

high protective system. It was better to take a long time on tariff applications, to get the thing thoroughly done and to see that everybody who ought to be consulted was fully consulted. In general the object of tariff changes was to have a stable tariff and to have it over a long period. Substantially the National Farmers' Union had got what it had asked for, although it had not got everything.

The Orders were approved.

"SHEER POLITICAL HYPOCRISY"

Apt comment on these deliberations was made by the *Manchester Guardian* in its leading article, December 11:—"For sheer political hypocrisy it would be hard to beat last night's debate on the new horticultural tariffs. Under pressure from the National Farmers' Union the Government has raised tariffs on a range of fruit and vegetables; to appease its friends it even went cap in hand to Geneva and persuaded the other countries most reluctantly to agree—all on the plea that the tariffs were only little ones. Yet at the same time Ministers are loud in their protestations that their sole aim in life is to cheapen the people's food. Tory hypocrisy about tariffs is no new thing; it is to be expected. But for the Labour Party it is new and deplorable. After voting first this way and then that in its private councils the Parliamentary Labour Party decided to support the tariffs. It would not throw over its former Minister of Agriculture who has spent eight years trying to make the farmers believe that they have only to ask to receive and that Codlin is a better friend than Short. But even the chosen speaker for the Opposition, while contending that producers needed protection from the foreigner, was candid enough to admit that foreign produce was liked because it was better packed and graded. In other words the foreign producer is efficient, the British producer—for all his transport advantages—inefficient. But, so the Labour Party argued, the British producer must all the same be protected in his inefficiency. This is strange doctrine for the Labour Party. It is a sign of how far it is willing to drop principle for the sake of vote-catching."

"SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE?"

SITE VALUE 1,300 TIMES THE RATEABLE VALUE

In the House of Commons at Question Time, December 1, the following exchange between MR. R. R. STOKES (Lab., Ipswich) and MR. R. A. BUTLER, Chancellor of the Exchequer, took place:—

Mr. Stokes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the rateable value of the Stag Brewery, Pimlico, is £6,438; and whether he is satisfied that this valuation bears a proper relation to the land value of the 7.9 acres occupied by the brewery and offices.

Mr. Butler: "I understand that the present rateable value is £6,845. Rating law does not require a separate valuation of the site and none has been made."

Mr. Stokes: "I know, but that is not an answer to the Question I asked. Is the Chancellor aware that as long as 25 years ago land in the neighbourhood was sold at £100,000 per acre, which would make this site then worth more than £800,000? Is it not quite absurd that the rateable value should be very nearly less than half of 1 per cent, taking into consideration the value of the land as well as the buildings? Surely there must be something wrong with the whole rating system?"

Mr. Butler: "I cannot go further than saying that the rating law does not require the separate valuation of the site. On the general question of revaluation the right hon. Gentleman will be aware that revaluation is at present not only under active consideration but is the subject of action."

Mr. Stokes: "I know, but can the Chancellor say when he is going to do something about it because many Governments have evaded this issue for quite a long time?"

J. W. FOLEY

As we go to press we regret to have the news of the death of J. W. Foley, of Liverpool, a member of the United Committee, a life-long and ardent worker for the movement. A further notice will appear in our next issue.

AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-TWO

Mr. E. J. Craigie's Remarkable Industry

Ex-member of the South Australia Parliament, past President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, secretary over a long span of years of the S.A. Henry George League and editor of its journal *The People's Advocate* (lately merged with *Progress* of Melbourne), Mr. E. J. Craigie is supposed to be in retirement. At least, he did formally retire from his official duties into private life and that was in the summer of 1950. But since then his activity has been unceasing and his vigilance is as keen as ever it was. From his home at 8 Grant Avenue, Rose Park, Adelaide, a "Land Values Rating Central Committee" having been formed, he has headed the campaign to defeat the designs of an eight-man reactionary group called the "Municipal and Local Government Association" who have tried to promote legislation whereby it would be *obligatory* on local authorities to levy their rates on land and improvements taken together. This would mean that the option by which the local authorities can levy their rates on the value of land alone would be annulled. The proposal was submitted to the Councils in 1949 and again in 1952 and on both occasions the majority of the Councils were either opposed to it or were disinterested. For countering this third attempt Mr. Craigie lately issued most persuasive and convincing literature, consisting of a printed pamphlet and circular to the mayor or chairman and to the members of every local authority throughout the State. The result has been gratifying and Mr. Craigie is to be highly complimented upon it. The plot, for such it was, to make the iniquitous "composite" system of rating everywhere mandatory, thereby abolishing the Rating of Land Values where it is in force, and without giving the ratepayers any chance to decide the matter, has been scotched at least for the time being. The Minister of Local Government had secured leave to introduce a Bill to amend the L.G. Act, but the response to this third appeal to wipe out Land Value Rating was so poor that the Bill was not introduced.

But to relate Mr. Craigie's activities in other directions, his travels from place to place, his meetings and debates would tell of astonishing achievement for a man of his age. These are some of the items from his diary of recent months: On July 4, he assisted at the Marion Council election when the Mayor and three of the four Councillors who had refused to grant a land value poll were beaten. There was later a conference with the new mayor, the friendly councillors and the town clerk in the matter of causing a poll to be held. On August 17, a public meeting in Cambelltown for organizing signatures to the request for a rating poll. On September 17, to Riverton, about 80 miles north of Adelaide, to address the annual meeting of the Mid-North Local Government Association. On October 21, debate with Mr. Vernon Shepherd, the most conspicuous and determined *opponent* of Land Value Rating, at the Warradale Park Progress Association; in the same month a public meeting at Hectorville. In August an interview with the mayor of Port Pirie, a town always cited by Mr. Shepherd in debate where Land Value Rating is the system and of which that opponent says that although it is rating to the limit under the Act, it is unable to raise the rate-revenue it needs. What is disguised is the very low and wrong valuation. It was proved to the mayor by comparisons between his town and Whyalla just across the gulf and Port Augusta just above it, the valuation of each being nearly double that of Port

Pirie although Port Pirie has a greater population than the other two towns combined. The impression gained from this talk is that a new valuation will surely be made this year.

It will be seen from all this that Mr. Craigie is not being permitted to rust out. On the contrary he is a veritable knight in shining armour.

Mr. A. G. HUIE RETIRES

After 52 years of continuous and strenuous service as secretary of the New South Wales Land Values and Free Trade League and editor of the *Sydney Standard*, Mr. A. G. Huie retired on December 31, 1953.

Chief among his achievements must be reckoned the part he took in making Land Value Rating a reality for local government purposes in New South Wales—a reform which gives every promise of permanence. He was largely responsible also for the advance made in Australia during the last thirty years so far as Proportional Voting is concerned. It was appropriate that the first general local government elections in New South Wales under P.R. should have been held on the eve of his retirement. The system had been adopted previously for the Senate, and the Legislative Council, and also for a time for the Legislative Assembly but had been abandoned. It is devoutly to be hoped that it is now firmly established and that the old discredited and unjust voting “systems” will never be revived.

Concentrating on duty and purpose, and forsaking prospects of material advantage and gain, Mr. Huie never received a financial reward worthy of his service. In this respect he was a true follower of Henry George, and personally illustrated the truth of the famous words in *Social Problems*: “What, when our time comes, does it matter whether we have fared daintily or not, whether we leave a great fortune or nothing at all, whether we shall have reaped honours or been despised—as compared with how we may have used that talent which has been entrusted to us for the Master’s service?”

His fruitful tours in the country, his ceaseless effort in editing and issuing the *Standard* for so many years, his constant application to the duties of secretary and organizer and money-raiser in the League, his work of deputations and interviews, letters and circulars provide an example that will always be an inspiration to his successors in office.

Nil sine magno vita labore dedit mortalibus, said the poet Horace. It is the lesson that nothing worthwhile can be achieved without great effort. It is echoed by Edwin Arnold: “What good gift have my brothers, but it came from search and strife and loving sacrifice?”

A public meeting will be held early in the New Year with a prominent citizen in the Chair, to make a presentation and to render due homage to Mr. Huie.

W. A. DOWE.

PRACTISE WHAT WE PREACH

The International Relations Section of the Commonwealth Club of California has been engaged on a special study of the topic: “What positive foreign policy and applied practices do we need to improve our foreign relations and promote national security from Soviet imperialism.” Report on this study and of the meeting to hear it is given extensively in *The Commonwealth* of October 26. Speaking in the discussion, Mr. J. Rupert Mason said: “If Mark Twain were still among us, there is little doubt he would write another book about ‘Innocents Abroad’ in the light of our confused aims, especially since military victory over Nazism in World War II. Victor Hugo is usually credited

with having once said: ‘More powerful than military might is an idea whose time has come.’

“Instead of seeking to block Russia, or Germany, or Korea, or Iran, or Spain, or the politico-economic system temporarily in control over the people anywhere outside of our own republic, is it not wiser to devote more effort in supporting the basic principles set down in our own Declaration of Independence, which is also law (1 U.S. Stat. 1), Preamble to the Constitution, and the U.S. Constitution, and giving respect to our responsibility and duties, as well as our rights, about which we to-day hear so much more?”

“The idea ‘All men are created equal’ is still ‘revolutionary’ in many nations. ‘Equal rights for all, special privilege to none,’ is clearly an idea which those who have written our tariffs and federal, state and local tax statutes have all too often lost sight of.

“Hitler, Mussolini and Japan constructed a military force on which they depended in their combined effort to ‘Block Russia.’

“Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Iran, Korea, Philippines, China, India, Egypt, South Africa and the people in all other nations are filled with unrest and disquiet.

“Some think it but an extension of our 1776 revolution.

“The basic politico-economic principles guaranteed by our own Constitution are not yet firmly established, and instead of spending so much effort trying to block Hitler, Stalin, or Russia with bombs to destroy buildings and men, women and children wholesale, should we not be wiser to join ranks to ring again the Liberty bell louder than ever before, and begin practising in earnest what we preach?”

CORRESPONDENCE

Commemoration by Postage Stamp

Mr. Robert Clancy writes from New York: “Many of our friends in the U.S. have written to our Postmaster General requesting him to issue a special postage stamp in 1954 commemorating the 75th anniversary of *Progress and Poverty*. If some requests came from other countries it would further impress the Postmaster.”

Mr. Clancy suggests that those who write should mention the influence of George in their own country and asks that they should do so without delay. Success will mean that millions of stamps will be used. *Write to:—*

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON, 25, D.C., U.S.A.

Meanwhile we learn from Dr. Martin Pfannschmidt, Germany, that he and several friends have already petitioned the U.S. Postmaster General.

Economic Study Classes in Ottawa

H. G. Barber, Ottawa, writes: “Our Henry George School study class in *Progress and Poverty* is not a very large class but it is very good. It includes four university graduates and a member of the staff of the Embassy of India. Miss Mary Rawson is helping in the teaching.”

A Dutch Engineer’s Discoveries

A most interesting note comes from Miss V. G. Petersen, Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York: “A Mr. Ir J. J. Pott, of Slikkerveer, Holland, has made two calls here, the second time just before he sailed for home. He is a sincere Georgeist. He came to the idea independently and then read somewhere (in a newspaper, I think) something about Denmark that showed that these ideas of his fitted into the Henry George philosophy. He wrote a letter addressed to ‘Henry George, Copenhagen’ and got no reply, but in course of time he got a copy of *LAND & LIBERTY*. In it, or in a form letter accompanying it, he saw the names of two of his countrymen listed (A. Sevenster and J. Wiersma, editors of *Ons Erfdeel—Our Heritage*—published at St. Anna Parochie) and got in touch with them. Mr. Pott is an engineer. He came here four months ago on business for his firm and has spent most of his time in Chicago and Montreal. In Chicago he visited John Monroe whose name he got from Alice Davis, editor of the *Henry George News* to which by that time he had become a subscriber. In Montreal he got in touch with Miss Strehel Walton merely by looking at the telephone book to see if there were any Henry George groups listed.”