

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DINNER TO DR EDGAR CULLEY

South Australian Georgians tendered a complimentary dinner to Dr E. W. Culley, of Melbourne, on Thursday, 22nd March, at Ellis's Covent Garden Café. The President of the League (Mr A. Chappel), who is one of the South Australian trustees on the Henry George Foundation, presided.

Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., in extending a welcome, said: "Supporters of Henry George principles throughout the world are under a debt of gratitude to Dr Culley for his wonderful contribution to make this world a better place for all to live in. The Foundation has been of inestimable benefit to the Australian Leagues during the trying years we have experienced, and one does not care to imagine just what would have happened to the movement if it had not the Foundation at the back of it. Those who advocate a just principle of government have many obstacles to overcome. Financial support is given generously by vested interests to those who will speak for special privilege, but those who demand justice have a hard row to hoe."

On rising to reply, Dr Culley was received with prolonged applause. In the course of his remarks, he said: "We should learn to wrap our common sense up in funny packets so as to make a more general appeal. There was a tendency for Georgians to sit back in the corner and chew the cud of reflection and think they were serious. Georgians should all be happy on account of their wonderful philosophy of life. Present-day conditions were making people think. Since he had read the books of Henry George he had missed no opportunity for turning a stone for the movement."

"It took all sorts to make a world, and one of our troubles was that our simple practical ideals did not commend themselves to many. Politicians had produced many wild and woolly schemes which were brought forth one after the other, and conditions became worse instead of better. Then we had university professors who presented their absurdities which were not in accord with natural law. Herbert Spencer had said: 'When knowledge is not in order the more one had the greater the confusion.' University men and politicians failed to see we were in a universe of law. We are here to learn those laws and keep them. Mankind suffers physically, morally and socially by doing the things that make us weak. We suffer as nature intended we should suffer.

"However, he was convinced that some day mankind would do the right thing. It would be done when we had suffered enough for not doing it. This present-day folly could not go on for all eternity. There were some who despaired of our doctrine being adopted, but they needed the same faith in humanity that Henry George had. The world was full of people, who could plant lettuces, but what we needed was men who could plant acorns and wait for the oak to grow. He was strongly of the opinion that our principles were making headway, and he appealed to all to do their part in the great work for the establishment of social justice."

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The Henry George Foundation of Australia was established in Melbourne in 1928 with an endowment of £20,000 provided by Dr Edgar Culley for the purpose of spreading the knowledge of the teachings and economic principles of Henry George.

Since its inauguration the Capital Fund has received two substantial additions—from the estate of the late Mr Ernest John Hayes, of Thornleigh, N.S.W., £500, and from the late Mr Bernard J. W. Firth, £500. Recently, Mr Thomas Purdey, who died at Koonwarra, Gippsland, Victoria, with the exception of a small legacy, left the whole of his estate to the Foundation. It is estimated to yield £1,000 when realized.