

has perished and he is unable to rediscover it. This gives the idea of the play in a few words, which are here transcribed from the Drama Calendar.

Now are we to understand that Mr. Capek would have the R. U. R. represent the workingmen of the world rising in rebellion against their masters? If so why should he suggest that their victory will be speedily followed by their own extinction? That doesn't sound plausible. It appears to us that the author, though he has in mind (perhaps from personal observation) the old saw that the worm will turn, yet lacks the artistic power to realize and vitalize a Revolution when he sees it. Undoubtedly the Robots undertook a Revolution, and succeeded in it, as is very stirringly shown in the play. Then in Truth's name, why not allow them to enjoy the fruits of it? But there's the rub. Our guess is that even the progressive Theatre Guild would not have stood for that *denouement*, even if the dramatist had outlined it.

It is suggested that in the dim future the two survivors, a Robot and a Robotess in whose souls the emotion of love has entered will have multiplied their kind into the Coming Race. But that possibility, I am free to say, left our crowd from the Cat and the Fiddle very indifferent as we filed out of the theatre.

The Single Tax Movement in New South Wales

TWO interesting functions—the annual meeting of the Free Trade and Land Values League and the anniversary of Henry George—gave an unusual importance to the week in which both of these events occurred, to the detriment of each from several points of view, so much so, that at the next meeting of the Executive Council a resolution will be moved that in future they be held six months apart. The annual meeting is always noteworthy for the exhaustive survey by the Secretary (Mr. A. G. Huie) of the work done during the year. This year several important incidents occurred. In the first place, there was a campaign initiated, and carried out with wonderful eloquence and energy, by Sir Joseph Carruthers, to which I have referred in previous letters, his object being to settle a million farmers on a million farms. His plan was to borrow a tremendous amount of money to build railways into the interior past already settled lands, where existing railways do not pay for want of population caused by land monopoly, and to induce communities of farmers from the Old Country and elsewhere to settle there and make a living as best they could.

Secretary Huie pointed out that the solution of the problem of ways and means to people Australia did not consist in swelling our already huge indebtedness by building new railways past already settled districts, but in making adequate use of well watered and accessible lands at present either unused or only partially used, and which could be forced into use if a reasonable tax on land values were

imposed. Unlock the land, restore men's inherent right of access to nature, and there would be abundance of employment for all, high wages and low prices. I read a paper on the subject before the Radical Club some months ago which was adopted by the League as a manifesto, as also subsequently with some modifications by the League in South Australia, both manifestos being very widely circulated among members of Parliament and municipal authorities, besides being distributed to hundreds of newspapers all over the two States.

The manifesto contained a suggestion that a uniform tax of 3d. in the £ should be levied on all the land values of the Commonwealth, which it was estimated would bring in about £12,500,000 if the lands were properly valued, at the same time taking off a similar amount from the existing methods of taxation, such as from the Income and Custom House taxation. The gist of the manifesto, together with the suggestion referred to, was recently sent in an open letter to the Majority Australian Labor Party, as the new offshoot of the A. L. P. is termed, and that Party has unanimously adopted the proposal and embodied it in its programme, with however an important modification that the money raised by the imposition of 3d. in the £ should be taken off the Income Tax and not off the Custom House taxation, of which latter the Majority Party approves.

LABOR AND PROTECTION

The Majority A. L. P., by the way, has also decided to run candidates at the forthcoming Federal election in opposition to the A. L. P. So far is the Majority Party from being in favor of Free Trade that its principal plank is the prohibition of goods capable of successful manufacture in Australia, the effective encouragement of cotton growing and manufacture (evidently by a protective tariff), and the application of the "new protection scheme" (whatever that may mean) providing security of Australian markets to Australian production and manufactures concurrently with fair conditions of labor and fair prices to consumers—rather a big order, but a mere fleabite to a body which looks to Socialism as the cure for all social ills. There is apparently little or no prospect of any section of the Labor Party in Australia at present throwing over protection, although, as the Secretary points out in his annual report, its crushing effects are beginning to be understood by the men on the land, not only in Canada and in the United States but here in Australia, where it is now recognized that the city industries are being boomed at the expense of the primary producers.

Another evil arising from protection is that the congestion of the city and the depopulation of the country are also largely attributable to the call of the factories, where, by the way, goods are being turned out so fast that an export trade is necessary in order to get rid of them. Here, again, the evil nature of the protective tariff shows itself as the price of the goods has been put up by protection to

such an extent that, instead of being able to export them, superior goods are being brought in here from abroad even in the face of the tariff, and the very industries which relied on protection for their growth are hampered and sometimes ruined by it when they come to maturity. However, it seems as if it will take a long time to get the Australian worker to see that protection is the friend of the landowner and the capitalist (up to a certain point so far as the latter is concerned) but the greatest enemy of labor, next to land monopoly.

Henry George's splendid pamphlet on the "Condition of Labor" should open the eyes of the workers if they would only read it. The abridgement of it, which used to be sold at a penny, has now run out of print and cannot be obtained, so the Secretary is endeavoring to get it republished in Sydney with the help of the Leagues in the other States. A 3d. edition would bring it within the reach of almost everybody, and its republication should do a lot of good.

HOW TO REDUCE RAILWAY FARES AND FREIGHTS

Another question referred to in the Secretary's report was that of the water and sewerage rates, which stood a good chance under the Labor Government of being placed on land values instead of as now, in the Sydney and Newcastle districts, on improvements. The movement received a setback when the present Government came into power, but prospects are slightly improving. Complaints about excessive railway and tramway charges are increasing, but, says the Secretary, "anything like a substantial reduction is impossible till the method advocated by the League, that of charging the interest on the cost of railway construction to land values, is adopted."

Under the present system constructing a line means a huge unearned increment subsidy for land holders, who are given this increase without any guarantee that they will put the land held by them to proper use. One of the Ministers was asked in Parliament the other day if this phase of the question had been considered by the Government, and he promised to bring it under the notice of the Cabinet. This subject was specially dealt with by the Secretary when he stood for the Western Suburbs electorate a few months ago, and quite a number of paragraphs about it appeared in the Sydney press in the course of the campaign, so that the public is more or less conversant with the idea.

A strong effort will be made by the League to bring it still more prominently before the public during the coming year. It is such a practical way of applying the Georgian principle that it might be advocated with advantage by Single Taxers in America and elsewhere. Land values are almost always enhanced by the construction of railway lines, and landowners should be called upon to pay their share of the extra value which has been indirectly given to their land by the expenditure of public money.

THE NEW STATE MOVEMENT

A matter which is attracting great attention in Australia at the present time is the proposal to constitute new States in addition to the six already existing. The Secretary summed up the Single Tax view of this movement in a very few words. "Dividing the continent up afresh would not," he said, "help to remove the economic wrong; it would add to taxation, it would divert attention from the tariff and other real causes of centralization, and would thus enable the land and tariff monopolists to strengthen their hold upon the unfortunate consumers and producers. Probably that was why such a number of protectionists and land monopolists favored the idea."

HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY

The Henry George celebration was held on the anniversary day (Sept. 2) this year, about a week after the annual meeting. Hitherto it had been held in Sydney, but this year it was decided to hold it in the Petersham Town Hall, that being in the centre of the Western Suburbs electorate, where Mr. Huie conducted his recent campaign. Our venerable President (Rev. W. H. Beale), notwithstanding increasing frailness with the advancing years, has been good enough, at the urgent request of the League, to continue for another year at the head of the movement, to which he gives the weight attaching to his beloved personality and his sacred calling. Last year he delivered a most eloquent address which was published in the SINGLE TAX REVIEW. This year he said less, but what he did say was equally to the point.

"On September 2, 1839," said the President, "there was given to us a man of rare accomplishment and of a rare personality, and a life of great fruitfulness was begun, a life which still flows on by breathing its influence over the whole known world and winning its way to the mind and reason and heart of growing millions. Fifty-eight years afterwards, on October 29, 1897, I remember with what regret I read the account of his death.

"Henry George has been praised and honored with an increasing and widening interest and admiration. He has been villified by many papers in terms which would disgrace a pot house. He has been patronized by a great many camp-followers outside the regiment of those who revere his memory and seek to follow and apply his philosophy. One thing he waits for, and that is for someone to answer his teaching. (Applause.) Will someone stand up and before the world answer Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty' and his 'Science of Political Economy?'

"I do not claim to be acquainted with every item of literature that has gathered around Henry George's life and work, but I suppose the most serious attempt at refuting him was made by the Duke of Argyll, with the result that Henry George became widely known as the Prophet of San Francisco, and is now recognized as the prophet of a far larger sphere. No one who reads Henry George's 'Peer and the Prophet' impartially can for a moment doubt

as to who has the best end of the controversy in which the Duke of Argyll ventured to cross swords with Henry George. We are seeking to apply the philosophy that Henry George promulgated. Like every other movement which aims at vested interests it is meeting with pronounced hostility, but we are finding in that very hostility a source of inspiration and an incentive to spread the Georgian gospel still more widely and to reap a larger harvest.

"We hold, as Henry George teaches, that men have the same common right to land as they have to all the other gifts—unbought, unsolicited gifts—that come to us from the Great Creator. Sunshine, light, and atmosphere, and whatever else enters into the life and well-being of man, are a gift of God, and all stand in the same category with land. Men who are robbed of their right of unrestricted access to God's gift of land are as much wronged as they would be by any attempt to deprive them of the right to sunlight or to air. That postulated, and there is no answer surely to what we seek in connection with the claim of the community to take the community-earned value of all land that passes out of the community's possession. That is our aim. And, while we are everywhere met with hostility, everywhere the cause is making headway. No one can think of what has occurred here during the past few years in the exchange from rating on improved values to rating on unimproved values, no one can mark that without recognizing the occupancy and use of land that was being held as a part of the vacant lot industry for the increased value which the presence and needs of the community always give to land under normally progressive conditions."

A MARVELOUS RECORD

Mr. J. T. Fischer, who, as the President expressed it, was one of the oldest and staunchest friends of the movement, who had battled vigorously for it in the dim past, then delivered the anniversary address, in which he gave a detailed account of Henry George's career, plentifully illustrated from his works, and concluded by stating that "Progress and Poverty" had been translated into no less than 36 different languages, a marvellous record, especially for a book on economics, when it was considered that only two other books were ahead of it—the Bible, which had been translated into 500 different languages and dialects and "Pilgrim's Progress" which had been translated into 94."

In moving a vote of thanks to those who had taken part in the Anniversary, Miss Lambrick said that the name of Henry George would be cherished with that of Washington and Lincoln. Lincoln tried to free the slaves of a continent, but Henry George tried to free the slaves of the world. If the gospel preached by Henry George had been carried out by the world there would have been no war.

PERCY R. MEGGY.

If you have a message for the people you must take it to them. You cannot expect them to seek you out.

—W. H. MAGUIRE.

Not A Fiscal Reform But A Social Revolution

SOME of the workers for land value taxation are alarmed because some communists, anarchists and other "reds" in California endorsed the Single Tax, and it seems to have led to the abatement of some Single Tax work. This appears to be due to misunderstanding of the real character of the Single Tax, possibly to some unwillingness to understand it.

The "reds" mostly want actually to do something now to make conditions better, and it can easily be shown them that our proposal is in fact the most revolutionary of doctrines. Those who understood the doctrine of Jesus that "love is the fulfilling of the law," that is, "that love fulfilled the entire purpose of the law," saw clearly that such wisdom will end monopoly, slavery, courts, armies and violence generally; therefore the respectables crucified its Teacher. Those in power will some day find out that under the Single Tax there will be no more "reserve supply" of labor, no more bidding for employment, no one living without earning, no more huge fortunes, no standing armies, no litigation and no desire for private property, except in the things which are necessarily personal. If plutocracy wakes soon enough to those facts it will find some excuse for taking out some of us who advocate Single Tax and having us shot.

Let us not deceive ourselves. Although some of our best workers get a hearing before Boards of Trade, Rotary Clubs, Colleges, and Chambers of Commerce, they get it only because they emphasize the fiscal side and allow careless people to think that Single Tax is simply a more efficient and more just way of raising revenue; and they generally fail to emphasize the fact that it means the abolition of private property in rent of lands, that it means the extinction of special privileges, and that it therefore means equality of opportunity and Democracy in practice.

It is remarkable that one of the most successful of our teachers of the respectables is the most intolerant towards those who want the entire Single Tax. He thinks the world is not big enough to exhibit two sides of the shield in, and has some of us scared lest those who have been looking at the silver side should get a glimpse of the golden one and conclude that it was too bright to be real.

We should not minimize the effectiveness of the work of these men who are listened to by the respectables. We may get in that way taxation of land values to a certain extent, as it has been gotten in certain places and as we believe and hope it will be gotten in many others. But the moment that such taxation begins to be heavy enough to check speculation in land, those who depend upon speculation for their living or who think they depend upon it, will raise the cry "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," which being put in modern phrase means "Glory to privilege by which we get our living." When that day comes there will be a sharp line drawn between those who love men and