



R. L. OUTHWAITE

Men of action, aid and cheer them, as ye may.  
 There's a fount about to stream,  
 There's a light about to beam,  
 There's a warmth about to glow,  
 There's a flower about to blow,  
 There's a midnight blackness changing into gray.  
 Men of thought and men of action, clear the way !

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Lo ! A cloud's about to vanish from the day ;  
 And a brazen wrong to crumble into clay.  
 Lo ! The right's about to conquer, clear the way !  
 With the right shall many more  
 Enter smiling at the door ;  
 With the giant wrong shall fall  
 Many others, great and small,  
 That for ages long have held us for their prey.  
 Men of thought and men of action, clear the way !

CHARLES MACKAY.

In last month's issue we had to lament the death of our old friend and colleague, R. L. Outhwaite, who passed away quietly at his home on the evening of 6th November.

In a letter Mrs Outhwaite said : " He went very suddenly ; just sat back in his chair and in one minute all was over. It was a wonderful death, as he could have known nothing at all and was spared all pain at parting with those he loved."

R. L. Outhwaite will be long remembered for the great part he played in the movement for land value taxation as the weapon to emancipate industry from monopoly. On the platform his glowing words could be taken down for reproduction with the very minimum of revision ; and he could write quickly and clearly. He was indeed a gifted exponent of the land value policy. In his best and most serviceable years from 1906 to 1914 he had a national name as a standard-bearer of the economic truth he preached. As the *Manchester Guardian* truly said : " Outhwaite was an able and zealous propagandist. A man of intense and sincere convictions, he was in turn convincing ; he condemned himself to the

agitator's life, and did not reach the position to which his gifts might have entitled him. But he loved liberty and consistently fought on its behalf—his best title to remembrance." It is a true and happy description of the man and his place in our politics. He knew his power on the platform ; he loved its influence as the open forum of debate. For platform work he could always be relied upon and in it he had a zeal which seemed to know no respite. In all his endeavours to better the condition of labour abstract justice was his ideal. And in standing for it he had little patience with mere onlookers, or with time-serving politicians.

The son of an Australian farmer, R. L. Outhwaite spent his youth on sheep and cattle farms in Australia and New Zealand. He left his work to devote himself to the advocacy of land value taxation in Australia. After the Boer War he went to South Africa on a tour of investigation and there assisted the miners to organize against Chinese labour. He was in his element in this fight and could recount some thrilling episodes connected with it. Settling in England, he soon became a celebrity in radical politics.

In the 1906 Election he was Liberal candidate in opposition to Mr Joseph Chamberlain at West Birmingham. At the January, 1910, General Election he led another forlorn hope in the Horsham Division of Sussex. After the 1906 Election Mr Outhwaite returned to South Africa for a time on behalf of several English Liberal newspapers and took a leading part in the agitation that led to the withdrawal of Chinese labour.

In 1912 he contested the Hanley Division of Staffordshire as Liberal candidate, and in a three-cornered contest was returned by a majority of 654. He made Land Value Taxation the dominant issue of the Election. In his address to the electors he said : " I support the proposal of the Land Values Group in the House of Commons," and urged that it would " force landowners to use, or let others use, their idle acres." His colleagues in Parliament and outside threw themselves into the campaign which was radiantly featured in the August, 1912, *Land & Liberty*. It was a memorable fight, and when the result was made known Mr Outhwaite, addressing his enthusiastic followers, said : " I came down here to show how the people may be emancipated. I told you I thought you could trust the Liberal Government to adopt the policy. You believed that and you have sent me with a mandate to the Government. That mandate will be delivered in all honesty." It was.

Referring to those who had rallied to his standard, he said they came because of the faith that was in them ; that although he had fought at previous Elections he had never seen such devoted workers as those who came to his aid in the contest. It was recognized as an outstanding victory at a critical time in the fortunes of the Liberal Party, by all parties and by the Press as a sort of spring tide of opinion for the land value policy.

Immediately before contesting Hanley, Mr Outhwaite was engaged for months on behalf of the United Committee in a campaign in Swindon and district. The idea was to prove that a rural constituency could be interested in Land Value Taxation. He addressed dinner-hour meetings at work-gates in the town of Swindon, and in the evening rural audiences in surrounding villages. He carried with him a petition to the Chancellor of the Exchequer which can be summarized as follows :—

" Wherefore your Petitioners pray that you will be pleased to levy such a tax upon the value of all land, whether in town or country, as would compel its full use so that a demand for labour may be created that will ensure a just wage to both town and rural workers."

It was an enlightening mission, and Mr Outhwaite

made it plain, with apt illustration which the people could understand, what Land Value Taxation meant to the rural parts of the country. At scores of meetings a Resolution was as a rule unanimously adopted in support of the policy, and at the end of the campaign over 10,000 agricultural workers had signed the Petition. The campaign demonstrated not for the first time that there was abundance of support for the land value policy in the rural districts, especially when it was explained to them by a speaker of Mr Outhwaite's ability. In this campaign he made many new friends for the movement designed to "rescue the village from the bondage of monopoly."

But long before this brilliant crusade into the heart of Wiltshire Mr Outhwaite toured the country as the spokesman of the Gladstone League: later on his articles on land, housing, and the battle with the slums appearing in the *Daily News* were circulated in pamphlet form.

In 1912 he did more than deliver his message to the Government. He knew how to use his new dignity not for self-advancement but to carry the mandate to the people in other constituencies. As M.P. for Hanley he had a new strength which he had for years longed to possess, so to enable him to be more useful in the open field of propaganda. From Westminster he went down to the people to develop opinion for the remedy with even greater enthusiasm.

The common good was his first consideration, and in the land value policy he visualized the dawn of the brighter day. There was nothing eventful in his Parliamentary life, and not infrequently he was restless under the confinement. But one great service he did achieve. In 1913 he moved for the Return known as *White Paper 119* of 1913 giving the total area of agricultural land within the towns and county boroughs of England, and the rates collected in respect of such land. This document, together with a similar Return affecting Scotland, called for by Mr Charles E. Price, has been of untold value to speakers and writers, and it still functions.

On one of R. L. O.'s last visits to the office I recalled this service and said that if he had never done anything else in the House of Commons this one thing had fully justified his sojourn there. He was far from well that afternoon but he answered with a smile and quietly said he was glad to have my word for it that his stay in the Commons was not altogether a waste of time. I assured him that his name would always be gratefully associated with the light that *White Paper 119* shed on the chief obstacle to decent housing conditions.

He knew what he was out for and with rare perseverance and courage he could make his public realize the inner meaning of his mission and invariably command for it their enthusiastic support. But the war came and for the time being shattered the hope of radical land legislation. It was a maddening thought to him because he instinctively felt that he had now to fight against greater odds than ever before.

At the general election of 1918, as with so many Liberal M.P.s who were without the "coupon," he was defeated and as Mrs Outhwaite has said "From that time he was a sick man in sore need of rest and change for the greater fight he always foresaw." But tired and disappointed as he was his spirit was by no means crushed. He sought a new platform of his own creation and fought on for a few years in the belief that the tide of adversity was bound to develop a discontent that would force the issue. Out of the stress of hard times he seemed to see a new chance for his iconoclastic convictions, but as somebody said, "he forgot the dole."

Nothing came of his new adventure and his strength gradually weakened. The struggle in the open field of

endeavour was no longer his, and ultimately he had to seek a long rest in his country home. In his retirement, as Mrs Outhwaite can tell, he tried often to write but just as often the attempt had to be abandoned; the spirit was willing but the flesh could not respond.

R. L. Outhwaite was an outstanding figure in the land value movement. He was known throughout the country and indeed throughout the ramifications of our movement the world over as one of the foremost of single taxers. He preached the gospel of free land, free trade, free men, with an untiring devotion and without regard to any convention. It can be said that he lived and died for the truth embodied in the teaching of Henry George, and that he did one man's work in making clear to his day and generation the urgency of translating Henry George's practical proposals into legislative measures.

R. L. Outhwaite, take him all in all, was a man who bettered the tradition of mankind. On behalf of the movement we extend to Mrs Outhwaite and her son and daughter our sincerest sympathy in their irreparable loss.

J. P.

**Mr Craigie in Parliament.**—The many friends of Mr E. J. Craigie will rejoice to hear of his successes as a member of the South Australian Parliament. It will be remembered how Mr Craigie won the admiration, and in many cases the approval, of his fellow-Members by the able and outspoken "maiden" speech which he delivered on 10th June (reported in the September issue of *Land & Liberty*). On 1st October he scored yet another success by his very effective intervention in the Budget debates. From a speech packed with telling facts and illustrations and characterized throughout by sound economic reasoning it is only possible to reproduce a few extracts, and these appear on another page. Mr Craigie is fighting a lone battle, but he knows his case; we are not surprised that his influence as an authority is already acknowledged by Members of the House, especially those belonging to the Labour Party. During the Budget debates a number of complimentary references to him were voiced. One member, Mr. Thompson, said:—

"I congratulate Mr Craigie on the speech he made yesterday. I feel that when he spoke of land value taxation in opposition to the ideals of members opposite he was a brave man. I do not think we have a man in this House who could get up and successfully debate with him on the question of land values taxation."

To which the Commissioner of Crown Lands added:

"I do not think you have one in the State."

We offer Mr Craigie our cordial congratulations on this second Parliamentary success.

Involuntary poverty and unemployment will disappear when all the products of labour are untariffed and untaxed.

The harvests are abundant, yet men starve. The world is full to overflowing with everything to satisfy in comfort and even in luxury the needs of men, but tariffs have produced artificial scarcity, which enrich the few and turn God's fair earth into a den of thieves and a veritable Hell.

Snowden valiantly withstands the assaults and the vile slanders of the tariffists, and I have come to the conclusion that it is the duty of democrats to sink all minor differences and rally to his support.—WM. D. HAMILTON in a recent letter to the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*.