

corporation owns the Natural Bridge and fences off the view (just as though they made it) from the eyes that love beauty. Then I was indignant!

Why should not I, a citizen of the United States, have a right to enjoy the beauty and wonder of the Natural Bridge of Virginia, without paying a dole into the pockets of some private individuals, who have no more right to it than I? When any group of men, made by their own labor, a "Natural" Bridge, then and then only, will I uncomplainingly pay for looking at it (if I can get the money to do so.) But if I had a million dollars in my pocket, I would not willingly pay one cent of it to any man or corporation for a chance to look at a bridge made by nature alone. By what right does any man claim the land or the wonders thereof as his own private property?

We had to drive away without seeing the bridge and I found my desire to see it smothered under the greater desire of wishing to help do away with such injustices.

The same situation existed in connection with the Caverns. Private corporations own each group of caverns and exploit the public for all it will stand. At the Luray Caverns, the admission is \$1.65 a person; I was discouraged and didn't inquire the charge at the others, but someone told me it was the same at all of them. The individual corporations have done some work in these caverns, such as excavating to open up new rooms, putting in electric lights, walks, and such things, but probably a charge of \$.50 per person would easily cover this, with a reasonable surplus for running expenses.

I had long been aware of the injustices lurking in the private ownership of land, but this particular aspect of the wrong I had never encountered before. It was as startling as though someone had fenced off Niagara Falls and had charged me admission to look at them. Security of improvements on land is just and necessary, but private ownership of the land itself is a rank injustice and is not necessary. How long shall we stand for an injustice which so vitally affects us all?

—MABELLE HATHAWAY BROOKES.

THE majority of men do not think; the majority of men have to expend so much energy in the struggle to make a living, that they do not have time to think. The majority of men accept as a matter of course whatever is. This is what makes the task of the social reformer so difficult, his path so hard. This is what brings to those who first raise their voices on behalf of a great truth the sneers of the powerful, and the curses of the rabble, ostracism and martyrdom, the robe of derision, and the crown of thorns.—HENRY GEORGE.

THY kingdom come! How can His kingdom come,
While children work in mines, with justice dumb?

—HORATIO.

The Single Tax in Australia

A STIMULATING GIFT

WITH the advent of the New Year a brief review of Single Tax activities during the past twelve months will not be out of place. These activities received a great stimulus in New South Wales through the generosity of a retired Government surveyor, the late R. S. Johnson, who offered the League £100 on condition that £400 more were contributed in equal and smaller sums. While sympathisers with the movement, stimulated by the example so generously set, were doing their utmost to obtain the required sum the donor himself passed away, but not before he was so satisfied with the response to his offer that he handed in his cheque. He was an ardent Single Taxer, and felt that he could not serve the cause better than by providing it with funds. How to make the best use of the money was very carefully considered, and it was finally decided to advertise for the services of an assistant secretary to help Mr. Huie in the great work he is carrying on, especially in pushing the circulation of the *Standard*, the organ of the movement in New South Wales, which Mr. Huie has so ably conducted for many years.

This turned out to be the best move made by the League for some time past. One of those who answered the advertisement was a comparatively young man named Walter Finch, a native of New South Wales, who has lived principally in Sydney (although he has visited the United States), and who has held various important positions in city firms. He soon showed that he was the right man for the position by the energy and zeal he infused into the work. He put the Sunday meetings in the Domain on a much better footing, he re-started the class for training speakers, which Mr. Hilman had ably conducted for several years, he took a leading part in the open air meetings in the suburbs, and he contributed some very good letters to the press. The Sydney press seldom, and the Sydney *Morning Herald* never, publishes anything with what they call a "Single Tax sting," but the *Herald* does occasionally let us join in the campaign against the protective tariff, which is the greatest obstacle everywhere to the Single Tax cause. The country press is much more sympathetic and we endeavor to keep it fairly well supplied.

IN THE SYDNEY DOMAIN

Sunday afternoon in the Sydney Domain is a well-known hotbed of Communists, anarchists, revivalists, and revolutionaries of every kind. An immense amount of froth effervesces there from noon till dewy eve, which eases the minds of the orators, and does on the whole less harm than if it were curbed and had to find a vent in some other way. For many years Mr. Huie held Single Tax meetings there on Sunday afternoons, he was very seldom assisted, his audiences were generally small, and so soon

as he commenced to barrack for the *Standard* his hearers melted away. Now we have a chairman in the person of Mr. C. Hobbs, and several speakers in addition to Mr. Huie, including Messrs. Finch, the assistant secretary, Mortmain, Pantin (occasionally), and Hogg. Tracts bearing on the movement are given away, and the sales of literature have been so large—about a hundred books and leaflets every Sunday—that a heavy supply has had to be ordered from London.

In paying his tribute to the founder of the movement the chairman (Mr. Hobbs) said he looked upon Henry George as the greatest reformer since the time of Christ. Although his enemies had not crucified him they would gladly have destroyed his work. He blazed a pathway of intelligence through the injustice from which mankind had suffered for many ages. His works shone as a beacon light, warning the people of the social dangers around them brought about by the curse of land monopoly.

The Assistant Secretary has also helped a good deal in taking charge of the work while the Secretary (Mr. A. G. Huie) conducted a campaign round the country, the biggest he has yet undertaken. He travelled in a motor car which was presented to the League by a friend some time ago, he delivered speeches at all the leading towns along the route, which he mostly reported himself, the reports being generally published by the local press. On previous country tours he used to hire a hall, arrange for a chairman, and engage a bellman, but he soon found that he could get a better crowd at a good street corner without any expense except that of advertising the meeting. Everywhere, of course, he sold the *Standard*, renewing subscriptions and getting new ones. He would have done still better work as a propagandist had he arranged beforehand with someone in the towns he was to visit to distribute tracts and other literature free and sell the *Standard* while he was "preaching the word." This should certainly be done in connection with the next country tour.

However, it was a great success. It lasted about twelve weeks, during which time 46 country towns were visited and addressed, 2186 miles were covered by car and 1385 by train, a large number of the 68 newspapers published in the districts visited were supplied with reports while others supplied themselves, over 500 new subscribers were obtained for the *Standard* in addition to nearly 300 renewals, and more than 500 copies of Henry George's Anti-Poverty addresses delivered in Sydney were sold—altogether a very memorable tour.

A TYPICAL SPEECH

The following summary of one of Mr. Huie's country speeches which is typical of the rest, was delivered at Lithgow and was published in the *Lithgow Mercury*. It happened to be on the relieving staff of that paper at the time while the editor was away and heard the lecture,

which the audience seemed to appreciate, for most of them stayed to the very end, which is not usual when a speech is delivered in the open air. Mr. Huie commenced by pointing out that the land was the source of all wealth. Land was the passive, and labor the active, factor in wealth production; capital was that portion of wealth used to assist in further production, or wealth in course of exchange. Today the wealth produced had to pay rent to land owners, wages to workers, interest on capital, and taxes to Governments. His proposal was to abolish taxes and to use the land value, or land rent, as public revenue. "We could," he said, "run the country better without taxes than with them."

In Sydney they were constructing the North Shore bridge and the city railway. These great works were sending up land values by millions. Who was getting the benefit? A few landowners. In the same way in the country, constructing a railway increased land values. It was said we constructed railways to open up the country. It was not true. We constructed them to give unearned increment to landowners. He would charge the interest on the cost of the railways to land values and reduce railway charges. Roughly 70 per cent. of freights and fares were working expenses, and 30 per cent. interest upon cost. Consider what a benefit it would be to Lithgow if railway charges were reduced 30 per cent. The effect of such a proposal would be to stimulate the use of land.

Today land was monopolized in the hands of the few. In the Central Tablelands divisions nearly 2,500,000 acres were held in estates of over 5,000 acres. Where could a young man with limited means get land upon terms which would give him a chance? At Warialda there were 887 applications for one block, at Warren 894, at Forbes 414, and at Temora 585 for one block. The only way to deal effectively with the question was to tax land values and abolish other taxes. He had no objection to a man having as much land as he liked, but he must be required to make full use of it, and there would be plenty of land for all.

Touching upon the working of the tariff, Mr. Huie said that the goods came into Australia for two reasons (1) in payment for our exports; (2) as capital for investment in developing the country. To which of these did any sensible man object? Trade should be free. Trade was the means of promoting civilization and progress. Trade was exchanging the surplus products of one country for those of another. It benefited both parties, and enabled us to get more for our labor than we could by trying to produce everything for ourselves.

In conclusion Mr. Huie dealt at length with the electoral system, and especially with the Proportional Representation, which he described as the fairest and most democratic method of election, the rejection of which (as is proposed in New South Wales) is a debasing of the franchise, a greater crime than debasing the coinage.

SOME INTERESTING REMINISCENCES

During the present year we have lost a very prominent Single Taxer and life-long supporter of the movement in the person of Mr. E. W. Foxall. He was a great friend of Henry George. A portrait of the two in close confab, which was taken in Sydney in 1890 during Henry George's visit to Australia, has just been published in the *Standard*, and is one of the most striking photographs of either of them I have ever seen. At that time Mr. Foxall was manager of a Building Society and real estate business in Sydney, and asked Henry George if a Single Taxer could legitimately hold such a position, to which the latter replied in the affirmative, observing that we were not responsible for the law which made land monopoly possible, and that the more we understood its effects the better we would be able to combat it when the opportunity offered.

Mr. Foxall wrote several books, the most important of which was on "The Claims of Capital." From 1890 till the time of his death he was English secretary to the Japanese Consulate in Sydney, and his activities in our direction were, of course, considerably slackened, but prior to that date he was ever to the fore either as a speaker, writer, or liberal contributor to our funds. He was a President of the League at one time, delivered some of its most impressive addresses, and used to spend his annual holiday on lecturing tours, in the course of which he addressed large audiences on the Single Tax.

Mr. Foxall was a leading spokesman on the deputations which waited on the late Sir Henry Parkes, urging him to introduce land value rating into his long-promised Municipalities Bill. Sir Henry was sympathetic and expressed himself willing to do so, but it was Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Carruthers who ultimately enabled New South Wales to follow the example set by Queensland years before and become the second country in the world to adopt land value rating for its municipalities and shires.

Mr. H. J. Fletcher, a commercial traveller, brother of our last President, recalls some very interesting reminiscences suggested by Mr. Foxall's death. It was in 1886, he says, that Mr. Frank Cotton, then living at Forbes, started the very first Single Tax League in New South Wales, at that time termed the "Land Nationalization Society." Hearing that the Lithgow *Enterprise* was being run by John Farrel, the poet, on Single Tax lines he went there, interviewed Mr. Farrel, and with him attended a lecture given that night by Mr. Foxall, who started his western tour at that town. Mr. Fletcher was also present on this occasion, and recalls that when Mr. Foxall gave his lecture at Bathurst shortly afterwards it was reported for the Bathurst *Times* by myself.

One result of the lecture at Lithgow was the formation of a league there, which bought the two Lithgow papers and merged them into one, the Lithgow *Mercury*, with John Farrel as editor and manager, and Mr. Joseph (now Sir Joseph) Cook, our present High Commissioner in

London, as secretary. Farrel was shortly afterwards succeeded on the *Mercury* by another Single Taxer, Mr. James Ryan, a very able journalist with great organizing power and a keen business brain, who made it one of the best local papers in the State, overcame every attempted opposition, and retained control till a few months ago when he sold out to the Bathurst *Times*. Many and many an article and letter I contributed to that paper while he was associated with it, bearing on the Single Tax.

Farrel subsequently went to Sydney, and edited the *Australian Standard*, his contributions being wonderfully written and reminding one of Henry George's to the paper after which the Australian one was named. Notwithstanding the brilliancy of its articles it petered out, and Farrel joined the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, to which he contributed a weekly article, one in particular being a splendidly written account of the life and teaching of Henry George. It was shortly after this, in 1889, that the Sydney League raised a guarantee fund of £800 which resulted in the famous visit of Henry George. Mr. W. E. Johnson (now Sir Elliott) organized the campaign and accompanied Henry George throughout his tour. I was secretary of the League at the time, and acted as his short-hand secretary, and I have always treasured my coming in personal contact with him as the greatest and most inspiring event in my life.

PERCY R. MEGGY.

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The Taxation of Land Values Merely a Means to An End

I BELIEVE the three propositions, (1) to base the claim of community ownership of land values on the fact that these values are due to public presence and service, (2) we should take land values for public uses because God made the land, (3) because men have by nature an equal right to the use of the earth,—are all equally rational premises, or if there are three degrees of comparison and it is necessary to compare them, I would put the second first, the third second, and the first last.

We believe in the taxation of land values merely as a means to an end. Our aim is to give every man and woman now living, as also those who are to follow them, their natural right of access to land. Single Tax has for its object the achievement of economic freedom for humanity; it is only important because it is the means by which we hope to reach our objective. If there is a better way to make men free we should choose the better way.

No matter how we sugar-coat a pill it will have to be swallowed with a little water, but the plain unadulterated, undiluted truth is that human beings came from a Divine Being and that natural laws must conform to Divine laws. When God made men He owed them a storehouse and