conviction behind it that it will prevail. Parliaments and town councils may twist and turn, and adopt all kinds of schemes for trying to square the circle between poverty and wealth, between employment and unemployment, but until they tackle these things from the point of view that Henry George laid down, they can find no solution. There is only one thing to my mind, and that is—we believe that this world was made for human beings to live in and, as far as we are able to realize it, we fight for the cause that everyone has an equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We want to know what you and others can do to assist us.

"We have got to realize that working men, and men who are not working men, look to us to see that in and out of Parliament, in every constituency and in every organization, this question is raised and stated in a simple fashion. The earth was made for the children of men; why haven't they got the use of it? You have to open up the opportunities of nature and allow free access to them; if we did that ninety-nine per cent. of our social problems would disappear, for the land question is at the root of the poverty problem. Give the people freedom—give them liberty and opportunity and they will work out their own salvation."

Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy

MR HENNESSY said: "I feel it an honour, as well as a pleasure, to be privileged to-night to participate with you in the 21st Anniversary of the founding of the United Committee. It has been suggested to me that I should say something to you about the International Union, about international affairs and the prospect of international peace. Well, since our international meeting at Copenhagen, I have not been able to discern that the statesmen of the world have made very great progress in the direction of abolishing war, or permanently improving the industrial or economic condition of the nations. It is true that we had a disarmament conference at Geneva sponsored by the League of Nations. The chief subject of discussion, as I recollect, was the length or weight or number of ships of war that were to be allotted to different nations. No agreement was reached, and the Conference ended (if I may quote a happy phrase I found in the *Manchester Guardian*) 'in speeches and discouragement.' A few days after the end of the Conference the President of the United States, by way, I suppose, of illustrating the will to peace, recommended to the American Congress a very large increase of the fleets of battleships, cruisers, submarines and other death-dealing instruments of war. While Congress did not agree with the President there is no evidence, I believe, in my country or yours of any serious disposition to limit the instruments of war. Nor am I able to see that the much-heralded treaties proposed by the American Secretary of State for renouncing war as an instrument of national policy bring us any nearer to the solution of the difficulty, or to the assurance of enduring peace.

"I read not only *Land & Liberty* but some of your daily papers here, and I find that public affairs seem to be taken very much more seriously by the Press here than in the United States. Only to-day, by the way, I find in *The Times* a speech delivered in Yorkshire yesterday by your distinguished Prime Minister. I will not commit the impropriety of criticizing the Prime

Minister, but may I hope without offence point out the futility of certain of his proposals as shown by the experience of my own country. He referred to the number of things Parliament was doing, not only for the unemployed but especially for the agricultural interests of the country. There are some of us, by the way, who believe that the best thing that Parliament or Congress or any other legislative body can do for people is not paternalistically to do things for them but to set them free to do things for themselves. But since we have a paternalistic Government in this country, it is interesting, in the light of American experience, to examine one of the proposals that the Prime Minister referred to last evening. This was the proposition for organizing a national mortgage bank for the farmers of the country. If I get the correct picture, it is to be on the order of the American Federal Farm Loan system, designed to make it easier and cheaper to negotiate mortgage loans upon agricultural land. The Government, in the first place, is to take out of the public treasury, and without interest, a considerable sum to start this system. Then there is to be a semi-public corporation with a capital stock which is also—at least one half of it—to be taken out of the public treasury; and on the basis of this Government backing debenture bonds based upon mortgage debts are to be floated for long periods and at low interest.

“Now this is just what has been done in the United States, and hundreds of millions of debenture bonds have been floated by the Federal Farm Loan system nominally to provide cheap capital for the farmer. The chief result has been that of increasing the speculative price of land, of making it much easier for speculators to finance the trading in farm lands. It has not operated for the benefit of those who farm the farms, but chiefly to the advantage of the speculators or monopolists who ‘farm’ the farmers.

“It is because the United Committee for 21 years has been engaged in disseminating vital political intelligence on a fundamental subject of public policy that it is entitled to honour and congratulations on this occasion. The influence of the Committee and of *Land & Liberty* has not been confined to this country. My friends Mr Folke, Dr Pikler and Mr Giannelia, who are splendid workers in this cause in other lands, would be as willing, I am sure, as I am to pay tribute to-night to the world-wide influence of this organization whose coming of age you are celebrating to-night.”

Mr F. Folke

MR FOLKE said: “My first duty is to bring greetings from my friends—your friends in Denmark. They look to this meeting and they look to Great Britain—to you who were at the Conference in Copenhagen and to you who were not there—because they hope that Great Britain will be the cradle of economic freedom as it has been the cradle of political freedom. So it is with the Continent and Denmark especially. In my country the mild and fertilizing winds comes from the West. New thoughts used to come the same way, and we are deeply indebted to what has come to us from the Anglo-Saxon race; that is one of the reasons why in Denmark Henry George has found friends and followers, as you know to be the case.

“Denmark is only a spot on the map, and our people are only a drop in the ocean of the nations, but we still believe we have our mission. We have not been in the forefront of evolution. We have no heavy industries, and we are not endowed with coal or iron or oil. Thank God for that. If it had been so, we would long ago have been under the protecting wings of some big power! We are only a farming people. And that is perhaps the first reason why we have not totally forgotten the

connection between man and land. This connection cannot be broken without the risk of losing one’s soul. And then we are a farming people, not because we are gifted with land of much fertility. If you saw the sandy hills and plains of Zealand and Jutland, as Mr Hennessy did, you would agree that if they were a part of Great Britain they would be a hunting-ground. The reason we stuck to farming is that the connection between man and land, between farmers and land, was never broken by landlords. The farmers of Denmark have always had their foothold on the soil.

“There is a second reason. Our equality gave rise to a certain education—a common popular education under the leadership of our most prominent spirits. There is a political reason too. In the ‘seventies of last century American wheat flowed like a torrent over to agriculture on the Continent. We faced a grave financial crisis. At the same time we were in a political crisis. The Conservatives of all sorts attacked our constitution and they were fought by labourers and farmers in close union for more than thirty years. The common people won the battle, not only politically but economically, and the result was that when Bismarck turned over and went to fiscal or tariff protection for the big German farmers, Danish farmers went in for Free Trade. In consequence, Danish farming flourished. Through Free Trade every progress in America’s production of cheap food was made in favour of our production of butter, bacon and eggs. It is a true example of the benefits of unhindered imports. For twenty years we had a growing prosperity in Denmark, and the generation who realized that were proud.

“With increasing prosperity the bigger farmers felt wealthy and used their political power in shifting the public burdens from the land to the shoulders of labour. The selling price of land rose more and more under private speculation, and it was easy to prophesy that the very progress itself would produce poverty. Such has been the result. The land value has been capitalized in the hands of those who are not working farmers. The progress has been mortgaged in the last twenty years, and we are left boasting that we have the best system in the world of loaning upon real property—as if credits and borrowing were a blessing rather than a curse. Mortgages on all farm land have doubled. The progress in the shape of higher land value has been converted into debt now exceeding £150,000,000. The benefits of Free Trade have thus eluded us or have been stolen away. The present generation now takes that debt on its shoulders and is left in the position in which the foregoing generation was when it started. Some Danish farmers are fully alive to these effects. Perhaps the big farmers are indifferent, but not the small farmers who see their sons and daughters migrating to Canada because there is no chance at home.

“The small farmers stand for land value taxation as the remedy, and we can truthfully say that if we had had land value taxation only twenty years ago, we would have secured lasting prosperity for all who work and toil. That is the reason why small farmers believe in more and more land value taxation—in place of taxes on labour and industry—because it is the only way to give their sons and daughters the opportunity to have their own home and keep them in their old age. Of course, there is a big difference between your country and ours in the matter of social well-being. My impression is that you have far greater extremes of wealth and poverty than we have. But our political position, nevertheless, has several common traits.

“In Denmark we look forward to the time when we shall have a majority in Parliament consisting of all true Liberals, small farmers and labourers. I understand

that you do so here, irrespective of party labels. We have followed with very much interest the declarations made by Mr Snowden, and you will see here in our journal *Grundskyld*, the organ of the Danish Henry George Union (copies of which I have been glad to place on these tables), we have an article by the editor, Mr Berthelsen, where he describes the position, and tells the Labour leaders in Denmark what lead is now being given to the Labour Party in Great Britain by Mr Snowden's speeches on land values. We hope that experience will induce our politicians to see that there is no other way. Let us live for the opportunity to witness, so that our countries may delight to experience a sort of race between the two Governments of little Denmark and Great Britain to get ahead of the other in advancing our cause in legislation."

Dr Julius J. Pikler

DR PIKLER said: "I am reminded how some members of our Communist Party in Hungary once came to me for advice, and I said to them: 'Why do you come to me for advice? I am a revolutionist of a different order. You are aiming by the most revolutionary means and methods to achieve the most reactionary things, whereas I aim by quite peaceful means and methods to effect a truly revolutionary scheme. So I can give no advice to such meek people as you Communists and Bolsheviks are.'

"When I began in Budapest my campaign for a site value rate I was looked upon, and was often and openly called, a fool. It is quite intelligible that an intelligent man should be such a fool to undertake such things; but when I succeeded in carrying my site value rate in Budapest, followed by other towns, the opponents were alarmed and they said: 'This is not only a fool but a dangerous fool, because he effects quite a sensible plan which is at the same time a dangerous thing.' This was because there had been an invasion of what they called 'vested rights,' but what we call 'vested wrongs.'

"Such outstanding and greatly talented writers as Turgot, Ricardo, Herbert Spencer, Richard Cobden and, before all, Henry George, recognized that freedom and justice consisted in the common equal ownership of the earth or of the land of the globe, and on the other hand of individual absolute unrestricted ownership of the products of our own labour. There is no difference between republicans and democrats. There are men who are unconscious of this. There are men in all countries, and I stand here myself, an insignificant man, a humble representative of thousands of Hungarians who have recognized that quite apart from every political or national or racial difference we are nothing else than a different set of slaves, fleeced by different Governments. Before all we are men, equal creatures of God; we are brethren and equally entitled to the free gifts of our common and bountiful mother earth, given equally to all of us. I beg you to accept the cordial greetings of your Hungarian friends who, like you, are anxious that labour shall be freed from all taxes and that the nations shall get rid of bureaucracy and of arbitrary autocracy and all paternalism, people enthused with the idea of justice and the brotherhood of man."

Mr Pavlos Giannelia

MR GIANNELIA said: "Permit me to explain my own position in a few words. I am an official of the Greek Legation in Vienna, and so I am glad to have two fields to work for our ideas—in Austria as a resident in Vienna, and in Greece as an official of the Greek Government. The first result of my working within the Georgist circle in Vienna was to become the vice-president of

the Austrian League for Land Value Taxation, and the outcome of the work for Greece was my delegation as representative of the Greek Government to the Congress in Copenhagen, and also now to our International Union Committee meeting. Since then, too, there has been translated and printed for circulation a Greek version of the Statement addressed by the Union to the Economic Conference in Geneva.

"The most important question now dominating the economic life in Austria is the Rent Restriction Act, and the impasse is very serious because rent restriction has in fact proved futile and because the Act is most difficult to repeal.

"The main question in Greece is the settlement of two millions of refugees of Asiatic Greece in European Greece. It seems that these two questions (the Austrian and the Greek) are quite different, but when you examine the matter you will see that the root of both is the same. Both countries have tried and try to-day the most ineffective and most ruinous methods: expropriation, subsidies, loans, protective tariffs, etc. Everywhere we see unemployment and low wages. The fact is, trade and industry are smothered by oppressive and restrictive taxation. The only possible remedy is the one recommended by Henry George—to abolish all taxes except those on land value."

"I hope the time is coming when Greece or Austria, or both, will follow the Danish example and go farther: to set up the land value principle and abolish all imports on labour and production. Let me hope that the next time we will meet again next year in Edinburgh, I shall be enabled to give you the good news that Greece and Austria have begun to replace the oppressive taxes by the only justifiable tax—the tax on the value of land apart from improvements."

Mr Charles E. Crompton

MR CROMPTON said: "I am privileged to intervene for a moment in the eloquent speeches we are enjoying. The work of the United Committee and the work of the International Union is to establish and fight for a great principle, to get the public of all countries to appreciate what that principle is, and so insist upon it that members of Parliament and of the local authorities will be obliged to carry it out.

"Now you cannot do all this propaganda work without money. We must have money coming in if we are going to carry on the great work. I am glad to say that money is coming in; we cannot altogether grumble. I would like to tell you what we have been doing the last few months. As you all know, a zealous friend issued what Mr Paul in the Journal aptly called a pleasing challenge by offering £350 towards the expenses of the United Committee if an equal sum could be raised amongst other people. I am glad to be able to tell you to-night that we have collected very nearly that £350, and we have promises for the balance. So that we have in hand £700 towards the expenses of the United Committee. Yet it is a small sum in comparison with what is wanted now to engage upon the campaign for the General Election, with its tremendous issues. We want more very soon indeed. I do hope that every one here will remember that if he cannot speak or attend meetings he can at least send the needed financial strength. The treasurers gladly recognize the response we do get from all over the country as well as from all parts of the world, where our friends have their eyes upon this country for the chance we have to promote our policy. In America particularly—and Mr Hennessy can vouch for that—it is felt that Land Value Taxation is very much nearer an immediate practical proposal in Great Britain than it is in other parts of the world. I

would like to thank everyone here present who has contributed to our funds in the past, and to assure them that any further subscriptions will be very gratefully received by Mr Lester and me as treasurers of the Committee."

Mr W. R. Lester

MR LESTER said: "I would like to emphasize if possible still more strongly what Mr Crompton has said. We have in the United Committee a body which has an exceptional enthusiasm and devotion to the cause, and we have a cause we are proud to serve because of its truth and the way it reaches out to every social question. We have this cause and we have the ability and the power of tackling it and promoting it. One thing alone is lacking, and that is the 'powder and shot.' We could do immensely more than we do to-day if we had the very sordid question satisfactorily answered as to the £ s. d. of the matter. Since we are here on the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the United Committee I cannot help remembering, though it is a matter of small importance, that it is the 21st anniversary of my occupancy of the treasurership. Still don't let us deceive ourselves. My co-treasurer Mr Crompton and I realize to what an extent Mr John Paul has brought financial support for the Committee by his personal attention to that side of affairs and the influence of his appeal. He has not the nominal position of treasurer, but he has occupied that position in a far more real way than we have been able to do. I think you ought to know that fact.

"I believe this world is a well-ordered world, and that truth is stronger than ever. The truth will prevail and I am not disappointed at the prospects. Our policy will come into law as sure as any other natural thing is fated to happen. I believe all we can do is to keep pegging away. Angels cannot do more than that. We are a stronger body than people think. We are going to be very soon—as soon as the present Government gets thrown out and either a Liberal or Labour is returned—in the thick of the fight. We need and we can use well all the funds you can contribute."

Mr P. Wilson Raffan

MR RAFFAN said: "A century would be a short time, a lifetime a short time, and yet inside the lifetime of men and women here this movement has certainly found friends in all the English-speaking world—in Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, every one of the British Dominions; the great United States from which Senator Hennessy comes; the Scandinavian countries with their triumphs; Germany, Hungary, Austria, and the great South American Continent—everywhere we have our friends and our co-workers. The movement has circled the world in that short time, and in my moments of doubt and discouragement I take fresh hope and courage from that.

"This movement is back in politics once more. It is bound to keep in politics until solutions are found, because there is no other movement which gives the answer to the question of unemployment. There is no other movement that can give you an answer to the question why it is that you are unable to get decent houses for the working people. There is no other movement that can tell you how you are to restore commercial prosperity.

"The United Committee has been more than a political organization; it has been one that has kept alive the teachings of Henry George in this country, and has kept us in touch with all our friends in all these other lands. In this 21st Anniversary celebration we feel that in spirit we are at one with the great body of men and women all over the globe, many of whom we will never meet in the flesh and who will never meet us, but

will work consciously with us towards the realization of our ideals. The company we are in association with is a larger company still. These are the men and women in every land who hate to think of oppression and involuntary poverty, who believe that the way out is to see that the bounties of Providence shall not be monopolized by a few but shall be enjoyed equally by all. In the span that comes to each of us between birth and death we can feel that we have not lived in vain if we can say we have kept the light burning and handed the torch down."

SIR EDGAR HARPER, F.S.I., having also spoken briefly in response to the toast, MR ASHLEY MITCHELL moved, and MR E. M. GINDERS seconded, a hearty vote of thanks and expression of warm regard to the Chairman, Mr Charles E. Price. This was accorded with loud applause and a most successful evening was brought to a conclusion.

OUR EDITOR

It was a keen disappointment to Mr John Paul that he could not, as he had hoped, attend the Anniversary Dinner nor the Committee Meetings of the next day in the company of so many friends that he had looked forward to seeing. Some days before the celebration he was in the office and at his desk, but the doctor forbade further exertion of the kind meanwhile. During the month he has continued the rest at home, there recuperating his strength, making quiet progress, and following with close interest all that concerns the movement. He wishes to say how deeply he appreciated the message sent by colleagues and co-workers at the Dinner, with its greeting and most kindly sentiment. He is also grateful for the many letters and inquiries received from friends at home and abroad, who will please accept this acknowledgment and be assured of a fuller response when he is free to write.

A. W. M.

Mr David S. Fraser, of Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A., writes us that a banquet will be held at the Palestine Shrine Club, Providence, on 29th September, to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the birth of *Progress and Poverty*. Former Alderman John Kelso will preside. Visiting Henry Georgeists and their lady friends are cordially invited.

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The only fit and proper way of de-rating improvements is not to find the money by taxing improvements. Rather let us find the money by rating instead that land value which owes its very existence (not the land but the value) to the work and life of the community. We could then kill two birds with one cherry-stone. Make production cheaper, and at the same time the price of land cheaper.—RT. HON. J. C. WEDGWOOD, M.P., in an article "Winston's Whimsies" in the *Kensington News*, 11th August.

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