

The Lengthened Shadows

THE importance of Australia and New Zealand in the annals of Georgism is rich and unique — both in the distinguished leaders it has known and in the persistent efforts to bring the awareness of LVT's advantages to the understanding of all.

A recent letter from Allan R. Hutchinson of Victoria (South Australia) reports "a most important victory in the success of a referendum of rate payers in South Melbourne on a proposal to cease local taxation of buildings and transfer it to the value of the site alone." In a poll taken on November 7th the vote was 10,949 for and 6,506 against.

A local land values research group distributed material showing "How Site Value Rating Would Affect South Melbourne." A colored map indicated which areas would carry lower rates, which would remain the same, and which would be higher under the unimproved value (LVT or site value basis). Almost all the residential areas were in the first group and this had great influence on the favorable result.

If we take a long step backward in time we will see that it has taken nearly a century for this to mature. Perhaps then we will realize that the mills do indeed grind slowly, and one should not be discouraged if achievement is delayed.

A. G. HUIE

We have a new HGN generation who missed reading about the tremendous influence of A. G. Huie who died in November at the venerable age of 95. He was called a most indefatigable letter writer and leader of forlorn hopes, but his letters were not forlorn. His views were clearly expressed with agreeable objectivity. Straightforward logic and courtesy made his defense wear well — there was nothing about his manner to cause people to turn

away as from a subject that had begun to pall.

He was a farm boy who had very little schooling, but in 1890 he read *Progress and Poverty* (an education in itself!) and was instantly impressed. When he went to Sydney to work he joined a debating club. Other celebrated Georgists, too, can trace their convictions to preparation for debates, a form of sparkling entertainment which we would do well to revive. In 1901 Mr. Huie was invited to help form a movement by acting as secretary pro tem. That became his life work and he labored untiringly for 52 years in the Georgist cause. His salary was low and sometimes nil when funds were low. In 1905 he became the first editor of the *Standard*, now known as Australia's Georgist voice. In 1916 he was honored with a citizen's banquet presided over by the Lord Mayor of Sydney where the one-time farm boy was warmly celebrated for strenuous efforts in door to door canvassing in the interests of LVT, this method of taxation having been made possible in 1906.

NEW ZEALAND

If we step over to nearby New Zealand we encounter Georgian history in the form of a recently published account of reminiscences by the Honorable Sir George Fowlds, a Scotsman who died in 1934 after a distinguished life on three continents — Great Britain, Africa and New Zealand. He dedicated his talents to the service of all the disinherited.

George Grey was another of the great Sirs of that period whose name is revered not only among Georgists but written large in history. Sir George Fowlds wrote of this older friend as "the greatest servant of the Crown during the Victorian era and one of the greatest empire builders. His first