

SCOTTISH LIBERALS REORGANISE

Under a revised constitution the Scottish Liberal Federation gives place to the SCOTTISH LIBERAL PARTY, by which individual membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the principles, and Liberal associations and other Liberal organisations in Scotland can affiliate.

This change was decided upon at the Annual Business Meeting of the Federation, held in Edinburgh on March 15. The following day the newly constituted "Scottish Liberal Party" held its Conference and issued a Manifesto declaring "the propositions upon which the Liberalism of to-day will be securely founded," viz.:—

1. The only criterion of human progress is that all social and economic change should lead to greater individual freedom. Freedom is a positive spiritual conception which expresses the deepest purpose of life. No solution of any political problem is the correct solution unless it is consistent with the development of positive human freedom.

2. Freedom, being an individual and personal goal, can only be achieved in terms of the individual person. The conception of freedom is inapplicable to organised groups, institutions, or corporations except in so far as they are thought of as an aggregate of individuals.

3. The most important social aspects of the concept of freedom are:—

(a) Freedom of mind and conscience, or cultural freedom.

(b) Freedom in the choice of occupation and freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's own labour, skill or ingenuity.

(c) Freedom to participate effectively in the choice of Government and to participate effectively in the control of government.

(d) Freedom in the choice of personal satisfactions, which involves freedom in the exchange of the products of labour, skill or ingenuity, and freedom of movement.

(e) Freedom to use all natural resources unrestricted by private monopoly.

4. It is a condition of the development of freedom that there should exist in society no privileged classes or individuals, no monopolies which are not effectively controlled by the whole community and no inequality of opportunity as between one individual and another. All values in land and other natural resources created by the community should be taken in taxation for the benefit of the community.

5. It is a further condition of the development of freedom that the functions of the State should be within the comprehension of the ordinary citizen, and that there should not exist within the State a class which rules, either by virtue of economic privilege or by the delegation of governmental function.

6. No society other than a community of free individuals can be a healthy and stable society, and it therefore follows that only such a society can achieve economic success. The real condition for economic progress and the banishment of poverty and war is therefore the establishment of such a society. Attempts to solve economic problems without regard to human freedom will end inevitably in material as well as spiritual disaster.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Conference was one on Housing and Rating affirming that: "The Scottish Liberal Party deplors the failure of the Government to cope with Housing and declares that this problem in Scotland cannot be solved without the burden of Rating being removed from Enterprise and Development, and local revenue derived from a tax on site value."

Head offices of Party are at 26, Frederick Street, Edinburgh, 2.

At the Urban District Councils elections taking place in April, Mr. Stephen Martin, one of the hon. secretaries of the Liberal Liberty League, is the Liberal candidate in the Lamorbey West ward of Chislehurst and Sidcup. Mr. Martin has been in the forefront of the local political and social life of the district for fourteen years and with his interest in all progressive causes, championing the freedom of trade and the freedom of production, he has never let opportunity slip to advocate reform in the unjust rating system. Needless to say that in this contest "Rate land values, take rates off houses and other buildings and improvements" has first place in his programme.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Liberal Liberty League held its Annual Meeting in the Livingstone Hall, Westminster, on February 28. Reports were received from the Executive officers and the Committee was elected for the ensuing year, including the officers, viz.: Chairman, Mr. Ashley Mitchell; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Atholl Robertson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Wilfrid Harrison; Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. C. H. Batty, F. Dupuis and S. Martin. The General Council, consisting of about 100 members, was also reappointed. The new *Declaration of Principle* which had been circulated beforehand to all members, was unanimously approved and released for publication.

Following the business session, a public demonstration was addressed by Messrs. Wilfrid Harrison, A. W. Madsen and T. Atholl Robertson, Mr. Ashley Mitchell presiding, and many took part in the subsequent discussion. It is an encouragement to the League to see the excellent notice of the meeting in the *British Weekly* which was personally represented by its Editor. In another column we report Mr. Harrison's address in which he spoke on the principles laid down in the new Declaration.

Other recent publications are the statements on "Purpose and Policy" and on "Full Opportunity for Employment." The League rents office accommodation at 4, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1 and its officers will be happy to provide all information about its work to interested inquirers.

Mr. A. G. Bradburn, Vice-President of the Portsmouth Pharmacists' Association, was among the many who regretted inability to attend the Livingstone Hall meeting. He wrote: "I am in support of any action taken to (a) combat the pernicious and immoral system of taxation which penalises the honest, industrious, and prudent citizen in order to provide for the shiftless and improvident; (b) endeavour to reform the present system of Land Taxation whereby putting land to better use, and the improvement of property thereon, immediately produces an additional burden of taxation in the form of increased rates; (c) relieve private enterprise of the onus of acting (under penalty) as unpaid tax collectors while at the same time being called upon to foot the cost of extra staff to deal with P.A.Y.E., Food and Clothing Coupons, N.H.I. contributions, to say nothing of financing the Treasury by paying Purchase Tax on goods before they reach the consumer; (d) reduce the ramifications of an immoral system of a totalitarian bureaucracy which hampers, inhibits, prohibits, and frustrates every effort of honest endeavour by those who know how in their own particular sphere, to get to work to clear up the sorry mess our once-splendid nation is in to-day; (e) bring home to men and women of Britain that freedom from fear and want can only come to a nation that recognises the providential Fatherhood of God in the Brotherhood of Man and realises that behind things temporal stand things eternal."

Mr. F. C. R. Douglas, M.P., who has been a member of the London County Council since 1934, and for the past six years Chairman of its Finance Committee, did not stand for re-election at the elections in March. His retiral is occasioned by the increasing pressure of his Parliamentary duties.

Codnor, Derbyshire, will have a reader of *Land & Liberty* as a candidate for the Heanor U.D.C. (Codnor Ward). He is Mr. T. W. Amos who at his adoption meeting declared his whole-hearted adherence to the policy of Land Value Rating. Mr. Amos is the nominee of the local Labour Party. He has received pledges of support from the Ripley Co-operative Society and Co-operative Party.

The economic class at Waingroves, Derbyshire, conducted by Mr. G. Musson, resumed during the week beginning March 18, after having been interrupted by illness. Mr. F. Grace, who is associated with it, addressed the Ripley Co-op Women's Guild in February and good reports are to hand of the impression made.

Meetings addressed by members of the Manchester Land Values League include Weaste Co-operative Guild, Mrs. Catterall; Woman