

HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION TRUSTEE PASSES

MR. HARRY PITT

The death of Henry Arthur Pitt, O.B.E., takes from us one whose Georgist history goes back to the days when crowded debating societies had George's writings to discuss, each as it came from the press. Harry Pitt—as he was known to most—and his brothers were considerable debaters and George's visit here in 1890 would have been a more than ordinary interest to them.

Mr. Edwin Pitt, younger by a year or so, tells how a little time earlier they had both been captivated by Bellamy's "Looking Backward," the socialist theories of which they, with the full knowledge of sixteen and seventeen years apiece, had decided would inevitably be in full operation a few years thence. However, they had two elder cousins, Willie and Frank Pitt, each a redoubtable name in our movement, and joyous fellows. These saw the humour of the youngsters being deluded by a socialist, young Harry being a brilliant scholar, and promptly introduced "George" into the discussions. Did it well too, for Mr. Ernest Pitt, a brother younger again, recalls that he was as good as born a Georgist, never hearing anything else in the home.

Harry Pitt rose to the top; as a Georgist committee member and Foundation Trustee; as Director of Finance in the State Public Service; then in "retirement" as the Co. in Ian Potter and Co., the spectacular Melbourne brokers; in sport as president of the Lawn

Tennis Association. From all these fields he will be sadly missed.

While Director of Finance, he was part of a delegation to urge our principles on his Premier, Sir William McPherson. The latter conceded the truth of the case, particularly as put by his Finance Director, but was politically impotent to adopt the proposals.

Rarely an over propagandist, Harry Pitt seldom missed opportunity to point out how useless were non-Georgist suggestions. And even amongst ourselves he had a quiet laughing way of showing up the weak approach. Not so many years back, when Federal Parliament was deadlocked, a group of Georgists were arguing it, all from different angles. But this all stopped, when he quizzically enquired whether so much of Governmental action being in opposition to our principles, would it not be preferable were the deadlock to continue. He preferred to leave well alone.

That attitude may have shown the keynote to his character. Not to meddle, where it could do no good, left him time and energy for the things that could be accomplished.

To his son and daughters who, with several grandchildren, survive him, go our sincere condolences on the passing of a more than ordinary man.