

wants Australian conditions placed before the local readers of the *Daily Mail*, the *Observer*, and another journal published in the Cingalese tongue. He is phoning the office as soon as we reach the shore, and I shall take this chance of getting in a word for our principles. I have given this man some of the Conference papers I had with me and he appears very keenly interested in them.

"Nine days after leaving Colombo we touch at Freemantle, and four days later I shall be home. I shall soon have to be making arrangements for the next election campaign. . . . I enjoyed my stay in England very much and was sorry to leave you all when the time came to say good-bye. It was a pleasure and inspiration to meet so many fine workers in the one cause worth while. I am pleased the opportunity came for me to meet in the flesh those who I had only known previously by correspondence. I have a better understanding of the position in England and shall be able to place the correct view before our Australian workers."

In the *People's Advocate*, journal of the Henry George League of South Australia, of which Mr Craigie is the Editor, there have been interesting "Travel Notes" from his pen, and in the September issue he had a masterly review of the Conference proceedings. He has brought Edinburgh and all the personalities he met very close to our co-workers in South Australia. The association of Mr Craigie and of his colleague, Mr Renwick, at the Conference, as well as others from Australia like Mr W. A. Wickham and Mr and Mrs A. M. Kirkland, will remain long in the memory of all who were privileged to be present at that notable gathering.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD AT ERITH

The *North Kent Argus* (22nd November) reports that at a meeting addressed by Colonel J. C. Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P., at Erith, on 20th November, a resolution in the following terms was unanimously carried: "That this meeting, convinced that land monopoly stands in the way of any solution of the problem of unemployment and housing, welcomes the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide for taxation of land values in his next Budget, and urges the Government to allow local authorities to levy rates on land values."

Colonel Wedgwood said that without free land nothing could be done to deal properly with unemployment. All productive work depended upon the application of labour to the land. So long as they had landlords in this country who kept people off the land until they could charge a blackmail price for it they would have unemployed. If they could bring in a measure which would frighten landlords out and make it unpleasant to hold land from the people, they would throw that land on the market and people in the primary trades would get their land cheaper than at present.

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JOSEPH WILLIAM NEAL

Many years ago I was lecturing one Sunday afternoon at New Southgate. At the far end of a crowded hall I saw an old friend, standing with his back against the wall, and evidently following the lecture with close attention. At the end of the meeting, he told me that he would write a full report for his paper. "But," said I, "you didn't take a single note." "I never do," he replied. Sure enough, a full and very accurate report appeared in the next issue of the *Sentinel*.

An unusually retentive memory was only one of the many gifts of Joseph Neal, who passed away quietly in his sleep on Monday, 18th November. Less than three weeks before, a very friendly birthday greeting to myself from his pen had appeared in his paper. He had been ill for a long time, but cheerfully continued his work till the very last.

Born 64 years ago, in a little court off Goswell Road—now demolished—the memory of his early environment and his boyhood struggle made him the lifelong foe of every kind of injustice and oppression, and the champion of the victims of political or economic injustice. He was apprenticed as a printer, but early showed great talents as a journalist. He became a member of the first staff of *The Star*, when it was founded in 1888 by T. P. O'Connor, who died almost at the same hour as Neal himself. In his leisure time he founded the Wood Green *Sentinel*, with the aid of his wife. He was its proprietor, editor, reporter and printer, and the paper was financed out of his salary. Another journalist friend of mine, and a colleague of Neal's, writes: "He was the only man I ever knew who went into London suburban journalism, not to make money, but to benefit his neighbours, and his energy and skill created the present-day paper out of nothing." It was, indeed, a "suburban paper," but, as the advertisers are fond of saying, "different." It always bore the impress of Neal's wonderfully attractive personality—his wide charity, his courage in denouncing wrong, his fearless support of every good cause, no matter how unpopular, his gift of a lively and interesting style. There must have been many in Wood Green who winced under his frank criticism, but it is safe to say that they all respected him for his transparent honesty and disinterestedness, and many of them loved the man who in the public interest, and without any trace of personal venom, "chastized" them for their own good and the good of Wood Green.

As might be expected, his training in London journalism made it impossible to confine his attention to merely local affairs. International peace, co-operation, the taxation of land values, education and the welfare of the young, and many other good causes, had always an enthusiastic advocate in him. When he despaired of the Liberal Party, he did, as other good men have done: he joined the Labour Party, and took his Radicalism with him. Our own movement could always rely upon his active support.

A reference in his last letter to me, late in October, showed how much he owed to his devoted wife and helpmeet, not only in his long, last illness, but throughout a happy married life. We join with thousands of other friends—in Wood Green and elsewhere—in offering to Mrs Neal our respectful and affectionate sympathy.

FREDK. VERINDER.

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