

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

(Press Service of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, 11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.)

AUSTRALIA

A Henry George College

It is reported in the *Sydney Standard* that one of Henry George's disciples in Australia, wishing to do something substantial and of a permanent character to spread a knowledge of Henry George's principles among the people, has devised the following plan. He is making provision in his will whereby the bulk of his estate will be vested in trustees, and held by them until, with compound interest, it reaches the sum of £40,000. When that amount is reached the College will be established at Canberra, Sydney or some other great Australian city, as may be decided. The memorandum of association states that the College will "undertake and supervise the education and instruction and information of students and others in the tenets and principles promulgated and advocated in the writings and literary works of Henry George, author of *Progress and Poverty*, and to promote scholastic and general interest in the teachings of that great philosopher." Provision is made so that others approving of the proposal may join in with a view to the necessary £40,000 being accumulated earlier than would be possible otherwise.

This magnificent example of generosity and devotion to a cause will be welcomed by all followers of Henry George and especially those who realize the invaluable educational work already done by such bodies as the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation in the United States, the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and the Henry George Foundation of Australia.

The Increase in Federal Taxation and Debts

In the sixteen years ending 30th June, the population of the Commonwealth increased by 31 per cent. In 1913-14 Federal taxation was £16,500,000, or £3 7s. 7d. per head. By 1918-19 it had increased to £32,800,000, and last year it was £58,000,000, or £9 1s. 5d. per head. It meant an average taxation amounting to £45 6s. 3d. per family of five. The Commonwealth Government taxed the people nearly twice as much as all the State Governments put together.

In 1913-14 the Commonwealth debt was £19,000,000. By 1929-30 it had grown to £372,957,000, an increase of 1,844 per cent. The war debt on the 30th June was £282,000,000, and the civil debt £90,000,000. The latter had increased 372 per cent in those years.—*Sydney Standard*, 15th October, 1930.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr E. J. Craigie's Budget Speech

In the South Australian Parliament on 1st October Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., delivered a long and masterly speech during the debate on the Budget. Mr Craigie dealt with many of the economic problems facing Australia to-day, and his address made a profound impression on all sides of the House. We quote a few of the most striking passages:—

"When we look back on various Acts placed on the Statute Book we can quite understand the attitude adopted by a big section of the community in Australia at the present time. For quite a long period in the

history of this State, Labour did not have any very effective voice in making the laws. About 1891 Labour said: 'We will take people from our own ranks and put them in Parliament to look after our interests, and then, having placed our direct representatives in the legislature, an era of social justice will soon set in.' Unfortunately, the high expectations of the members of the great Labour movement at that period have not materialized. Instead of their conditions getting better as a result of Measures placed on the Statute Book even by their own leaders, their conditions have gone from bad to worse. That is mainly due to the fact that they have no faith in the principles of freedom, but have been more concerned about restrictive measures. The attempt to regulate the wages of labour by means of an arbitration court is one of the biggest confidence tricks that has been worked on the workers of this country. Reference has been made to the dictum of Mr Justice Higgins that any industry which could not afford to pay the living wage had no right to exist. Some people think that this was deplorable, but I believe the statement to be perfectly correct.

"We have all to recognize that in the production of wealth three factors are engaged—land, labour and capital. For the time being I propose to remove the land question from the picture, because it is not germane to the particular point I desire to make. We will have to assume a certain industry to illustrate clearly the principle I am trying to put before the House. For the purpose of illustration I am going to assume that we are dealing with the fixation of wages in the bootmaking industry. In the manufacture of boots capital and labour are required. The capital is provided by the boot manufacturer in the shape of factory, machinery and raw material needed for production. He also provides a measure of labour power in relation to superintendence in the factory. The labour power purely is supplied by operatives of the bootmakers' union. Those two forces operating over a given period of time will produce certain quantities of pairs of boots. We may assume for the purpose of illustration that we are not using money at all. When those pairs of boots have been produced by the union of capital and labour working for productive purposes I am going to assume that the share of boots coming to each operative is six pairs per week. Expressing it in commodity value, the wages of a bootmaker will be six pairs of boots a week, but in our complex state of society we do not give factory workers a share of the product. We find it more convenient to express commodities in terms of £ s. d., and for the sake of illustration let us assume that the value of the boots is 15s. a pair. Therefore, the wages of a worker in money tokens would be £4 10s. a week. They go along for a time on this wage, and then become dissatisfied. They say the amount is not sufficient, and decide to state a case to the Arbitration Court.

"A special meeting of the union is called, and certain members are deputed to form a household budget. In it they set out that they require so much money each week to pay for house rent, groceries, bread, meat, clothing, union fees, tobacco, moving pictures, beer, etc. Having formulated their budget the next procedure is to engage a member of the legal fraternity, and pay him something like £1,000 to make out a case on their behalf. When they get to the court they find a very dignified gentleman on the bench drawing about £30 a week to tell the workers why £4 or £5 is good enough for them. The workers have not yet realized the absurdity of that