

and the consequent lifting of other taxes. With a majority of Single Taxers on the local authorities, the way will be clear for immediate action by means of passive resistance. Such a movement would be irresistible.

Parliament could not if they would, coerce local authorities. It is objected that Irish members who refuse to attend the Parliament at Westminster could be sent to gaol, and distress warrants issued for the recovery of rates and taxes. What difference would it make if eighty men were sent to gaol, and how is it possible to coerce a whole nation? The same argument applies to English municipalities. The adoption of the policy I recommend in say, half-a-dozen municipalities in Great Britain would ensure a complete victory for Single Taxers.

JOHN BAGOT.

MR. JOSEPH FELS IS DISPOSED TO  
AGREE WITH MR. BAGOT.

*Editor Single Tax Review:*

I must agree with Mr. Bagot largely. As I have maintained right along that, even though the majority of the 670 members of Parliament known as the Liberal party, are, in a way, pledged to the promotion of the taxation of land values, this will amount to but little. The Liberal party is largely made up of men of the middle class, who are Conservative in their politics though calling themselves Liberals—a not inconsiderable number of them are landowners and monopolists; scores of them are large employers of labor, and, in my opinion, the majority are really too conservative to either want to understand or grasp what the taxation of land values will lead to. Great respect for traditions permeates Parliament. I think there is greater hope from the influence of the thirty purely Labor members of Parliament than from the already pledged Liberal members, whatever our friends on this side may think or expect to the contrary notwithstanding.

I have taken every opportunity that comes in my way to impress on all land reformers of our stripe that, if anything is to be done, we must cultivate and educate the rank and file of the common people, even to the ex-

tent of joining in at Labor and Socialist meetings. The word "Socialist" has many meanings, but they all agree in land reforms. With many others more prominent than myself, I have come to object to the habit of our people ignoring what may be called "The Socialists." They are a growing body of men both here, in America, in Germany, and in every other country that must be counted with.

JOSEPH FELS.

LONDON, Eng.

REPLY TO MR. BAGOT BY JOHN PAUL.

*Editor Single Tax Review:*

Mr. Bagot, as far as I can make out, desires to warn Single Taxers abroad that the rosy views of the propaganda they receive do not in his view account for much. They make a "brave show" he says, but he is old enough to know better. He gives a "trinity of obstacles" in the way, "enough to kill all hope in the breasts of Single Taxers who rely on the Government for help." Further Mr. Bagot says that in his opinion "the British League for the taxation of land values, (I suppose he means Leagues,) has been side-tracked by the acceptance of the liberal government's window dressing, and that "the battle will not be gained until Single Taxers take their coats off and fight as such;" that the policies being promoted by the government are blinds which we poor fools have too readily adjusted on our faces. We are evidently a poor lot and the movement in a bad way. Yet there is a gleam of encouragement for our friends in the back-woods, and at the out-posts of the movement, who are stimulated by our progress. Mr. Bagot has assured his rural postman that he will retire in time, seven years hence, to be in the thick of the fight. The present "appearances are deceptive" but in seven years the passive resisters will be in evidence and success at our doorsteps. I mean at the doorsteps of the Single Taxers.

It is impossible to conceive, says Mr. Bagot, that the Houses of Parliament ever would consent to efface themselves by the adoption of the Single Tax. It is consoling to know that they will do so in seven years. Mr. Bagot next lays it down that we must not ally ourselves with any political party

and that in order to win we must associate with us men and women of all parties and creeds. Well I am writing these words in a temporary shop in the city of Leeds where we are organizing a mass meeting to be addressed by Mr. Alexander Ure, M. P., Solicitor General for Scotland. We have billed the city and are in communication with the trades council, labor unions, Irish National Leagues, Liberal and Socialist Societies, whose members are helping to make the meeting a successful one. We are appealing to all classes and have the help of all democratic bodies in the work of organization. This is new territory for us; the task is a stiff business, and in it, I fancy, we are entitled to Mr. Bagot's good will, if we may not have his aid. Instead, at your request Mr. Editor, we have to stop and reply to Mr. Bagot's misleading statements. I submit this effort now being made at Leeds is similar to our work in other places, where we have, and with success, endeavored by these identical means to bring our question not before a section of the people, but before the whole people. Mr. Bagot does not trust the liberal Prime Minister, nor the party he leads. Well I do not propose to waste time apologizing for either. What Mr. Bagot has to do is to go ahead with the propaganda. "Educate the people," said Henry George, "and the members of Parliament will tumble over each other in their haste to carry our question." It is to the everlasting credit of the Prime Minister and many leading liberal members of Parliament that they have logically joined us in our educational efforts. We owe something to the Solicitor General for Scotland for his distinguished services to our movement as chairman of the select committee of the House of Commons on the Scottish bill 1906 and since, for his really brilliant platform exposition. Mr. Bagot may not like Mr. Ure because he is a member of a liberal government, but he must in fairness concede his ability and courage in the fight.

I do not propose to deal with Mr. Bagot's idea of advancing the movement by passive resistance. I am just a bit afraid that his idea of working the municipalities in that direction go but to show him to be a man living out of season.

The organized British Single Taxers are living in their own day, doing the work

that can be done in every sphere of thought and action and they are doing this with every sign of encouragement. In the political field we are winning our way to the amazement of many who think their own particular question has been set aside in favor of the taxation of land values. Meanwhile we are not resting by the way, nor trusting too much to the Government. Meetings are being promoted and literature is being published and circulated. Our organizations and our men everywhere were never more active. Perhaps at the end of seven years even Mr. Bagot may admit that we have done something to prevent his postman friend with what he terms the "thick of the fight." JOHN PAUL.

LEEDS, Eng.

#### EDITOR'S COMMENT.

(The REVIEW has printed Mr. Bagot's communication with a good deal of hesitation. But within reasonable limits the REVIEW is an open forum. Nor does the editor on all occasions deem it his duty to obtrude his own views where they differ with those of his correspondents. But he claims for himself the right which is permitted to the REVIEW's contributors to express himself on any point that may be in controversy.

In the present instance he desires to do so with some emphasis. He regrets that there should appear anywhere in the columns of the REVIEW what seems to us a petulant and ungenerous criticism of the Prime Minister. To allow such criticism to appear without a disclaimer would be a shocking disloyalty to a statesman who has rendered the movement for the taxation of land values such distinguished services. We owe much to Sir Campbell-Bannerman for his sound and fearless advocacy of our cause, both inside and outside the House of Commons. He has the confidence of the great body of British Single Taxers, and that should count for much with us, even if the facts did not tell their own story. From his high position he has done noble service in promoting our ideas and in affirming the taxation of land values as a question of immediate practical politics. That the Valuation Bill for Scotland is not the law of the land to-day is no fault of the Prime Minister; it is due, as our readers