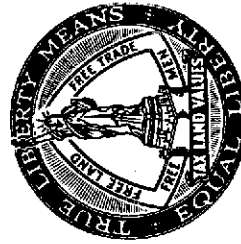


freedom by well-known public men indicates that the leaven is working. It must never be forgotten that until there is correct thought in the minds of the populace there cannot be correct political action. To attempt to force the position until the people are ready is only to court disaster.

The Conference now in session at "The Hayes" provides another opportunity for our international workers to gather together, submit reports of the work being done in their respective countries, discuss the best methods of propaganda, and to gain fresh inspiration to carry on the work until such time as the principles of freedom are adopted in every land.

I trust that the Conference will be a great success. I convey to the Officers of the International Union and to all who have assisted in the onerous duties associated with the arrangements for the Conference my sincere thanks, and feel sure that all co-workers will not rest from their labours until

The war drums throb no longer,
And the battle flags are furled;
In the Parliament of Man,
The Federation of the World.



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Message from E. J. Craigie

(*Ex-M.P., South Australia.*)

To all assembled at the Conference: Greetings.

I very much regret that owing to my present state of health it is not possible for me to attend this International Conference. I had looked forward with pleasure to renewing acquaintance with the stalwart workers for the cause of economic freedom that I met in Edinburgh in 1929 and at New York in 1939. I am keenly disappointed that I am unable to be present at the 1949 gathering.

Never was there greater need for clear thinking and correct action in regard to social problems confronting the world than at the present juncture. The Declaration of World War II was on the day of our final gathering at the New York Conference in 1939, and created a great sensation. Since that time the peoples of the world have suffered untold hardships. Many precious lives have been sacrificed, millions of people have been torn from their homes and forced to endure great privations and dire poverty and misery, much valuable machinery and property urgently needed for the production of the necessities of life has been destroyed, and millions of acres of land have been rendered desolate.

Although we are told that this war, like World War I, was to "END WAR," we know this great scourge cannot be ended until the CAUSE of war is abolished. This cause cannot be removed until the peoples of every country realise that an injury to one nation has its repercussions throughout the whole world. The peoples of every country—those who do the useful work in society—must be brought to realise that they have no grievance against each other, and that the best results are to be obtained when they work harmoniously together.

They must be brought to realise that wars are caused through the greed of vested interests to secure either a monopoly of natural resources or trade privileges. Monopoly of natural resources takes the form of oil wells, gold and diamond fields, and other mineral concessions. Trade privileges are secured by means

of tariffs, embargoes, quotas, and control of foreign exchanges. So long as the Parliaments of the world are prepared to grant these privileges, all efforts to put an end to war must prove futile, and the masses will be expected to sacrifice to the war-god—Mammon.

Looking back along the pages of history we see that irrespective of the label under which political parties may function, not one of them has attempted to bring an end to war by attacking its fundamental cause. They have preferred to try to deal with this great evil by spending millions of pounds on defence. If this illogical policy is to continue then it is only a matter of time when our so-called civilization will end in disaster.

Our members assembled in Conference at "The Hayes" have an important duty to perform by sending forth to the world a message that will indicate how permanent peace may be secured. Those conversant with the principles of Henry George know that this great apostle of freedom laid down in clear and incontrovertible terms the principles whereby "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all Mankind" can become an accomplished fact.

Henry George showed that the earth, from which all sustenance is obtained, is the free gift of Nature to all mankind. He made it clear that no individual has a moral right to levy tribute upon another individual for the right of occupation. He made it abundantly clear that as all land did not have the same degree of fertility—the same potential productive capacity—and as some areas of land were not so well situated for business or residential purposes as other sections, justice could only be done to all sections of the community by calling upon those in possession of the more favoured sites to pay into the communal treasury a premium to defray the cost of social services. This premium is termed economic rent, and accurately measures the difference in the use of the various grades of land in any country. He showed that this rent was determined by the operation of the law of supply and demand, and when it was taken into the public treasury it had the effect of equalising the opportunities for all wealth producers, while leaving sacredly to them the earnings of their labour.

In regard to the question of trade, Henry George showed that certain parts of the earth enjoyed natural advantages for the economical production of particular commodities. The true economy was for the people in each country to concentrate on the production of those goods which gave them a maximum return for a minimum of effort; and by the process of trade to exchange their surplus products one with the other. By free commerce the people in every country would participate in the benefits enjoyed in each individual country because of their natural advantages for cheap production. This freedom of trade would establish goodwill instead of hatred and jealousy now engendered by reason

(2)

of trade restrictions. By his logical arguments Henry George demonstrated the truth of the statement by Richard Cobden that "Trade is the great Peace Maker," and gave to the world the practical policy for the abolition of war.

Unfortunately, his simple truths have not been recognised or acted upon by those entrusted with the reins of government. They have no faith in freedom, but prefer to try to regulate mankind from the cradle to the grave. They seek to plan our every action and to direct the employment of Labour and Capital in every phase of industry. The freedom that our forefathers fought and died for is constantly being filched from us, and we are fast approaching the Socialist and servile State.

Free enterprise is being hampered by harassing restrictions and regulations, and those who engage in the production of wealth are regarded as enemies to society and suffer a heavy tax penalty because of the initiative and enterprise they display. Government officials without practical or technical knowledge have the audacity to dictate to men who have given the best years of their lives in specializing in connection with the industries they are associated with.

This interference with private enterprise is destroying the will to produce. Mankind lives on production, and if these restrictions upon private enterprise are to continue, and the controls are to remain, it is inevitable that the people in the countries where such controls operate must suffer a lower standard of living.

Those acquainted with the principles of Henry George know they are the ONLY practical alternative to the Socialist State. Those principles are ethically and economically sound. They provide that the values attaching to land, being a people's value, shall be taken into the public treasury and used for the benefit of the people. All values created by the use of Labour and Capital by individuals shall remain for all time the property of the individuals responsible for the creation of those values.

Georgeists also know that no government can move faster than the people who give it political support. It is because of this knowledge that those associated with the Henry George movement throughout the world have concentrated on educating the people on fundamental principles. There are some who think we should be prepared to compromise on principles to gain greater support. These people like to be with the big battalions and become impatient because they fear our policy will not be adopted during their lifetime. With great respect we suggest there is no justification for such a pessimistic attitude. Although some may think that our work is not responsible for much progress, it cannot be denied that an ever-increasing number of people throughout the world are now thinking on our lines. Our advance may not be spectacular and accomplished with much noise and shouting, but the frequent statements urging the adoption of the principles of

(3)