

Mr. Douglas Macdonald has addressed meetings at Scots-toun, and Temple Liberal Association.

The organisation of the demonstrations at Aberdeen (Music Hall) on the 9th December, Glasgow (City Hall) on the 11th December, and Dundee (Kinnaid Hall) on the 15th December is in full swing, and record attendances are anticipated.

JAMES BUSBY.

#### SCOTTISH LEAGUE POLITICAL ECONOMY CLASS, 1913-1914.

The class this year, though not so numerously attended as in some former years, yet exhibits the qualities for which such a class is designed: the qualities of a keen interest and enthusiastic study on the part of the students.

As is customary, the teacher lectures for half an hour or forty minutes on some part of PROGRESS AND POVERTY, and the students then discuss the question and interrogate the lecturer for the remainder of the evening. We are going systematically through PROGRESS AND POVERTY, and are now dealing with the question of distribution, the kernel of the whole question of poverty and inequality.

Question time is a specially interesting time, and the students take the fullest advantage of it, showing a grip of detail surprising as a result of a few months' study.

So far we have dealt with the following: the nature of wealth, the meaning of the terms, the meaning of production, the factors in production, the problem in PROGRESS AND POVERTY, the wage-fund theory, wages not paid from capital, labourers not maintained by capital, wages the produce of labour, the Malthusian theory, the general theory of distribution.

Next Monday we deal with "The Law of Rent," and then follows "The Law of Wages," and thereafter the thorny question of the nature of "Interest."

That will probably conclude our course this side of Christmas. Afterwards we go into the political or practical aspect of things, into the questions of social reform and taxation.

What strikes one in teaching classes of this kind, is the deep interest now being taken in social problems, political problems; questions of votes and machinery now take their proper place as means to an end, and are only secondary in the public mind, and students are keenly interested in studying the data for a scientific treatment of Social Problems. The question of the future is the question of Socialism *versus* Democracy: democracy means equal rights, economic as well as political; and economic equality means the Single Tax ideal, the socialisation of monopolies.

Classes do more than make converts, they make missionaries for the cause; may the progress be in a geometric ratio!

WILLIAM CASSELS.

#### HIGHLAND LEAGUE

Mr. Neilson's visit to the North was marked with great enthusiasm. The meeting held in the Music Hall, presided over by Mr. E. J. Taylor, editor of the HIGHLAND NEWS, was a great success, the large hall being full with all classes of the Capital of the Highlands, while Mr. Neilson spoke with an earnestness and conviction of the just cause he was advocating, riveted the attention of the great audience, and convinced many that the question of the readjustment of our present rating system must be dealt with at no distant date. The second meeting in the Town Hall was overcrowded under the chairmanship of Councillor John McCullan, his first shot being that he complimented the citizens on getting possession of their own hall to hear an orator of no mean note on the present rating system which was now in the melting pot. Mr. Neilson dealt in a masterly way with the system of rating, and made a deep

and lasting impression on the great body of ratepayers who listened to him, and many could have sung that well-known Scotch song, "Will ye no come back again?"

At Dingwall, Councillor Crawford presided over a large audience in Carnegie Hall; at Beauly, Mr. Taylor presided over a fair audience in Phipps Hall; and at Nairn, Treasurer Fletcher presided over a large meeting in the Town Hall. On Saturday, Mr. Neilson finished up his week at Glen Urquhart. The meetings throughout helped greatly our cause in the Highlands. All the newspapers gave splendid reports of the meetings, and it was hoped by all who listened to Mr. Neilson, that the time would not be far distant when he would again visit along with the Highland Capital some other portion of the Highlands further north.

G. YOUNG, Secretary.

#### CARLISLE

A meeting under the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values was held in the Queen's Hall, Carlisle, on October 16th, under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. E. Crompton, Stanwix. The principal speakers were Mr. Joseph Fels and Mr. J. Dundas White, M.P. There was a good attendance.

A letter in the following terms was read from Mr. R. D. Denman, M.P. for the division:—

Many thanks for your handbill of the meeting. I am sorry that as I have promised to attend another meeting that evening I shall not be able to be present. I should have liked to be there, if only to welcome my colleague, Mr. Dundas White—(cheers)—who is such a sturdy and excellent supporter of the Taxation of Land Values. As you know, my own view is that this form of taxation has a very definite function in the sphere of both national and municipal taxation. The application of the principle by Mr. Lloyd George in his famous Budget was a beginning which I hope will be developed further, and the sooner municipal authorities are given power to levy rates on land values the better.

Mr. Franklin Thomasson (London) wrote:—

Many thanks for your letter of October 7th, and I am very sorry it is not possible for me to attend the land values meeting at Carlisle on the 16th inst. I hope you will have a successful meeting. I believe that this movement is really the important one of all; and I wish all good reformers could be persuaded to concentrate upon it.

Mr. Fels, in his address, said he thought the Liberal party were beginning to do something—(cheers)—but it was going to take more than twelve minutes to undo the horrible condition that it had taken Great Britain twelve hundred years to get into. They believed that the earth was for the people—(hear, hear)—and that the earth's values belonged to the population which gave it those values. The original division of the land was done by the fellows who divided it up. (Laughter.) They proposed now to put an end to injustice. In London—he would not say anything about Carlisle or he might get mobbed—(laughter)—there were 14,000 acres of unused land. This they would force into use by the Taxation of Land Values, and then the unemployed question would disappear. No man had a right to the ownership of the earth. He could not take it with him.

Mr. J. Dundas White, M.P., also addressed the meeting on the subject of the Single Tax, the effect of which, he claimed, would enable them to realise the possibilities which Providence had placed at the disposal of the children of men. Present valuations were deceptive. What he was out for was justice. He wanted to know the value of the land, and that was why he supported Mr. Lloyd George's great Budget.

An interesting discussion followed.