

agers. In this way the owners of central and developed areas would get off in receipt of real advantages paid for by the holders on outskirts only. This grudging concession from the old law by which owners in any case paid nothing is an endowment of central magnates and so plausible that it needs stern supervision.

But Snowden has the country at his feet, and he knows, and his colleagues know (for they have all kept the issue in the background so far), that it is the Georgeism in the budget which has done it, and the exceptions give Parliamentary and not public support.

In the absence of the finance bill we have no close details of the Cabinet plans—it is fairly safe to say that any modification of its provisions since the budget speech will be our way unless the Cabinet would rather fall than respond to the public will.

It seems we will have by 1932-33 a valuation of all land except agricultural land used for agriculture, and mineral land and possibly units of less than £120 in land value. On this a tax of one penny in the pound will be levied, with no graduation or further exemption, as an assertion of public right to the land; and the hope is expressed that municipal taxation will be collected on the same valuation in due course. These "local rates" are almost the heaviest in the world, and a special burden on British trade which Mr. Winston Churchill's diversion of a part to a tax on motor spirit has done nothing to alleviate.

Properties are to be valued as "units" at per separate holding, rightly or wrongly. There is no open opposition at all—it is now, as on November 12, 1918, when one has to fear allies far more than the enemy from whom a nightmare of misdirection is lifted!

The bold, bare, enormous wrong of land monopoly continues, and the corrupting force of its able defenders is as strong as ever. What line the enemies of Georgeism may take will soon be revealed. Meantime the organizers of the International Union and the fighters of the Parliamentary Group are in a position to exploit far greater advances from the new front, and it may be to correct some of the faulty dispositions of indispensable associates.

MERVYN J. STEWART.

THE lad from Cowley, Yorkshire, who came from a sick-bed to expound the nation's bank account shows the indomitable spirit that is characteristic of the nation itself.—*British American*, Chicago, Ill.

ALL England is in an uproar. In other words England, and some of our own folks, are all excited about something that has been in effect here for years. Clearly this revolutionary tax which has stirred all England is old stuff to Americans.—Camden, (N. J.) *Post*.

THE Chancellor's proposal is merely an entering wedge for higher taxation after the principle is established.

—*Detroit (Mich.) News*.

Honor Alfred Bishop Mason

ON Wednesday evening, May 6, the Manhattan Single Tax Club tendered a dinner at the Vaudeville Club, West 46th Street, New York City, to Alfred Bishop Mason, one-time president of the club and now a resident of Florence, Italy. About fifty assembled to greet the visitor after his ten years' absence from the city; and it was singularly enjoyable to hear from a number of friends who recalled the old days.

It was difficult to believe that the handsome and dignified gentleman who spoke so charmingly for nearly an hour was upwards of eighty years of age. Certainly he does not look it.

He told us of the Italy of today, of which after ten years' residence there, he has so intimate a knowledge. He referred to the reforms instituted by Mussolini and told what the dictator had done for the country in exterminating the camorra and establishing schools and hospitals, in providing amusement parks and other social advantages for children and adults.

It was recalled by a number of the speakers that four years before "Progress and Poverty" appeared this man had written a political economy which ran through many editions. He had not at first made the discovery that land values should supply the needs of revenue, but in later editions announced his belief in the Single Tax.

Mr. Mason has written many books, his latest, in which he appears as editor, being entitled "Walpole's England," a judicious selection from the correspondence of the greatest letter writer in English literature.

James R. Brown presided and the speakers who responded to calls were Charles H. Ingersoll, Frederick C. Leubuscher, Dr. M. M. Miller, Lawson Purdy, Oscar Geiger, Charles T. Root, Walter Fairchild, Dr. Andrews and Joseph Dana Miller.

A letter from Poultney Bigelow was read in part as follows:

"It is now just half a century since I first read 'Progress and Poverty.' The effect of that book was electrical, and its author became to me the latest addition to the glorious chain of thinkers—of reformers—of martyrs in the cause of truth. * * * His fame grows from day to day while those who defamed him are now forgotten. Would that I could be with you among those who are doing honor to Alfred Bishop Mason, but my wife's health precludes even sharing so great an honor as the one extended to faith-fully yours, POULTNEY BIGELOW."

The meeting was prolonged after the dinner by those who desired to shake the hand of our distinguished visitor and bid him Godspeed on his journey home.

WHATEVER the outcome, the status of great landed estates and privileges is apparently in course of great change. The lords will fight hard but the battle promises to be in vain.—*Dayton, (Ohio) Herald*.