

George man. I chose electorate which was most compact and handy for our people to work and I went to live in it.

The first P. R. election for N. S. W. State Parliament was in 1920. There were 20 candidates for the five seats. I was tenth on the first count with 1,268 votes. Added preferences made it up to 1,688.

At the 1922 election I was seventh in a field of 12 candidates with 2,670, added preferences made it up to 3,080. In 1925 in a field of 14 candidates I was sixth with 3,976 first preference votes. At the conclusion I had 5,212 votes. In fact had electors generally used their preferences more fully so that their ballot papers could have been used instead of over 3,000 being exhausted I would have been elected.

Consider what would have been the moral effect of a man in the teeth of all opposition of the party machines and the daily press winning a seat in Parliament as a Henry George man. But we have lost P. R. For a short time we had a bushranger Premier in the person of Mr. J. T. Lang, masquerading as a Labor Leader. He deprived the people of the freedom which P. R. gives them behind their backs. That is, he repealed P. R., thus debasing or making the franchise much less effective. Mr. Lang is the worst type of politician who has ever held high office in N. S. W.

Originally the Labor Party in N. S. W. was substantially a Single Tax Party. Its chief founders were Single Taxers. But it has long since betrayed its first love. Most of the Single Taxers left it and it became a mere political party with a good title. To-day it upholds protection monopoly and trades in wretched palliatives. And when the country had electoral justice in the shape of P. R. it stole it from the people.

THE RELATIVE POSITION OF N. S. W.

Finally let me in some measure set out the relative importance of N. S. W. in comparison with the other States. There are six states. N. S. W. is the original or foundation State of the Australian Commonwealth. The others are either offshoots or were started subsequently. N. S. W. has 10.44 per cent. of the area of Australia and 38.45 per cent. of the population.

In 1927 N. S. W. had 29.47 per cent. of the wheat crop, 55.20 per cent. of the wool clip, and 67.97 of the value of mineral production. The wool percentage is quantity, not value, which would probably be higher.

With manufactures the proportion of value added in the process of manufacture in N. S. W. was 43.03 per cent. N. S. W. imports were 41.97 per cent. of the Australian total and the exports 43.29 per cent.

N. S. W. had 39.77 per cent. of the total State revenues and its proportion of savings bank deposits was 38.25 per cent. Our State railway mileage was 22.58 per cent. of the total. Gross railway earnings were 39.44 per cent., and net railway earnings 59.42 of the total. The figures are all for 1927.

These details give some idea of the position that N. S. W. occupies in relation to the other States. N. S. W. is notably the leading State and it has very definitely taken the lead in giving effect to the principles of Henry George with great benefit to the people, and it has set a good example for others to follow.

A. G. HUIE, Secretary Henry George League of N. S. W.

The Need of Cheap Editions

(FOR ADVANCING OUR CAUSE)

AS to measures, I feel much like the Kentuckian who said, "All whiskey is good whiskey but some whiskey is better than other whiskey." All measures which advance the Single Tax are good and I believe that no sincere work to advance the Single Tax is ever wasted. But some measures are better than other measures. I think the Henry George Foundation has done very remarkable work and that we cannot exaggerate its effect. The Schalkenbach Foundation is doing excellent work. *LAND AND FREEDOM* in New York; *Land and Liberty* in London, the Single Tax papers which circle the globe are effective; but nine-tenths of all the active Single Taxers I have known were converted or their conversion fixed by reading one or all of Henry George's books and the period of greatest activity and of greatest progress in the Single Tax movement were when Henry George's books were available in cheap paper covers.

Silas Burroughs who did so much effective Single Tax work before his untimely death was converted by a copy of the sixpenny edition of *Progress and Poverty* which he saw in a shop window in Auckland, New Zealand, during the few hours he spent in that city. Men who are converted by a speech may have their opinions again changed by another speech, but men who become Single Taxers through reading one of the books are apt to stay converted. As Henry George has said "If thinking men are few, they are for that reason all the more powerful."

The distribution of cheap editions of Henry George's books therefore seems to me one of the most important methods of advancing the Single Tax and if we can put these books into the hands of the pupils in our public schools at a period when their ideas are taking permanent shape, I believe that the effectiveness of our work and of the money and time spent on it will be multiplied. A few days after the Mayoralty election of 1886 I called on Henry George and told him that I wanted to give away 10,000 copies of one of his books and asked him which one it should be. He said he would like to think over for some time and the next day he decided the *Land Question* was the best book to attract the attention of people who knew nothing of the Single Tax. For some years the *Land Question* was only printed when bound with *Property and Land* and the *Condition of Labor* and no cheap copies have been available.

—From an Address by WILL ATKINSON in Pittsburgh.