

question of mine ownerships and coal royalties and Pennsylvania's method of taxing such properties, so as to determine what action, if any, may appropriately be taken by the Federal authorities to promote the general welfare.

J. J. M.

## R. L. Outhwaite Resigns From the Labor Party

**P**URSUANT to his intention to start a Single Tax Party in Great Britain (though that will not be its name) Mr. Outhwaite, former M.P., has tendered his resignation as member of the Independent Labor Party. In his letter resigning he says:

"I am at present attending an International Conference for the Taxation of Land Values for the purpose of urging that the demand for the assertion of human rights should be lifted out of the category of rates and taxes and presented as one for emancipation from economic slavery resulting from the private appropriation of the earth."

He concludes by saying, "I can be of no further service to you now."

All the papers of the United Kingdom featured this resignation. The Derby *Telegraph* comments as follows:

"Mr. Outhwaite has washed his hands of the Labor Party. It is not for us to estimate the effects of his defection on the fortunes of that powerful political organization, but we have an idea that it will not be very profound or far-reaching. If political parties were composed almost exclusively of men of his illogical mind, we should never know where we stood. For the fact that some one or other takes a step with which one seriously disagrees is regarded by this strangely constituted politician as a valid and sufficient excuse for having no further association with him on matters with which both parties are in absolute agreement. The case of Mr. Outhwaite is, however, of such an extreme kind, that we trust for the sake of our political consistency, whether we be Liberals or Conservatives, or Labor men, it stands almost alone. He is a gentleman who has long taken the deepest possible interest in the taxation of land values. The friends of that movement recently met at Oxford in furtherance of their ideas. They had a perfect right to confer on such an issue, and many of us felt grateful that amidst the various Coalition tragedies of recent years, this ancient principle of the Liberal faith had not been entirely forgotten."

The *Evening Standard*, of London, has a correspondent who commenting on Mr. Outhwaite's resignation from the Independent Labor Party, says:

"I have a certain feeling personally of affection for Mr. Outhwaite. At one time it was my duty to attend regularly the debates of the House of Commons, and it was always a pleasure to watch him looking like a rather mournful and strictly non-combative eagle, gazing over an entirely indifferent assembly."

The Manchester *Evening News* says, under the heading An Erratic Politician:

"Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, who has now shaken the dust of the I.L.P. from his shoes, was one of the best known of the Liberal headquarters' staff fighters in the early 1900's.

Born in Tasmania, he first plunged into politics in South Africa, and shared in many a rough-and-tumble at noisy meetings there. He was a very active by-election worker for Liberalism for a number of years, and courageous enough to go to West Birmingham and challenge "Joe" in 1906.

While M.P. for Hanley he became associated with the late Mr. Joseph Fels, and took up the crusade for taxation reform which Mr. Fels financed.

Mr. Outhwaite left the Liberal party on grounds of principle which were called also "Pacifism" during the war.

Now he has left the party of his second choice, and probably will plough a lonely political furrow for the rest of his days."

In a communication to the *Staffordshire Sentinel* of August 24, Mr. Outhwaite says:

"I have had four and one-half years seeking to serve Labor through its parties. All the work the Commonwealth League has done amongst the rank and file has been negated by this sort of trickery. I am tired of it all. To my mind the people are doomed to perish in enslavement if they do not swiftly assert their common right to the land and its rent."

## Why the Commonwealth League was Founded

**I** SAW too that the pettifogging presentation of the cause of emancipation in fiscal terms laid us open to the charge that our chief aim was not to free the people from wage-slavery, but to free the capitalist from repressive burdens. So it seemed to me to be a paramount duty to formulate our demand in terms that would admit of no misconception as to aims. To make manifest to all that Liberty was our goal, and to call on those who had stood for liberty to regard us as their allies. So we founded the Commonwealth League. So we cut ourselves off from old associates, and have spared neither Liberals nor the taxers and raters, who propose justice and liberty on the instalment plan; we have our reward in the Land Nationalisation Bill.—R. L. OUTHWAITE IN *The Commonweal*.

**A**S we go to press we learn of the death of J. W. Bengough, of Toronto, a devoted servant of the cause known to every reader of the REVIEW. Full details of the life and services of our friend will follow in next issue.

IF men cannot find an employer, why cannot they employ themselves? Simply because they are shut out from the element on which human labor can alone be exerted.

—HENRY GEORGE.