

bination, and machinery of a civilized community give to the productive powers of man, yet his two hands can fill the mouths and keep warm the backs that depend upon them. Yet where productive power is at its highest development, he cannot. Why? Is it not because in the one case he has access to the material and forces of nature, and in the other this access is denied?

The proximate cause of enforced idleness with one set of men may be the cessation of demand on the part of other men for the particular things they produce, but trace this cause from point to point, from occupation to occupation, and you will find that enforced idleness in one trade is caused by enforced idleness in another, and that the paralysis which produces dullness in all trades cannot be said to spring from too great a supply of labour or too small a demand for labour, but must proceed from the fact that supply cannot meet demand by producing the things which satisfy want and are the object of labour.

That the main cause and general course of the recurring paroxysms of industrial depression, which are becoming so marked a feature of modern social life, are thus explained, is, I think, clear. And let the reader remember that it is only the main causes and general courses of such phenomena that we are seeking to trace, or that, in fact, it is possible to trace with any exactness. Political economy can only deal, and has only need to deal, with general tendencies. The derivative forces are so multiform, the actions and reactions are so various, that the exact character of the phenomena cannot be predicted.

The manner in which the sufficient cause to which I have traced them explains the main features of these industrial depressions, is in striking contrast with the contradictory and self-contradictory attempts which have been made to explain them on the current theories of the distribution of wealth. That a speculative advance in rent or land values invariably precedes each of these seasons of industrial depression is everywhere clear. That they bear to each other the relation of cause and effect, is obvious to whoever considers the necessary relation between land and labour.—HENRY GEORGE in *Progress and Poverty*, Book V, Chap. 1.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr. E. J. Craigie's Maiden Speech

Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., delivered his maiden speech in the Parliament of South Australia on 10th June. It was a long and masterly exposition of the policy for which he stands. The House showed a keen interest in the performance, and the speaker was subjected to a long stream of opposing and friendly interruptions. He explained each point as it was raised, and by the end of his speech his fellow-members had received a valuable lesson on the principles of economic freedom. It is quite impossible by means of quotation to convey the power and cogency of Mr Craigie's address. Those who heard him speak at the Edinburgh International Conference last year will understand how his ability for marshalling facts, figures and arguments has brought him an early success in his Parliamentary career. We quote:—

"The object of employment on the part of every individual is to satisfy his needs in the way of food, clothing and shelter. If we study this particular subject we will find that all the things we are in need of in the way of food, clothing and shelter can only be obtained from the land. We have in Australia an abundance of land. We also have an abundance of labour; and yet we are faced with the fact that while on the one hand we have idle lands, on the other we have idle hands.

"To solve the problem of unemployment we have to bring the idle lands and the idle hands together, and there is only one way by which that can be done. That is by calling upon every individual who is in possession of any portion of the world's surface to pay the rental value of that land into the public treasury. We have over £95,000,000 worth of unimproved values in the State to draw upon.

"When I am urging taxation on the unimproved value of land as a means of raising revenue, I am not suggesting that it shall be imposed as an additional tax, but as a tax in lieu of the taxes levied on industry at present put forward at this juncture as a means of forcing into use land which is now held for speculative purposes as being the only practical solution of the unemployed problem."

THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS: "We will go a long way with you."

MR. CRAIGIE: "I am pleased to have that assurance. I hope the Government will realize the responsibilities of their position, that the old measures which have been tried for many years have failed miserably, and that some new idea will have to be put before the public if we are going to get any real social reform."

NEW ZEALAND

M. J. S. writes:

The New Zealand *Budget* in a message from Christchurch, May 1930, reports that "a vigorous protest against further increase of motor taxation was made at a conference of the North and South Island Motor Unions. The Chairman (Mr A. E. Ansell) said the proposed increase of the petrol tax to 11d. a gallon would increase the revenue to £2,600,000. The proposal that one million of this should go to main highways and the remainder to extinguish the hospital levy was obviously unfair. To say that a man who owned land adjacent to a highway should pay nothing for the road was absurd, because the value of land increased with improvement in the type of road. Motorists must be prepared to fight resolutely against any imposition of unfair taxation."