

printed word as a means of education. His greatest enthusiasm was for the work of the Land Values Publication Department, which he founded and directed, with its headquarters at the League Office, 376, Strand. He considered mere lecturing (though he did his share of it while health permitted) as of comparatively little use except as an introduction to the literature of the movement. A well-stocked literature table was a necessary complement to the speaker on the platform. I remember that he once addressed a very small meeting of railwaymen—about a dozen—taking as much pains with his lecture as if he were addressing a large gathering, and sold them "George's books" to the amount of about 16s. 6d.! "A lecture

without literature is," he used to say, "like salt without meat: stimulating, perhaps, but not satisfying." And, through the Land Values Publication Department, "he being dead, yet speaketh." Many an active worker in our movement to-day owes his first impulse to one of the pamphlets which Mr. Berens was the means of placing within his reach.

To his gracious helpmate, whose devoted nursing soothed his last months of painful illness, the deep sympathy of all his many friends in the great movement he served so well, will be abundantly accorded. Mrs. Berens knows that we all feel for her and with her in the great loss which is ours as well as hers.

FREDK. VERINDER.

IN MEMORIAM

What shall we say of our friend and colleague who has gone to his long rest?

Our people at home and abroad know him by his works; by his informing books, and by the reviews and expositions of our policy which for so many long years appeared in our columns above the familiar signature L. H. B. These services so well maintained were for long years a feature of LAND VALUES, and helped in no small degree to make our monthly journal the guide and inspiration of all organised effort within our circle. They were given these services with gladness and enthusiasm, for Lewis Berens regarded this little paper and its work as of prime importance. To him it was undoubtedly the best and biggest instrument in our possession for the promotion of our ideas; it was the agency which brought the forces of the organised movement together and kept them together. Through it he could speak in freedom to our public; he could suggest what should be done in the way of propaganda; he could lay bare some fallacy or clear away some doubts as the case might be. From the first he realised the power and the influence we possessed in LAND VALUES, and he never lost sight of this vantage ground. The journal was his constant care, and amid all his brilliant work with his pen he never considered himself better occupied than when devoting himself to its pages.

Lewis Berens lived for the movement. With a rare spirit he spent the best years of his life in fostering its growth, and as it developed and widened out into new spheres of activity he but kept the harder at work. Every step forward into new fields of effort found him ready. There was a need for some reprint of an old story, for some additional literature, or for some restatement of the principles upon which the movement rested. He was a vigilant, active-minded crusader, but he was under no delusion as to the difficulties we had to encounter. He felt deeply and was impelled in all he strove to accomplish by the vision of "peace, health, salvation universal." If ever a man faithfully responded to the call of a great truth that man was Lewis Berens. He knew where he was going full well, and he knew the giants in the way. He knew because he had learned by experience the full force of Henry George's words when he wrote:—

Experience has taught me (for I have been for some years endeavouring to popularise this proposition) that wherever the idea of concentrating all taxation upon Land Values finds lodgment sufficient to induce consideration, it invariably makes way, but that there are few of the classes most to be benefited by it, who at first, or even for a long time afterwards, see its full significance and power. It is difficult for working men to get over the idea that there is a real antagonism between capital and labour. It is difficult for small farmers and homestead owners to get over the idea that to put all taxes on the value of land would be to unduly tax them. It is difficult for both classes to get over the idea that to exempt capital from taxation would be to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer.

These ideas spring from confused thought. But behind ignorance and prejudice there is a powerful interest, which has hitherto dominated literature, education and opinion. A great wrong always dies hard, and the great wrong which in every civilised country condemns the masses of men to poverty and want, will not die without a bitter struggle.

Lewis Berens faced the ignorance, the prejudice, and the powerful interest as a man should. His case was founded in freedom and justice, and that was sufficient for him. The odds against us as these were revealed to him in all their strength and wickedness but nerved him to the task. Once he knew the cause of social wrong he knew the cure, and this he unflinchingly taught: the consequences to himself and to his prospects could take care of themselves. Henceforth he was a teacher in the cause of progress. He sought the society and the co-operation of others like-minded to himself, and set out with high courage on his life's work. As a teacher of first principles bearing on the social problem he was at his best. He knew his own case and strengthened himself always with a knowledge of the case of his opponent. He was familiar, as few writers and lecturers are, with the writings of the masters of Political Economy, and he had a speaking acquaintance with the minor writers as well. He was at home in any abstract argument on economics and could readily verify a statement put forth in the name of a recognised authority. He was a keen student also of contemporary history and philosophy, and followed closely the views of writers who devoted themselves in any degree to the study of social problems. He would go patiently through a book containing or professing to contain some new up-to-date explanation. He would master the point of view of the author and entertain you with a vivid account of it and what it amounted to without any thought whatever of the industry he had expended in the effort. He held to his own faith, but he never failed to give a hearing to anyone with a different view to his own, especially if he found that view set in cold type.

In the field of politics he was not so much concerned. He could, when he was thoroughly interested, give a sound judgment on some passing event, but neither the judgment nor the circumstances of it would dwell with him long. He had sympathy with the politicians, though he had little patience at times with some of their gyrations and compromises. His mission was to explain how privilege and monopoly stood in the way of the emancipation of the race. This was the bent of his mind. Until the people understood the full and true meaning of social justice, until they were awakened to the need for radical land reform, it was little use looking to Parliament. He did not despise the work of the politicians. He looked on with approval at the effort made by co-workers in that direction; but it was not his job. He was out to explain, untrammelled by party politics, or, for that matter, by politics apart from considerations of party, the cause of

bad social conditions. This to him was the work that was pressing most, for he was convinced that until people knew and understood the cause of their misery there was little hope of relief from Parliament. To put it another way, the more agitation, the more knowledge there was in the country for land reform, the better the hope of Parliament moving on these lines.

On this firm ground Lewis Berens stood, and there he remained doing his own work his own way, and caring only that his fellow-citizens should be brought with knowledge and conviction to a recognition of the truth he boldly proclaimed. He was a genuine, guileless man: in some ways as sweet and attractive as a child. He would come unexpectedly in among a group of his associates engaged for the time in considering some political obstacle, listen to what was being said for a time, and then quietly proceed to annex the writer of these words to listen to some new and urgent need of the publication department. To the request that he might just possess his soul in patience until the business under discussion was through, he would smile, and in his most engaging manner suggest that it did not matter so much how this talk went, and straightway plunge into some criticism he had in hand for some monthly review.

And so he lived his glad, inspiring life among us, a charming, lovable character whom it was always a pleasure to meet and to know. In the early days of our British militant movement in January, 1898, at the famous Bradford Conference, he welcomed the delegates from across the border, and from that day onward he set himself to keep the English and Scottish Single Taxers together for more effective spade-work. In this field he achieved some success, as the pages of LAND VALUES have shown then and since. Away from the affairs of the movement, if it be possible to think of him out of this sphere, he was ever loyal and true. His home life was all that the heart of man could desire, and no seductions of so-called society could wean him away from his devotion to the cause he loved to serve. It was at home, in the sweet companionship of wife and son, where he did most of his penwork. In all this brilliant endeavour he had their unremitting interest and sympathy in full measure. They knew what he was doing and loved him the more, and encouraged him with a wealth of affection without which he could not have continued.

During his long illness he was patience and goodness itself. He never complained, and watched, while his strength lasted, the growing interest taken in the work to which he had devoted his life. One of his last thoughts but a few hours before the end was something concerning the movement, and he had asked to see two or three of his colleagues to talk the matter over. It was something about Valuation; but he never rallied, and passed peacefully away, his last breath unselfishly given to the cause of truth and justice.

So long as the British movement for equal rights to land exists Lewis Berens will exist. His work will tell for all time, and we can be glad and grateful for what he was permitted to do. The movement in Great Britain has widened out considerably, and very many new recruits have come to its service since Lewis Berens first enrolled himself for a place in the firing line. To all these newcomers he extended a cordial welcome and quickly made each and all his friends. The members of our staff, especially those responsible for the conduct of LAND VALUES, with whom he had much personal intercourse, loved the man for his own sake, for his genuine manly qualities, no less than for his consistent co-operation in all their efforts to make the journal worthy of the movement it seeks to serve. Personally, we feel we have lost a loving and lovable friend, a charming companion, a loyal and trusted comrade; one whose influence for good will remain with us for all time.

J. P.

THE LAND CAMPAIGN OF THE LAND VALUES MOVEMENT

Mr. Wedgwood at Edinburgh

A meeting held last night (reports the Edinburgh EVENING NEWS, 26th November) in the Free Gardeners' Hall, Picardy Place, under the auspices of the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values, for the purpose of hearing an address by Mr. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P., was well attended, the hall being packed. Mr. John McCulloch, J.P., occupied the chair, and apologised for absence, together with expressions of sympathy with the object of the meeting, were read from Mr. C. E. Price, M.P., Mr. J. M. Hogge, M.P., and Treasurer Lorne MacLeod.

Mr. Wedgwood, commenting on Mr. Lloyd George's land campaign, said they had not yet had all his proposals, and this was a particularly opportune moment to indicate to the leaders of the Liberal Party what they believed was a genuine attack upon land monopoly. (Hear, hear.) They must measure the attack by whether that monopoly was injured or not. If the monopoly was as strong as ever when the attack was delivered, the attack was of no value. A tax upon land monopoly meant, in perfectly plain English, making land cheaper, or, as the equivalent, sending down in price the shares in that protected industry, the land. They had got to abolish the artificial shortage in land, and increase the supply available for use. There was a perfectly plain way—the adoption of the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons presided over by Lord Strathclyde in the year 1907, which recommended a change in the basis of rating.

When Mr. Lloyd-George came north of the Tweed the Scottish Liberals must see that he tackled this question in earnest. (Hear, hear.) How far would the proposals Mr. Lloyd-George made really injure the land monopoly? The provision of better houses in the country would not make land cheaper. The entrenchment of the tenant farmers on the land meant the creation of a mass of pseudo-landlords, and that would not make the land cheaper. With regard to the minimum wage for agricultural labourers, he did not believe it was possible to raise wages by Act of Parliament, but in any event the minimum wage would not make land cheaper. These were the country proposals. The town proposals, the proposed inspection of houses, and the proposal to give Town Councils powers to buy up land in advance, did not make land cheaper. All the reforms adumbrated south of the Tweed did not make land cheaper, and therefore none of them must be considered a genuine attack upon the land monopoly. They were palliatives all very well in their way, but not making things any better.

The reform they advocated, a change in the basis of rating, was a genuine attack upon land monopoly. People went away with the idea that a new burden was proposed to be put on property. They did not propose that the Town Councils should raise one penny more than they did at the present time. They suggested that the same amount should be raised as at present, but raised in a way they believed to be in the interests of every citizen. Property improved above the average for such a site would be relieved by the change in the basis of rating. Property improved up to the average would pay as before, but all property which had upon it an insufficient building, or was used merely as a receptacle for dead cats and tin cans, would pay much heavier rates than at the present time, when, perhaps, nothing was paid at all. Injustice did not consist in the destruction of monopoly, but in the continued existence of monopoly, and the more he saw of politics the more he became convinced the whole of politics was one long struggle between vested interests and the public interest.