

YORKSHIRE AND NORTHERN COUNTIES' LAND VALUES LEAGUE: Fred Skirrow, Secretary, 71, North Street, Keighley.

Aug. 3rd.—Meeting addressed by the Secretary at Adult Fellowship, Chapel Lane, Bradford.

„ 10th.—The Secretary addressed meeting for the Manchester League.

„ 17th.—A meeting was addressed by the Secretary in East End Park, Leeds.

We are glad to report that the demand for literature is growing. About 2,000 copies of *HOUSE FAMINE AND THE LAND BLOCKADE* have been disposed of by sale, and about another 2,000 copies have been sent by post to various political and social reform movements in Yorkshire and the North.

We have to record with deepest regret the untimely death of W. K. Brymer, which took place at Inverness on August 14th in consequence of a motor accident. Mr. Brymer was a native of Kirriemuir, and early took a prominent part in the political life of the locality. He served on the Parish Council and Town Council, and in the latter capacity was the leading spirit in a controversy with one of the local landlords, which eventuated in a valuable stretch of common land being vested in the burgh.

Later he settled in Glasgow, where he entered into the employment of the Corporation. He was indefatigable in political work. He was one of the founders of the Young Scots Society, and was at various times President of the Maryhill Branch and of the Western Council of the organization. He was well known all over the West of Scotland as an effective radical and convincing speaker, mingling wit and pathos with his argument. Informed on all public questions, he was yet never content to deal with political issues in a one-sided and partial fashion. He was never content until he had laid bare the essentials of a controversy, and as a keen student of Henry George's philosophy he delighted to expound the supreme importance of the land question in dealing with economic problems.

Mr. Brymer was the founder of the Scottish Rural Workers' Friendly Society, and during the last few years was the agent of the Shell Oil Company for Inverness and the North of Scotland.

He was not only a ready and brilliant speaker, but he could also wield a forceful pen, though his contributions in this direction were often masked under a *nom de plume*. Probably his last contribution to our propaganda was during a visit to London a few weeks ago, when he spoke in Battersea Park on the land question with a vigour and lucidity that would have delighted our readers could they have heard him, and which at all times characterized his speeches.

We have lost a true and faithful colleague who rendered invaluable service to our cause without thought of reward or advantage to himself beyond the consciousness of work well done, and in his private capacity a loyal, upright, and generous friend.

The charge of setting class against class has always been made by those who wish to disguise their own indefensible advantages by calumniating the efforts of those who discover abuses and strive to rectify them.
—Thorold Rogers.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

I regret to state Mr. W. K. Brymer was killed on August 14th by a motor car dashing into a motor lorry in which he was riding. He was manager of the Inverness Branch of the Shell Transport Company for the past three years.

Prior to then he was a Free Trade and Single Tax propagandist. He was a splendid orator and generally held his audience spell-bound. In his hands political economy became a real live force to be practically applied. To him it was a bitter disappointment that the leaders who pretended to represent the democracy forsook their principles. Of him it may be said he "played the game" and died with an abiding faith in the justice and ultimate triumph of the reforms he stood for during all his career.

The Secretary, taking advantage of the fine weather last month, toured parts of Ross-shire, Inverness-shire and Nairnshire, distributed literature, and made a few converts to land reform.

I take this opportunity of thanking the kind friends who wrote so sympathetically when the report of my boy being missing appeared in *LAND VALUES* last year. He "will return no more," and lies somewhere in France in an unknown grave.

CANADA

Hon. T. A. Crerar has resigned his position as Federal Minister of Agriculture, giving as his reason his inability to support the tariff and taxation proposals of the Government. In speaking on the question in Parliament Mr. Crerar declared that "he had never been able to see any virtue in protectionist principles. Resources could not be developed by imposing burdens upon the machinery and equipment necessary to bring forth production." He pointed out that the returned soldier who went on the land would be heavily burdened by the present tariff tax. If he had \$2,000 in cash to buy equipment, \$400 of this would go in tariff taxes. In the old and rich agricultural province of Ontario, he said there were thousands of abandoned farms and normal agricultural production was less than it was thirty years ago. Rural population had declined. He attributed this to the tariff policy.

Mr. Crerar advocated land value taxation as a means of permitting a material reduction in tariff taxes. This, he said, "did not mean a land tax. The idea underlying this proposal was that values created by the community should be taken for the community." He said that it was estimated that a 1 per cent. tax on land values would produce a revenue of \$75,000,000 or \$80,000,000.—*The Single Taxer*, Winnipeg, Man., July, 1919.

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town

Chas. H. Lamb, P.O. Box 94, Cape Town, writes: Councillor Buchanan, a member of the Land Values League, recently submitted a resolution to the City Council in favour of site value rating which was referred to the consideration of a joint meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. A deputation from the League waited upon the Committee and submitted a statement of the case. The Committee reported in favour of the reform, and after discussion an adjournment was agreed to, the date of the adjourned debate being left in the Mayor's hands to fix. This adjourned meeting was held on July 14th. To be effective a majority vote of the whole Council of 42 members was necessary so that 22 votes had to be secured. Only 27 members attended the meeting, but a great success was achieved, 23 votes for and only four against. The question has now to be referred to a public meeting of ratepayers, when a poll may be demanded.

We have since had cable information from Mr. Lamb that the public meeting has been held and the question has been referred to a poll of ratepayers. We await further advices with interest.