

importance to this ruling, and some believe it may prove of even deeper importance than the Emancipation Proclamation. Any State or nation which allows some people unequal rights or privileges to hold land, must violate the equal right of others to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The words, "all men are created equal," written not only in our Declaration of Independence, but enacted as an integral part of our law in I U.S. Statutes at Large, at p. 1, and also written in to the U.S. Constitution in 1868, are given a force and effect by this decision never before clearly announced by our highest Courts.

The way is now clear for people of good will, sincerely seeking peace and justice, to work for the repeal of all present laws that have the economic force and effect of allowing special privileges to the holders of land, which those not holding land cannot enjoy.

Only when all laws which allow landholders, as such, an unequal protection have been repealed, and only when there has been a skilful restructuring of our taxing laws, will peace and justice be established, and only then will our political structures provide the protection to both weak and strong, which history warns us we must be willing to abide by, if our political structure is to survive.

"God . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." (Acts, ch. 17, v. 26.)

J. RUPERT MASON.

OBSTACLES TO UNION

THE cry for "Union" rings loud in our ears, but no one seems to know exactly what it means, beyond the fact that it must be brought about by meetings of politicians and that it involves to some extent the limitation of each community's right to manage its own affairs. Yet little progress seems to have been made, despite the fact that American subsidies are deliberately offered or given for the purpose. Indeed, according to Mr. A. W. Robertson, of the American Westinghouse Electric Corporation, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph*, November 11th, the effect of these subsidies is to exasperate rather than allay international jealousies.

Perhaps some remarks by Mr. Walter Lippmann, as reported in the *Manchester Guardian*, September 2nd, afford some explanation. He thinks that the British Government, "having assumed vast and intricate powers over exports, imports, investments, management, expenditure, consumption, work and currency, shrinks from any proposal which would require it to relinquish or even share any of its sovereign power. Socialism becomes inexorably a national Socialism . . . it cannot let foreign governments interfere with its direction of the national economy."

The logic of Mr. Lippmann's remarks is inescapable, but we do not think the reproach should be directed exclusively to the British Labour Government. The same objections apply to every government that grants tariff protection to any interests within its sphere of influence, and as long as the peoples feel that they must be reduced to poverty or unemployment unless protected by some kind of government-granted privilege the same difficulty will arise. If everyone thinks nothing can be done unless the whole community acts together, the efforts of men of different nationalities to co-operate will be hampered in the same way as if one tries to pass the sand through an hour glass by first cementing it together.

If the peoples of the Western world would reduce their governments' authority to its proper sphere, co-operation for the common defence would be easier, not more difficult. But before this can be done the people must first be shown how they can live and work within their own borders without depending upon the coercive protection of the State. The first condition for the removal of international aggression is to remove aggression at home. And to do this we do not need to wait for the people of other countries to act. We could set them the example without abandoning any of our defences or the right to govern our own affairs.

CHARLES INGERSOLL

On September 21st, 1948, at the age of eighty-two, the colourful career of Charles Henry Ingersoll was ended. He died in Memorial Hospital, Orange, New Jersey, from a skull fracture sustained when he alighted from his car to enquire directions and was hit by a passing motorist.

Born on a farm near Delta, Michigan, in 1865, he went to New York as a boy of fourteen and went into business with his late brother, Robert. At first they manufactured and sold rubber stamps. Then, in 1892, they launched "the watch that made the dollar famous." This cheap, loud-ticking timepiece caught the fancy of the public and a hundred million of them were marketed before the firm, operating as R. G. Ingersoll & Bro., sold out to the Waterbury Clock Company in the late 1920s.

For many years Mr. Ingersoll was director and president of the National Jewellers' Board of Trade. Later he became associated with Industrial Tax Relief, Inc., the United States of Europe Association, the Joseph Fels Fund, the Henry George Foundation of Philadelphia, and the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

A chance street-corner conversation in 1880 led Mr. Ingersoll to the study of *Progress and Poverty*, and thereafter he was in the forefront of Georgeist activity. His first vote was cast for Henry George in the mayoralty campaign in 1886. An early member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, founded in 1888, Mr. Ingersoll took a lively part in the Club's work, and in 1931 became its president. Although the Club was dormant in recent years, Mr. Ingersoll continued to maintain an office at 1165 Broadway, New York, from which location he also published sporadically, a four-page paper called "Democracy." During his lifetime, Mr. Ingersoll spoke over thirty radio stations and delivered hundreds of lectures in the United States and Canada, all on economic subjects.

Well known and admired throughout the ranks of those who labour for the advancement of the Henry George ideas, many will mourn with this writer the passing of an old friend.

V. G. PETERSON.

WILLIAM N. MCNAIR

In our previous issue it was our regret to announce the death of William N. McNair, the ex-Mayor of Pittsburgh. He collapsed very suddenly in St. Louis on September 9th while he was there addressing several meetings. He had spoken at a luncheon of the Henry George School and was to have addressed a dinner audience in the evening, but he succumbed to a heart failure. William McNair was the moving spirit in the adoption of the "graded Tax Law" of Pittsburgh, a law which applies also in the other "second-class city" of Pennsylvania, Scranton. It enacted the lowering of the city taxes on buildings and the corresponding increase of the taxes upon land values, so that the position now is in Pittsburgh that the land-value tax is \$28 per \$1,000 and the tax on buildings is \$14 per \$1,000. The story of this reform was told by Mr. McNair himself, and by Dr. J. C. Rose in the papers they presented at our International Conference in London, 1936. Mr. McNair served as Mayor of the City from 1933 to 1936, was member of the Pennsylvania legislature from 1944 to 1946, and was a candidate for re-election to that body. This ardent, able and persistent advocate of the Henry George policy which he had hoped to see carried to its full expression will be sadly missed by our colleagues in the U.S.A., and sincerely we associate ourselves with the fine tribute paid to his memory in the October number of our New York contemporary, the *Henry George News*.