

HENRY GEORGE COMMEMORATION DINNER

The Henry George Commemoration Dinner, held at St. Ermin's Restaurant, Westminster, on 17th September, under the auspices of the International Union for Land Values Taxation and Free Trade was one of the most successful and best attended of such gatherings in recent years. The Guests of the evening included Mr F. Folke and Miss Folke of Denmark, on their way to attend the Henry George Congress in New York, Mr H. Kolthek and Mr Stuit of Holland, Miss Lambrick of Melbourne, Mr Alexander Greene of Chicago, Capt. A. R. McDougal of Berwickshire, and Mr Charles Latham, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the London County Council.

Mr Charles E. Crompton, Chairman of Executive Committee of the International Union, presided. After the toast of the Immortal Memory of Henry George had been drunk, the lights were lowered, a portrait of the great leader was thrown on a screen and Mr Crilly spoke the famous message from *Progress and Poverty*: "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends—those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of truth."

Messages of sympathy and encouragement were received from Henry George Organizations not only in Great Britain but also from many parts of Europe, Africa, Australasia, and North and South America.

Among the many messages from individuals apologizing for absence we may quote a few:—

Hon. CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY (President of the International Union)

"At this gathering it should be proper to recall the first World Economic Conference, convened by the League of Nations at Geneva eight years ago. The professed aim of that gathering of the statesmen of more than 50 nations was to find a solution of the vast stagnation of trade, the increased unemployment and unhappiness of the masses in all lands, and the removal of the root causes of armed conflicts that might again disturb the peaceful progress of civilization.

"We should be proud that the international organization of the followers of Henry George from its London office sent to Geneva at that time an able Committee presenting a statement printed in many languages, vividly revealing the economic causes of War and Industrial Depression, and the logical cure therefor.

"The argument there presented by our International Union was unanswerable in its clarity and truthfulness, and might still be taken as a guide and admonition for enlightened statesmanship in every country. But because the views to which we then gave expression were rejected or ignored at that Conference, as at subsequent similar gatherings that have ended only in speeches and futility, the civilized world remains in a state of economic confusion and political perplexity and in sight of the danger of new wars that threaten civilization everywhere.

"May I, for myself, as well as for many others on this side of the ocean, express the happiness we feel that your splendid associate in the Cause, my dear friend Arthur Madsen, is soon to cross the Atlantic to attend a Congress of the Georgeists of the United States. A warm welcome awaits him there, when we also hope soon to have the felicity of greeting Mr Folke, that splendid leader of the Danish movement for social justice and economic freedom."

Sir PERCIVAL PERRY

"Recognition of the great truths with which the name of Mr Henry George is identified, is an ideal to which such efforts as the League of Nations, The Hague Convention, and other admirable movements, are merely subsidiary.

"Land is the source of human life and provides the reward for every description of human endeavour. The economic simplicity of deriving the expenses of social organization, which are called taxation, from the one original source of all wealth, should be obvious to all intelligent mankind. Its application would not only avoid the machinations and intrigues, but also the speculation and national selfishness, which are now so detrimental to international relationship. I am sure that no one can have a higher aspiration than to wish, and work, for a recognition of the fundamental truths which Mr Henry George so marvellously epitomized in *Progress and Poverty*."

VISCOUNT SNOWDEN

"The present condition of the world, both politically and economically, provides the most striking evidence of the urgent need for the restoration of the freedom of commerce and the liberation of the land and its resources from exclusive monopoly.

"The danger of war which is threatening the world to-day is fundamentally the land question. Freedom of access to land, and opportunity for all, both nations and individuals, will remove the main cause of war and suicidal nationalism."

Rt. Hon HERBERT MORRISON, L.C.C.

"The work of Henry George will always be remembered with respect by progressive minds; with clearness and eloquence he painted the evils of land monopoly and showed how necessary it is to conquer the use of such a prime human necessity as land for social ends."

Rt. Hon. JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD, M.P.

"I am sorry not to be able to be with you. Give my best wishes to those who so faithfully uphold the only true and solid basis for philosophy and politics."

HENRY W. NEVINSON

"I have been a convinced supporter of Henry George's main proposal ever since I heard and read him. I see no other escape from our social troubles so clear and just. I have also remained a Free Trader since my youth. I hoped that the idea of Protection had been killed by our fathers once for all, and have been amazed at its ghastly resurrection in recent years. I regard Nationalist Protection as the main cause of wars and the present disturbed and threatening condition of Europe."

ANGUS WATSON

"It is good to feel at the present time that your Organization is keeping the flag flying. In spite of all signs which appear to the contrary, the flowing tide is with us. We are in the middle of world revolution, although we may not realize this, and sooner than perhaps we expect the international political barriers erected since the War will be swept away through the necessity of economic law, and the better days will begin. Meanwhile, it is our duty, in season and out of season, to reiterate the faith that is in us and to stand by our convictions."