

Liberal Member (Mr. Hedges) moved a resolution with regard to the relations of Local and Imperial Taxation. In reply to the mover the Chancellor of the Exchequer said :

"He did not propose to discuss the problem that evening, but it was clear that before they could make any progress in the matter they must have a proper system of valuation. (Ministerial cheers.) It was no use going on doling out money here and there. The present valuations, as between different areas, were not conducted on any uniform, but on a haphazard and inequitable system. For the purposes of local expenditure they would have to rely first upon an improved system of rating, and next upon taxation of site values." (Ministerial cheers.)

This statement coming from Mr. Asquith is one of the most cheering signs of the times, for he has not previously given us reason to expect very much assistance from him.

On Wednesday (19th) the Scottish Valuation Bill was up for second reading. This was moved by Mr. Thomas Shaw (Lord Advocate for Scotland), who delivered a very strong and lucid speech in support of the Bill. He pointed out that Scotland was already half a century in advance of England on the question, because in 1854 they established an annual valuation of all the land of Scotland, which proved of enormous value as a National Statistic.

All the Bill proposed to do was to add another column to the return, showing the capital unimproved value of the land.

Mr. Shaw went on to advocate the claims of the Bill as a first step towards the solution not merely of the rating question but of some other social problems. He made it clear that if the Lords again rejected the Bill the Government would find means of making their will prevail by embodying the proposals in a money Bill which the Lords must accept or reject in toto.

Mr. Harold Cox (Liberal) moved the rejection of the Bill and was seconded by another Liberal (Mr. Soares).

These gentlemen carried with them the support of three other so-called Liberals and 94 Tories. The vote was:

For Mr. Cox's amendment..... 99
Against.....868

Government majority against
rejection.....264

This shows an increase of 46 in the majority in favor of the Bill over what was secured for it last year.

The lead in the opposition to the Bill was thus taken by two Liberals, and strangely enough Mr. Cox, who was by far the strongest opponent of the Bill, was at one time in favor of the principle of taxing land values, as may be seen by a reference to the files of the *New York Standard* of December 21st, 1889.

Mr. Cox is now against the principle because (I presume) as he says that "he falls to see any difference between owning a pair of breeches and owning land."

Mr. Ure wound up the debate in favor of the Bill in his usual thorough and effective manner. What the House of Landlords will do next week when the Bill goes before them remains to be seen. As their Lordships own one-third of the land of the country the temptation to again reject the Bill will no doubt be very strong.

F. SKIRROW.

LONDON, Eng.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

ORGANIZATION STARTED AND PERMANENT ORGANIZER APPOINTED.

With the December issue the organ of the Single Tax movement in West Australia, *Taxation*, suspends publication. This has been done in pursuance of the plan of organization that has been adopted, entailing the expenses of a paid organizer who will devote his entire time from now on in "gathering together the scattered Single Taxers of the State, in making converts to Single Tax doctrine, and in knitting together the whole body of believers into a solid phalanx of voters that shall be capable of influencing elections, and, through them, the policy and legislation of the State."

We are sorry to see our virile little contemporary suspend, but it had to be either organization or newspaper, and the choice was made. The man on whom the duties

of organizer has devolved is R. E. White, and he is prepared to give his whole life to the movement. *Taxation* says of him:

"In our opinion Mr. White is the ablest Single Taxer in the State available for such a mission. He has proved himself a thorough student of sociology from its every viewpoint. Not alone is he master of Single Tax literature, but he is better conversant with the literature of socialism than any socialist of State repute."

The treasurer is Mr. Donald Murray. Already Goldfield Single Taxers have pledged £140 per annum, and the work will be pushed with energy. Our friends in West Australia will find a journalistic medium in *THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW* which will acquaint our workers with the progress that must follow organized effort. In the meantime we congratulate them on the appreciation of the fact that more effective work may be done through co-operation and organization.

WORK OF THE MONROE LECTURE BUREAU.

It will probably be of interest to the readers of the *REVIEW* to know something of the great work being done for our cause by Mr. Frederick H. Monroe, of Chicago. Mr. Monroe has kept the Single Tax orator, John Z. White, in the field for years. Beginning with last year he tried the experiment of giving a full Lyceum course and covered the leading cities from the East to the Middle West. And these were regular paid courses, like all other Lyceum courses. Though the pay in some cases was a negative quantity, still it was a business proposition and called for money. It was not a "free show."

So far as I know this is the first attempt to demonstrate that the people would be glad to hear something that is really of importance and well worth hearing, if they can get the chance. So far as I know this is the first attempt to prove that since the people must have lectures and will have lectures—and will pay out thousands of dollars annually to get lectures—they would prefer hearing men who have ideas, faith and conviction to those who have only a few sickly sentiments to hand out. Mr.

Monroe shows the courage of his convictions. Finding that the thought and philosophy of Henry George had been of such incalculable service to him, not only as a solution of our great industrial problems but also as a guide and inspiration for higher living, he assumed that it would also be of great service to others.

Last year his course of six numbers included two or three regular entertainments, such as a concert, a cartoonist, an impersonator, etc. And there is much argument in favor of such a combination. But this year he left out the entertainments and gave a course of solid lectures, and I think to still greater satisfaction to the public. In many ways the course this year was more satisfactory than last year. It was hailed everywhere as being the best course of lectures that had ever been given. Secretaries of Y. M. C. A.'s were particularly enthusiastic. I think nowhere did I hear a complaint in reference to any previous number. I always made my inquiry before lecturing and so do not know what was said afterwards. At the present rate of progress it can be but a few years until Mr. Monroe's courses will be recognized as the very foremost on the American platform. They will be known as the lectures "of quality."

Mr. Monroe had in the field this year Bolton Hall, Peter Witt, Hardinge, Brown, Bengough, Long (the Socialist), and your humble servant. Two of the numbers on the programme were debates: one on Municipal Ownership and the other on Individualism vs. Socialism. The remaining numbers on the course were lectures.

The subjects of the lectures this year were most decidedly reform subjects. And our aim was not to conceal the faith that is in us, but to reveal it. The subject upon which I lectured most frequently last year was the "Power of the Trusts." This year my time was about equally divided between "Direct Legislation" and "Land, Labor, Wealth." The latter is my fundamental Single Tax lecture. It deals with "The Land Question" first, last, and all the time. And yet in many cities newspaper comments were quite flattering. In some cities nearly two columns were quoted from my lecture. This occurred most frequently in reference to "Direct Legislation." I make this reference to my own subjects simply as illustrat-

ing the character of the propositions advocated in this course of lectures.

Perhaps I can be pardoned for saying that only a month of my time was given this year to Mr. Monroe and that the rest of my time was controlled by the Brockway Lyceum Bureau, of Pittsburg. But even here I found a strong demand for my industrial lectures. While the lecture recommended by the advance agents was my "How to be happy," yet "Land, Labor, Wealth" was frequently called for and I think in Ohio it was called for in the majority of cases. I mention this simply as showing the tendencies of the times to demand thought along fundamental lines. And also as pointing out the greatest field for propaganda work, because at these lectures you have the literary and thinking people of every community.

LEE FRANCIS LYBARGER.

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