

there was no mistaking the sentiment of those present, judging from the vigorous applause.

TEXAS, HOUSTON.—Single taxers of Houston are working for municipal ownership, and during the past month organized and conducted, as individuals however, not as a club, a movement against granting to the present street railway company a ten years' extension of its present franchise, which did not expire for twenty-two years. Our city council stood 8 to 4 in favor of granting the franchise, when we took hold of the matter by getting up a petition, calling personally upon the various aldermen and writing communications to the papers, and we succeeded in showing the aldermen that the sentiment of the city was opposed to the extension. Three weeks later when the subject came up for action it was quietly put to sleep by a unanimous vote. There is a strong sentiment in the city favorable to the taxation of land values, and if it could be submitted to a vote of the people there is no doubt it would carry; therefore our efforts are being directed towards getting a home rule in taxation amendment to our constitution. We had such a measure passed by the lower house last session, but too late to reach the Senate.

WASHINGTON, SEATTLE.—Henry George's birthday was celebrated here by a banquet at which a hundred guests sat down. Dr. David De Beck was toastmaster, and among those who responded were Henry W. Stone, Robert Bridges, A. A. Booth, Alfred J. Wolf, Malcolm McDonald, Charles G. Heifner, Rev. W. D. Simonds and Henry W. Stein.

"We can go into any clime," said Mr. Stein, "and know our own the world over—for there exists among them a feeling of solidarity which, though unexplainable, yet nevertheless, is recognizable. This gathering is but typical of gatherings which are taking place tonight the world over among English speaking people. Let us hope the day will come when the whole world will recognize September 2 as the birthday of Henry George.

"The keynote of the whole movement is liberty for the man, liberty for the individual. We have no war against men, our war is against monopoly. Special privileges are usurping the field more and more while opportunities narrow, showing the necessity for opening up the world for man. The time will come when the world will see the enormity of one man's holding in the hollow of his hand the living of his fellow. When that time does come such power will be swept away with one acclaim."

Rev. W. D. Simonds spoke upon "The Man We Honor." He paid a glowing tribute to "Progress and Poverty." The speaker said in part:

"Of a vision 'Progress and Poverty' was born, and from that vision dates Henry George's heroic battle for the 'rights of

man.' A vow—registered, let us believe, in heaven—a vow from which he never faltered was to seek out and remedy if he could the cause of that debasing want of the many which stands in shocking contrast with the monstrous wealth of a few.

"Compelled by that vision and that vow for twenty years he stood the great advocate of the people's rights; the sorrows of the poor were with him by day and night; he heard—when others were heedless—the exceeding bitter cry of children born under poverty's curse; he saw men everywhere exchange manhood for gold, and he knew that in every city women bartered virtue for bread. All this he labored unceasingly to remedy even to that last hour, when martyred by his zeal for civic righteousness, the angels whispered, 'Enough,' and the hero was at rest."

News—Foreign.

ENGLAND.

(From the *Keighley News*.)

There was an excellent and, for the day and hour, well-attended meeting in the Devonshire Hall of the Liberal Club, Keighley, held in commemoration of the birthday of Henry George. Naturally enough the doctrines of Mr. George came in for a good deal of illustration and enforcement from the two principal speakers of the evening. But, as befitted the occasion, a great deal was said about the personality of Mr. George, who appears to have been a most charming man, and was undoubtedly animated by a high moral purpose and by a desire to redeem his poorer fellows from the burden of laws the effect of which was to thwart men's efforts to improve their condition and to keep them in a poverty-stricken and degrading environment.

Mr. W. Thompson, the chairman, in his opening remarks, expressed the opinion that the spirit which animated Henry George was not yet thoroughly understood. Above all things he was a man full of human sympathy, with an earnest desire to do all he could to alleviate human misery and human suffering. They did not say the single tax was the only panacea, but they did say that any scheme for the regeneration of human society and the removal of human misery must have as a foundation for success liberty, justice, and pure wisdom, and this pure wisdom was to be found in the books of Henry George.

Crompton Llewellyn, president of the English League for the taxation of land values, claimed that Henry George combined in himself the qualities which existed separately in other people, but were seldom found in such effective combination as in Henry George. The three noteworthy features of Henry George's work were the exalted ideal he held of what it was possible for human life to attain to if men followed

the dictates of justice and did not by wrong laws mar the possibilities; the second was his burning sympathy for those who were oppressed or miserable; and the third was his keen insight into the underlying causes of things and the power to analyze all the complications of the modern industrial situation. The speaker went on to contend that the taking of land values by private persons was a fundamental injustice. These values were earned by the community, and the merit of the taxation of land values was that it would prevent land being kept idle, and would compel the owners to put it to use, and this would be of the greatest advantage to towns and the suburbs of towns. This advantage would apply to all land, because under present conditions the price which had to be paid for the use of land was artificially increased by the possibility of holding it from use. At present there never was actually enough work to go round amongst the people, hence the competition for work forced wages down, and this condition of things was getting worse with the increase of population. Until this reform of the taxation of land values was introduced all other attempts to improve the social condition would only aggravate the central evil (applause); all the improvements which were made were simply grist to the landowner (hear, hear). To secure social and industrial freedom there must be the taxation of land values as a basis.

Mr. J. W. S. Callie,* the next speaker, was cordially received. At the beginning he referred to a point raised by Mr. Davies, and agreed that the new tax upon the natives of South Africa was an attempt to force them to labour in the mines, because while they preferred to live in their own way such a tax would compel them to work in the mines to obtain the money to pay the tax. It was fit and proper, he went on, that they should celebrate the birthday of Henry George, and they did not intend it to be a funeral proceeding, because, although their leader was dead, his work was going on, and going on to a successful issue. It was well, he urged, that they should know something of the life of the man, and he proceeded to sketch that life, to tell how George started as an office boy, went to sea, returned and became a compositor, afterwards shipped as a sailor to San Francisco, and there left his ship for the gold diggings. After many ups and downs in life, he began newspaper work and became a newspaper editor, and began to write on social problems. Mr. Callie then related how the idea of the single tax came to George, and how in the end he died in the midst of the great fight against Tammany Hall for the mayoralty of New York. He declared that the biography of Henry George by his son was the best biography the world had perhaps had of a man since Boswell's "Life

* Mr. J. W. S. Callie is the editor of the *Financial Reform Almanac*, one of the very best authorities on fiscal questions in Great Britain.

of Johnson." Henry George was not a dreamer or a philosopher of the study, but a man who knew the conditions of which he wrote, and for which he strove to find a remedy from actual experience and knowledge. Those who believed in his solution had in Henry George a great example before them. This simple plan of his was the most powerful remedy ever introduced into the world's politics (applause). Henry George showed that the poverty which existed could not be blamed upon God, but was humanly made (hear, hear, and applause), that if the crops of the earth were fourfold in quantity there would still be poverty amongst the people (hear, hear). They did not claim for the single tax that it would absolutely abolish poverty but it would abolish economic poverty.

SCOTLAND.

A meeting to commemorate the birthday of Henry George was held under the auspices of the Scottish Single Tax League, in the hall of the League at 13 Dundas street, Glasgow, Wednesday evening, September 3, Mr. H. S. Murray, Galashiels, presiding. Mr. W. Reid, Glasgow, delivered the address. There was a good attendance of single taxers and friends present. Apologies were read from Bailie Burt, President; Rev. James Barr; Bailie Fairlie (Falkirk); Mr. J. D. Hope, M. P.; Mr. David McLardy, and Bailie D. M. Stevenson (Glasgow).

AUSTRALIA.—SYDNEY.

The second annual celebration of the birth of the late Henry George took place last month at the Elite Hall, Victoria Markets, George street, when the members of the Darlington and Sydney Single Tax Leagues held a banquet and public meeting. Mr. P. McNaught, president of the Sydney Single Tax League, presided, and amongst those present were: Messrs. P. J. Firth, president of the Darlington Single Tax League; E. Lonsdale, M. L. A.; F. Cotton, J. T. Fischer, A. G. Huie, Mrs. Martel and Miss Golding. At the banquet the toast of Henry George was proposed by Mr. McNaught and honored silently.

After the banquet a public meeting was held, the hall being well filled with ladies and gentlemen, including members of many of the debating societies of the city and suburbs. The programme included the following items: Overture by Miss Firth, song by Mrs. Scott, recitation by Mr. J. R. Firth, and addresses.

Mr. McNaught delivered an address of eulogy upon Henry George—his life, literary work and lectures. He said that the world had been enriched by the work of the departed apostle of single tax principles. He prefaced his remarks with an allusion to the fact that women were now enfranchised, and he congratulated the leaders of the move-