

1999.156

Robert L Outhwaite was a single taxer and radical land reformer. He believed in the redistribution of land and the abolition of all taxation other than the land rent. He thought it would be better for the country if land which was used for hunting and fishing, was made available for small tenant farmers, as it had been previously. This would help all the unemployed who had been forced off the land by large land owners.

He was born in Australia in 1868. His parents were from Yorkshire and the family had settled in Victoria and owned large estates there as well as in Tasmania and New Zealand. After school, he joined together with other young men to try and break the high protectionist tariff which they felt was causing the industrial depression which was happening through most parts of the British Empire. He decided to devote himself to the reform movement. He then worked in South Africa as a newspaper reporter to help Australians who had gone there as soldiers and hoped to get work in the mines after the war. At that time the mine owners were employing Chinese workers, so there was no work for the Australian soldiers who had gone over to fight the war, expecting to settle and find a job when it finished. His reports in various English newspapers raised awareness of conditions there and helped to bring about reform in South Africa.

On arrival in England he joined the Liberal Party to campaign against large landowners dispossessing small tenant farmers to make more hunting ground.

He only fought one election in Horsham in January 1910 but lost to the Viscount Edward Turnour who had held the seat since 1904. Edward Turnour later became Earl Winterton and held the seat until 1951.

Other posters to look at are

1999.150 Land for the Landless

1998.1583 Peer or Peasant

1999.117 Word of warning from a protected country

1998.1411 Election reprint of interview with HD Liberal candidate 1910

1999.114 Old Age Pensions

1999.116 Prospective Liberal candidate speech

#### Resources

Albery, W. 1927 *A Parliamentary History of Horsham 1295-1885* Longmans: United Kingdom

Albery, W. 1947 *A Millennium of Facts in the History of Horsham and Sussex 947-1947*

Knight, J. 2006 *Horsham's History Volumes 1,2,3* Horsham Museum Society

Neale, K 1975 Victorian Horsham. *The Diary of Henry Michell 1809-1874*