

Prof. F. M. Crunden, Public Librarian, attended the opening meeting and spoke at some length, lending much encouragement and enthusiasm to those who conduct the affairs of the club. The work being done is invaluable as a propaganda agency and its influence is far-reaching. The two active spirits in the work, named above, deserve great credit as well as the hearty support of the friends hereabouts.

The weekly meeting nights have not been fixed upon definitely, but those interested may learn more than can be here given by addressing Mr. Louis Cohen at 2600 Lafayette Avenue, or calling at the cutlery department of Simmons' Hardware Store, Broadway and St. Charles.

The St. Louis Single Tax League is still holding forth, meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at the Aschenbroedel Club, 3535 Pine Street. The writer has not attended for some time and, therefore, is not prepared to give any news of the doings of the league. Stephen M. Ryan, 1026 North Broadway, is the president.

The Women's Single Tax Club meets monthly, on the first Thursdays, at the homes of the members. The next meeting will be held on the evening of October 5th at Mrs. Nakes' on Kennerly Avenue near Taylor. Mrs. B. J. Hall, 104 South Channing Avenue, is president, and any information desired can be secured by addressing her at that number. The first meeting of the season was held on September 7th, and an enjoyable and profitable evening spent in readings and discussion. A number of strangers to the faith were present. Here again is a worthy and valuable adjunct to the cause, and the friends, particularly those of the other sex, should get in touch with it. Mrs. Hall is well equipped, intellectually and practically, for the work she has taken in hand, and with proper encouragement, promises to make the Women's Auxiliary to the movement a power for good in old St. Louis.

Louis D. Goodman, Esq., is conducting a "Forum" in Recital Hall, at the Odeon, Grand near Finney, on Sunday Mornings. Discussion of social, economical and philosophical questions is the order. J. W. Steele occupied the rostrum a couple of Sundays ago, and made a good speech.

Between now and the next issue of the REVIEW I will be better informed as to the real work being carried on in the "Mound City," and will try to lay what I know before our readers.

L. P. CUSTER.

St. Louis, Mo.

William McCabe, grand marshal of the N. Y. Labor Day parade, was a well known Single Taxer and active worker in the days of '86-'87, and indeed at a later date. He was also a contributor to the *Standard*.

News—Foreign.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE—GRACIOUSNESS OF THE ARISTOCRACY—THE SPLENDID WORK OF SINGLE TAX LEADERS.

No American can really appreciate the strength of customs hoary with age until he has had a glimpse of the Old World. Good or bad, a custom on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean becomes so important a part of the daily life of the people that logic must take a back seat if it in anywise runs counter to the prevailing opinion.

For the two months I was in England and Scotland, last year, I talked with hundreds of people on the effect on work and wages of the land laws of Great Britain, and though few disputed my logic, the most of them refused to admit that any other way than the one then being followed would work to the greater advantage of those who produce the wealth of the world.

Since coming back to America I have tried to analyze this willingness to meekly submit to the bad economics arising from the enforcement of the land laws of England and Scotland, and I have come to the conclusion that it can only be accounted for because the people of those countries believe they are getting compensation in other directions out of the landed class—compensations that cannot be reduced to figures.

The members of the landed aristocracy of England are a gracious lot. They possess the characteristics that might be expected of those supposed to have been set apart by Divine Providence to rule over inferiors. In fact they look their part. Well fed and well educated, they try to use everybody about right in the daily affairs of life, and are impartial as between sects, parties and factions, dividing on all problems before the public except the one that touches their property rights in the land.

The women of the landed class are accomplished in the art of helping the widow and orphan, and relieving the distressed. Their good works in these respects are known of all, and it is seldom that one can traverse the poorer quarters of any great city in Great Britain without meeting one or more of these ladies on errands of mercy.

While I was one day inspecting a great municipal tenement not far from Westminster Abbey, I stumbled across one of the royal family making a professional visit to the same building. The princess entered several of the apartments, talked condescendingly to the inmates, left generous tips, and departed amidst evidences, on the part of the poor drudges of the tenement district, of love, awe and veneration. It was a great object lesson to me.

Yet in spite of the slavish adhesion on the part of the people of Great Britain to bad

land laws, the Single Tax is making progress—it may even be said that it is making remarkable progress. The propaganda for the Single Tax has little to do with the really “common” people. Almost the entire agitation is directed toward the great middle class from which officials are elected by the votes of the rate payers. The literature prepared is for their mental digestion, and in the main the illustrations selected are those that appeal to merchants and manufacturers, and the artisans of the more skilled trades.

The idea is, as explained to me by the editor of *Land Values*, the organ of the Single Taxers of Great Britain, with headquarters in Glasgow, Scotland, to educate in taxation matters those likely to be selected as mayors, councilmen, poor law guardians, etc. Let anyone be nominated for an office in the gift of the people, and he is immediately deluged with literature bearing on this all-important subject. Certainly he cannot in the future feign ignorance of the evil effect of relieving land values of taxation and placing civil burdens on production.

That this work has been done persistently and well, is shown by the astounding fact of some seven hundred municipalities in England and Scotland petitioning Parliament for the privilege of taxing land values for local purposes.

It seems to me that these petitioners reflect the intellectual status of the Single Tax in Great Britain rather than the popular one. The popular one is the common one—the ownership of the land by a small class who rule by Divine right.

Still, while the leaders of the Single Tax movement in Great Britain devote much of their efforts to the economic enlightenment of the office holding class, the workingmen are not entirely neglected. One of the four-page leaflets issued from Dundas street, Glasgow, is entitled “The Laborer and His Taxes,” showing how wages are arrested under the present tax system. Another excellent tract, of eight pages, has for its title, “Tragedy of English History,” showing the wage condition of the English laborer from 1260 to 1887, and illustrated with diagrams from Thorold Roger’s “Six Centuries of Work and Wages.” Yet, after all, it can be readily seen that these tracts do not reach the English masses, who are very, very unthinking. At the most they only appeal to those intelligent trade unionists who have been elevated by their organizations from the brute condition into which too many of their brother workers are plunged.

Our English brothers who are at the helm of the Single Tax barque in Great Britain, recognize the fact that the Single Tax idea—in other countries being so practically demonstrated as the truly scientific method of taxation—will progress very slowly in their country. Whether they have hit upon the right way of giving it the most rapid

movement forward possible—the intellectual enlightenment of the office holding class—may be doubted by some in America, but it will not be doubted by those who have seen the “lower classes” in “Merry England,” for this class cannot be aroused from its apathy by appeals to its sense of right and wrong, if the appeal is based on anything that would be likely to curtail the power of the landed class to confer favors. So long as “jobs” are privileges to be given or withheld at the option of one class, and servants’ positions in the manors of the aristocracy the best paid situations—thanks to the “tip” system—in the country, the poor devils who must work for a living are not going to advocate anything that will disastrously affect the landed class; at least not until some local demonstration brings it home to them that jobs can be multiplied faster in some other way than by so handsomely supporting a great non-producing aristocracy.

The masses in England, in my opinion, believe they receive benefits from their landed masters in several other ways. No great meeting would be called a success that is not presided over by some one at court, which means some landlord, and the closer such an one is related to royalty the greater must be the success. Let there be a temperance demonstration, for example—and every large class in England believe thoroughly that all the woes of mankind are due to the drink habit—and it is the names of the aristocrats connected therewith that are most paraded before the public. Even socialism, the past couple of years, has been made quite respectable because of its advocacy by Lady Warwick. At least it is now recognized as containing some good. Not that socialism is not respectable, per se, yet heretofore it has been denied any hearing because none of the real idle class championed it.

Where there is one object lesson in the Single Tax in the United States, there are a score or more in England. Yet while the object lessons in America are matters of interest to everybody, there no attention is paid to them, because they are the customary thing, and therefore “Natural and proper.” Up from the abyss the English speaking masses will finally emerge, but not in this day or generation. Meanwhile the Single Taxers over there are doing their part in showing the way from chaos to elysium.

JUDSON GRENELL.

NEW ZEALAND.

TOWNS THAT HAVE ADOPTED LAND VALUE RATING—THEIR GAINS IN POPULATION OVER OTHERS RETAINING THE OLD SYSTEM.

In 1891 New Zealand exempted personal property from taxation throughout the colony and placed a tax on land values in-