

NOVEMBER MEETINGS.

- Sun. 5.—Social Democratic Club, 148, High Road, Willesden Green: Fredk. Verinder, "Land and Labour."
 Mon. 6.—St. Philip's, Whitwell Street, Plaistow ("Thoughts for Paining Men"); W. G. S. Coad, "A Deputation to the Prime Minister," 8 p.m.
 Gladstone Club, 117, Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, W.: Fredk. Verinder, "Next Steps in Land Reform," 8.30.
 Tues. 7.—Deaf Liberal and Radical Association, Citizens' Hall, Middle Street: Fredk. Verinder, "Rating Reform in Town and Country."
 Thurs. 9.—Bermondsey U.L.P., Labour and Socialist Club, Fort Road: Dr. Chas. A. Parker, "The Land," 8.
 Sat. 12.—Slough Working Men's Club, William Street: Fredk. Verinder, "First Steps in Land Reform," 8.15 p.m.
 Mon. 13.—Executive, 8 p.m.
 High Wycombe (for Liberal Educational Society): Oscar F. Dowson, "Taxation of Land Values as a Practical Policy."
 Tues. 21.—Torquay, League of Young Liberals: Fredk. Verinder.
 Thurs. 23.—Walworth Liberal and Radical Association, 219, Walworth Road, S.E.: Fredk. Verinder, "Free Trade and Land Values," 8.30.
 Fri. 24.—Peckham Liberal, Radical and Progressive Association: Fredk. Verinder.
 Sun. 26.—Wandsworth I.L.P., Earlsfield Road (close to Earlsfield Station): Fredk. Verinder, "Land and Labour."
 Mon. 27.—Executive, 8 p.m.
 Tues. 28.—Bermondsey, Chaucer School, Tabard Street: Fredk. Verinder, "Land Values in Picture and Story." (Lantern Lecture.)
 Thurs. 30.—Acton I.L.P.: Councillor J. McCulloch, (debate). "Is Socialism Sound, Ethically and Economically?"

Applications for lectures should be made to the General Secretary of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, 376 and 377, Strand, W.C.

REVIEW.

MY NEIGHBOUR'S LANDMARK.*

BY FREDERICK VERINDER.

The Bible and the Land Question has for some twenty years been the subject of many lectures given by Mr. Verinder in all parts of the country. This little book shows what a large amount of careful study and investigation has been gone through for the making of those lectures. To be fully appreciated it should be read twice, taking first the text and disregarding the notes, so that the reader may get a vivid impression of the argument as a whole; and then a second time making a careful study of the notes which are brimful of interest and information.

The appeal is made chiefly to those who still believe that in the Bible we have a record of the gradual education of one small section destined to educate the world, by its insistence not on Beauty or Philosophy, nor on Law and Order, but on Righteousness or Justice. To some, of course, the appeal on this account will be futile; if, they will say, Mr. Verinder has proved that land monopoly was abhorred by the Hebrew people, if the history of Israel is full of indignant protests against the evils caused by the attempt to deny that all land was held on trust, if the Bible is against landlordism—so much the better for the landlords; for, owing largely it must be admitted to the folly of those who made much of it in the past, the Bible—at any rate the Old Testament—is discredited. The modern young Tory, clever, sceptical, will rejoice to find that the Land Valuation Clauses in Lloyd George's Budget can gather quite reasonable support from the Hebrew Land Laws. The Hebrew prophets are narrow, uncomfortable, fanatical people; if they can be brought in in defence of the Budget so much the worse for the Budget. At one time, as Mr. Verinder indeed points out, to argue of any reform that it was contrary to the Bible was one of the stages through which the reform had to go before its final acceptance; but with many now the point of view has changed, and some quite frankly, and others with a superior supercilious sneer, will be glad to find a reform they detest associated with a Book they despise or ignore.

It is not so, however, I am convinced, with the common people, with "the populace," with the ordinary men and women: they indeed are long ago in revolt against those who would have them regard the Bible as a collection of infallible texts, but they have no kind of doubt about its supreme import-

* My Neighbour's Landmark, by Fredk. Verinder: Publisher, Andrew Melrose, Ltd., 3, York Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Paper 1/-, cloth 2/-.

ance, and vaguely perhaps, but most strongly, they believe that its message is liberating and emancipating. This belief is very likely founded on a general and superficial knowledge of the Bible: it has no critical or detailed support. It is to such people, the vast majority of the reading population—and the good work of the elementary school teachers is now increasing the number of the reading population enormously—that Mr. Verinder's book will come as a delightful revelation.

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted, but the rich in that he is made low, were the words which every Church of England minister had to read on the Sunday after the passing of Lloyd George's beneficent Budget.

Mr. Verinder shows how these words of the first Bishop of Jerusalem were embodied in the early Hebrew legislation and enforced by the Hebrew prophets; he shows how the abolition of land monopoly is the main thing necessary now, as it was then, to make them effective.

Every Bible Class throughout the country should take this little book as their text-book during the coming winter: it will appeal alike to the simplest and the most learned members. No minister of religion met by the question why make so much of the old Hebrew Books in your weekly or daily worship could find a better answer than that which is given in these few pages.

Those, and there are many of them, who say that religion has only to do with the personal or family life, will have after reading this book to cease reading to the people at their time of worship large portions of the sacred Scriptures. Those who know that land monopoly is the main cause of poverty and have suffered many things from the religious advocates of the present evil system will find in this book an armoury stored with weapons for the destruction of their opponents' arguments and for the winning over of all those opponents who are men of goodwill.

There is still in this country a vast population interested in the Bible: every year now there will be a growing number interested in the land question: this book must be read by both these great masses of people, and being so read it will help to create an atmosphere in which the great reform for which we are working will be the more easily carried out. There is in this book no quoting of texts with the assumption this must be done because the Bible orders it: there is no assuming that the detailed legislation of a tiny pastoral community centuries ago can be applied to England now: but there is clear proof that the principles of the greatest nation the world has ever seen—if that nation is greatest which has had most influence on other nations—are principles which can be applied to England now, and that the reasoned and long-discussed arguments which have led us to tax Land Values in order to get the great means of production out of the hands of the monopolists into the hands of the people have full support from the Hebrew polity.

I put it thus cautiously: but those, and there are still many of them, who believe that the great Hebrew teachers, and the whole education of the nation, was pre-eminently a revelation of the will of God—or if you like of the Power, not ourselves. Who makes for righteousness—will find an encouragement and inspiration in this book of Mr. Verinder's which will be more to them than a mere historical coincidence.

And in the admirable last chapter on "Justice," Mr. Verinder shows how He Who fulfilled all Jewish Law—Who on consideration and looking the facts in the face we acknowledge as the Eternal Word of God—insists on Justice, and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, as the great thing to be aimed at. Any who think they can get away from the need for abolishing land monopoly by suggesting that Christ only cared for personal religion will find this chapter difficult to answer.

I congratulate Mr. Verinder on his valuable contribution to our better understanding of the Bible, and I urge all who know that land monopoly is the main cause of poverty to spread the light by circulating this book. STEWART D. HEADLAM.

SOUTH AFRICA.

LAND VALUES TAXATION IN JOHANNESBURG.

Reuter reports remarkable labour victories in the Johannesburg Municipal Elections which took place on the 25th October, on the proportional representation principle. The chief plank in the Labour Party programme was the rating of site values, in support of which the following stirring manifesto was issued during the campaign:—

I.—RATING OF SITE VALUES ONLY.

To-day you pay rates not only on your land but also on your house. The effect of this is that township companies and land