

EX-PREMIER CARRUTHERS.

(See Frontispiece)

J. H. Carruthers, late Prime Minister of New South Wales, was born at Kiama, New South Wales, on the 21st of December, 1857. At eighteen years of age he took his degree of B. A. and at the early age of twenty-one fully qualified for the profession of law. In 1887 he was elected a member of the New South Wales Parliament, and a year later was made Minister of Public Instruction.

When defeat overtook the Liberal Party he became leader of the opposition, and after two years campaigning he won by a narrow majority over a reactionary ministry, and became Prime Minister of New South Wales. In 1906 he secured the passage of the Local Government Act empowering Municipalities and Local District Councils to rate on unimproved land values only.

The beneficial effects of the adoption of this act by many rating bodies have been told in the *Review* by Mr. A. G. Huie.

Those who know of Mr. Carruthers work in other lines for the advancement of the interests of New South Wales speak in high admiration of his administrative abilities. But his work for land reform is his most signal service to the land of his birth. The ringing words of Henry George spoken in Sydney in 1890 found one eager listener who sprang to execute the mission. So well was the responsibility discharged that New South Wales now leads the world in those steps that mark our advance. It is of interest to quote the words of Henry George from that notable speech:

"And we of the great Republic—to-day we are looking toward Australia; to-day we are taking counsel of your experience; to-day we are following in the path you have outlined. Men of Australia, lead us further!"

Mr. Carruthers is now in England. On his departure a dinner was tendered to him at Sydney, New South Wales. In response to the several speeches made in his honor wishing him speedy recovery from the ill health which had induced him to hand in his resignation, he said:

"As for any achievements of my own, I prefer to let my works speak for themselves.

(Applause.) But I cannot help making a short reference to the Local Government Act. (Cheers.) I believe that it will not only do good in this State as a measure of municipal reform, but it will have the effect of re-creating a vigorous and healthy spirit of self-help through the length and breadth of this land. I believe that it will make the people more self-reliant, educate them in the task of self-government, and make them better appreciate the difficulties of government. I regret that I was not able to continue in office sufficiently long to put the coping-stone on that work by passing a Bill to enable the citizens of this great metropolitan area to set up for themselves a form of Government for a greater Sydney. (Applause.) I have in my lifetime seen in this city a growth which has been stupendous. I never heard one man foretell the growth which we have seen realised in Sydney. Not a living man can foretell the future of Sydney during the next fifty or one hundred years. (Cheers) We are within ten days sail of the teeming populations of the East. Only four days sail from us are the other teeming populations of the Southern Seas. Sydney is destined to be one of the greatest cities the world has ever seen. (Cheers.) It will be a great metropolis of trade, and a centre of culture for the southern hemisphere. It is now that provision should be made to do that which in but a few years will be ten times much more difficult. I hope that the present Parliament will put the coping-stone to the work of Local Government by passing an Act which will enable Sydney to make provision for its own future growth. * * *

"Your Excellency, while I regret that I had under almost tragic circumstances to hand you my resignation of the office of Premier—you know it was almost as unexpected to me as it was to you—if I had carried on it meant the probability of a very few hours of life for me. That I had the courage to take the step I did I am now glad, for I trust that I shall return from my journey abroad with restored health and the strength to render further service to the State. I have worked as very few men in this country have worked. During the the last bitter election campaign, I had to

travel here, there and everywhere, to meet my traducers face to face. I have experienced to the full the sweets of public life, and I have experienced also to the full the bitters of it, but if I had to close book now my last words would be: Thanks—grateful thanks—to a constituency which has never for a moment lost faith or confidence in me; to a people who have refused to listen to unfounded and unsupported calumny; to my colleagues; and to the country which has taught me more than I ever previously realised the truth of the words which I quoted when I first offered myself as a candidate for Parliament:

"Honor and Shame from no condition arise;

"Act well your part—there all the honor lies."

(Prolonged Applause.)

THE NEW ENGLISH LEADER.

(See Portrait)

The new president of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, Josiah C. Wedgewood, M. P., was born in 1872, and is the second son of Clement Francis Wedgewood, Master Potter of Etruria, and great-great grandson of the founder of that establishment. He was apprenticed to Armstrongs at the Elswick shipyards and joined the government service in 1895 as a Naval Constructor at Portsmouth Dockyard.

Mr. Wedgewood is a brand rescued from the socialist burning. In 1892 he was an ardent Fabian. But later he was to fall under the influence of Crompton Llewelyn Davies and emerge from such influence as a full fledged, singularly able apostle of freedom as embodied in the Single Tax philosophy.

1899 he volunteered for service in South Africa and went out as captain of the Elswick Battery. He served through that war, coming out with medals for distinguished services. In 1902 he was appointed Resident Magistrate of the district of Ermelo (Transvaal). In the reorganization of the Local Administration and

Taxation of the Transvaal, he used his influence to get local taxation based entirely on unimproved value, but only succeeded so far as to get the local tax based on capital value (as in New York) instead of on annual value (as in England). The valuations are very fair and in the Transvaal, for the lists are public there, and there is a general desire to leave the figures as high as possible for selling and mortgaging purposes.

In 1904 Mr. Wedgewood returned to England, and in 1906 was elected to Parliament, winning the seat of Newcastle-under-Lyne as a radical, with a majority of over 2,000. Newcastle is one of the pottery towns.

Since entering Parliament Mr. Wedgewood has raised the Single Tax flag on every issue. He has been busy elsewhere with voice and pen. He has published a number of pamphlets which have been widely circulated. Among these are *Real Land Reform*, *Land Values*, *How and Why They should be Taxed*, and *Henry George for Socialists*.

Mr. Wedgewood was married in 1894 to a daughter of the late Lord Bowen, a Lord of Appeal, and has six children, all of whom he assures us, have "seen the cat." His election as President of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values was a fitting recognition of his great services and splendid devotion to the cause he has espoused.

THE *Evening Telegram* of Portland, Oregon, contained a column review of the contents of a recent issue of the *Single Tax REVIEW*.

THE October issue of the *Free Trade Broadside* published in Boston by the American Free Trade League and edited by William Lloyd Garrison, contains a portrait and sketch of Byron W. Holt, under the title of "A Maker of Public Opinion."

HAMLIN GARLAND has written a play to be called *Labor*. It will be reproduced in Chicago during the coming Winter.