

fathers lived in the early period of that industrial revolution. The present system was utterly illogical and untenable. Mr. Fisher, the Education Minister, had promised a sweeping measure of educational reform. He had been up and down the country on a great educational mission, telling the local authorities that, with the promise of the Treasury, when his Bill found a place on the Statute Book, it would be liberally financed by public money voted in the House of Commons. But what was going to happen to this money? It would go into the hands of the land-owners unless they were extremely careful. Mr. Fisher's scheme would mean that new schools would have to be provided, and they would have to go out beyond the present fringe of occupation and get agricultural land, rated at 30s. to £2 an acre, for their schools. It might happen that the land would go up to £800 or £900 per acre, and so the bulk of the money voted by the public would not go to the people at all unless some other system was devised. There never was a time when there was such a demand for scientific products. In the mining valleys they had huge masses of shale and waste material brought up from the pits. Somebody might come along one of these days and these great, ugly heaps of waste material would be required for some scientific purposes; land which was now idle or rated at a couple of pounds per acre would be wanted for some scientific developments, and the landlord would stand to gain every time. The only fault against the advocates of taxation of land values was the modesty of their demands. Each generation had its allotted work in the great plan of amelioration and reform. In the Middle Ages the great Civil War laid the feudal system in ruins, but on the ruins there grew up another system worse than before. It had locked up the land, the reservoir of all their wants, and if their friends would come into the movement they would see that they had a great vision, charged with hope, with the spirit of Henry George in the background, hovering. It was up to them to see that something was done to break down this vicious system. (Applause.)

Mr. SAMUEL FISHER, J.P., supported the resolution. He said he was brought up on the land and was a living example of what the previous speakers had been talking about. He maintained that if they erected good houses on the land and made it worth while for the labourers in the country to remain on the land they would do so. They must make the work attractive.

His father and mother lived in a house that a gentleman would not keep his pig in. He was sick of it all and did exactly what Mr. Outhwaite told them—went to work on the railway, and that was his first start in life. Perhaps he helped to keep wages down. (Laughter.) They know how they had been hampered in Cardiff on account of the land laws, and how factories and works generally had been driven away because of the iniquitous exactions that were placed upon the people who wanted to erect a factory. They wanted the landlord to say, "This is the price of the land, and I am prepared to sell it at that price?" and tax him on that. (Applause.)

Mr. OUTHWAITE dealt with a number of questions at the close, and the resolution was carried, two only voting against it.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for presiding, on the motion of Dr. Dundas White.

EVENING MEETING

At the close of the Conference close upon one hundred delegates remained to tea, and afterwards to an informing discussion lasting fully three hours. Mr. Raffan again occupied the chair. The following resolution, moved by W. J. Thomas (Sailors' and Firemen's Union), seconded by J. Jones (Cardiff Trades and Labour Council), was unanimously adopted:—

That this meeting, composed largely of Trades Unionists of Cardiff and South Wales, protests against any attempt being made to pay royalties to landowners for petroleum as proposed in the "Petroleum Bill," and demands that the Government abide by the decision of the House of Commons, as shown when the Bill came before it.

Thereafter the questions and speeches turned wholly on to housing, unemployment, wages, and to the merits of a tax on land values as the first essential step to the solution of these and other labour problems. The interest of all present was sustained to the end and, even when the more formal proceedings were over, sundry conversations for long enough were carried on in numerous corners of the room and throughout the hotel.

On Sunday afternoon a special meeting was held in one of the large public rooms of the hotel to consider the position of the movement for the Taxation of Land Values in relation to politics and political parties. Mr. J. Dundas White, M.P., presided over a good attendance, quite a number coming from outside districts. Mr. John Paul opened the discussion, which was maintained for over two hours.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Skirrow for the success of his organisation of the Conference, coupled with the names of Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Davies. Mr. Skirrow, in reply, said this campaign had brought the movement and himself very many new friends who were eager to keep going on. He had been asked to return, and he would, gladly, but this rather lay with the United Committee and his own Yorkshire League. Mrs. Davies on her own behalf, and on behalf of her husband, urged the United Committee to concentrate on South Wales. In reply, Mr. Paul said they had very many similar appeals from different parts of the country, all very pressing, and what they could do depended largely, if not wholly, on the measure of financial support they could command at this time. The Committee were keenly alive to the opportunity there was in this field for sustained effort, and would do their best to stand with the League in all its undertakings.

The usual vote of thanks brought this friendly and enthusiastic meeting to a close.

We have to record with deep regret the death of Corporal Matthew Wilson Paul, who died of wounds on 9th November at the Canadian Hospital, Taplow, aged 29, third son of Mrs. Paul, Deanfield Road, Bo'ness. A graduate of Glasgow University, a school teacher by profession, he was an able and a devoted single taxer, whose chief purpose in life was to make known to others the truth he saw and acknowledged. The movement for the taxation of land values is much the poorer for his untimely death. He had a profound knowledge of Henry George's philosophy and an intimate acquaintance with economics as it is taught at universities. His capacity as a teacher was quickly recognised when he applied himself to any lecture or class work. Five years ago he conducted a successful Political Economy Class at the rooms of the Scottish League. His appearance at the League from the first marked him out as one who had come to add strength and dignity to the movement. His pen was equally fluent and convincing. We recall in particular a fragment of one of his lectures, published in LAND VALUES (1912-13, page 59), and a series of articles which appeared in the BO'NESS JOURNAL. Personally he had a pleasing and attractive manner, and could, without seeming to make any effort, win the attention of friend and foe for any talk on social problems. He was a student, at home with a book or a friendly argument on some involved point in economics, yet ready at any moment to take his stand at some street corner to plead for the liberation of the land by taxing land values. We join with all who knew and loved our good comrade in offering our deepest sympathy to his sorrowing mother in her irreparable loss.