

adopted conveyed greetings to their former colleague and co-worker, Mr Alexander Mackendrick.

The only day spent in solitary company was that at Niagara Falls and perhaps the grandeur of nature is best admired where, even if companions are present, silence is ordained.

Toronto was reached on 15th October, Mr Alan C. Thompson bidding welcome and acting as guide so that in the few hours available something was seen of this city of homes. A lunch-hour meeting with the Progress Club of business men (conducted on Rotary lines) was followed in the evening by the Annual Banquet of the Canadian Single Tax Association, attended by 51 members and friends. This was well reported, the two Toronto papers giving considerable space to what was said about tariffs and monopoly of natural resources; that these were causes of war and that the Ottawa Agreements were not unconnected with Italy's or Germany's or Japan's alleged need for expansion. The headlines in one paper made the bold statement "Single Taxer Blames Ottawa Trade Pacts for War in Ethiopia."

The scenery on the railway journey next day to Ottawa, for a large part by the shore of Lake Ontario, spoke outwardly at any rate of a prosperous countryside with its many farms on fertile soil, the sun of an Indian summer brilliantly picturing the glorious russet, red and gold of the mellowing foliage. No one could censure nature if the seeming prosperity was a mirage, the cultivator unable to embrace it however hard he strives. Nature yields her fruits to the cultivator. It is not she who intercepts them. So might one muse out of a carriage window travelling no matter where, bewildered at the conflict between appearances and facts, between the possibilities of a care-free life for all and mankind's amazing failure to realise them.

Mr A. C. Campbell, my host in Ottawa, would place the Gospel of Plenty in the forefront of all endeavour to rectify that failure, denying that scarcity ever need be and affirming that freedom to the uttermost from tolls and tribute and restriction is the highest function of governments. Plenty only waits to shower its blessings on a free society, scorning the laws, regulations, officials and departments that would attempt to arbitrate it. We had much talk on that topic as we jealously regarded the fleeting time and saw what could be seen of the beautiful city that Ottawa is. But a sketch of sundry events may not stop to dwell upon these pleasant excursions over the solid ground and into the region of inviting meditation. There

were introductions to a number of people for talks with them including Messrs H. S. and W. M. Southam, proprietors of *The Citizen*, and on the evening of 16th October by engagement an address was given at the weekly study circle of the Brotherhood of Canadian Railway Employees. On the following day Mr Campbell was the host at a lunch-hour gathering at the University Club where discussion turned on the justice of land value taxation with some talk too on Social Credit, Mr Bowman, the editor of *The Citizen*, admitting that the theory attracted him. Indeed it has an undoubted hold on Canadian thought as is proved not only by the capture of the Provincial Legislature in Alberta but also by the return of 17 Social Credit Members to the Dominion Parliament. But the majority was against Mr Bowman's view and all present desired to get "by earliest post" the answer Mr Lester has given in his *Poverty and Plenty*.

At a later hour, after the tour of the City, it was a pleasure to have a talk and consultation with Mr H. L. Seymour, the Town Planning Adviser to the Ontario Government, who had closely studied the British Acts and British precedent like Letchworth, and found them sadly wanting because they made no provision for dealing with the private appropriation of land values or the penalizing effects of the present tax system.

The Citizen favoured with an interview published next day (the sailing date from Montreal, 18th October) which, while reporting what was said about the popular support for land value taxation in Great Britain and the fate of Mr Snowden's Finance Act of 1931 at the hands of the National Government, emphasized the criticism of the Empire trade agreements. "The Ottawa trade pacts had created the impression that the British Empire has sought to put at a disadvantage other nations. They had done as much injury to world trade as anything else and he hoped that the election of a Liberal Government in Canada would see the promised reduction in tariffs or their complete elimination as they were the obstacles to international goodwill . . . and that Canada would establish a precedent other nations would be induced to follow."

So ended a journey in gratitude for the exceptional opportunity given to meet so many friends and join hands with them in their activities. Kindness and consideration knew no bounds. It is a reception awaiting anyone travelling the same road on the same mission who is the fortunate deputy within the ranks that make up the fellowship of Henry George.

A. W. MADSEN.

MR A. H. PEAKE AT CAMBRIDGE

At a recent public meeting in Cambridge under the auspices of the Cambridge Borough Liberal Association, Mr A. H. Peake gave an address on the land question which was well reported in the local Press.

The Chairman, in giving a hearty welcome to the speaker, referred to his well-known advocacy of far-reaching reforms of taxation based on the philosophy which will always be linked with the name of Henry George.

Mr. Peake said that such problems as the maintenance of peace, the remedy for the evils of unemployment, the burden of huge national debts, just methods of taxation, etc., were not separate and disconnected subjects, but were all interrelated, so that it was impossible to deal adequately with any one of them without reference to others.

While civilization had to its credit magnificent achievements, it had also serious failures. The continuance of the evils of unemployment for year after year in this and other countries was not only a blot upon our boasted progress, but a menace to civilization itself. To give men the vote and turn them into tramps, to give young people university education and then throw them on the scrap heap, in this lay danger to democracy and liberty.

In America it was becoming the fashion to refer to the young men and women of to-day as the "lost generation," because of their continued inability to

obtain anything like a reasonable place in society, and because, too, it was realized that even with a revival of business prosperity, the long period of hopeless waiting had caused despair to pass into apathy and listlessness, unfitting them for any manner of employment.

"Is it to be wondered at that people are beginning to jump at all sorts of quack remedies for this state of things?" asked the speaker. "Tariffs, subsidies, quotas, 'soak-the-rich' policies, and all and every scheme to give advantage or privilege to some sections of the community at the expense of others, are all corrupting influences in political life. The best that can be said for them is that they attempt to remedy the maldistribution of wealth by balancing one injustice against another."

To obtain and secure one's just rights, the only method was to have strict regard for the rights of others. Justice was the only safe foundation for a healthy civilization.

Cardiff City Council, having called together a conference of the rating authorities of Wales, was taking the lead in a movement for a more just method of raising local revenue. People of other countries simply could not believe that the British system of raising the funds necessary for local government could be so stupid as to excuse altogether the owner of a plot of land so long as the land produced nothing but weeds, while penalizing, by assessing to full value of both house and land, the person who built and occupied a house.