

of Benjamin Franklin, which he edited last winter, in which we may express the regret—with no desire to unduly compliment our friend—that there was not somewhat less of Franklin and more of Murphy.

Mr. Murphy has not refused his help to many lines of social effort, regarding some of these as useful and some as preparatory to the great reform. But he has held that most of these subsidiary reforms are palliative or anaesthetic. He holds, too, that many of the institutions which we now decry are not bad in themselves, but are made so merely because of conditions in which they flourish, and that logic, justice and humanity unite in demanding equal opportunity and no special privilege.

In an article in the *South Side Observer*, published at Rockville Center, N. Y., George Wallace, computing that it takes the yearly wages of 20,000 men to support Mr. Astor in England, writes as follows:

“The evil results arise from the fact that this land rent, which comes into the hands of private parties, is not earned by those who receive it. It is all earned by the working people of the city, who by this means are forced to contribute hundreds of millions yearly from their wages to make up the unearned wealth of the New York aristocracy. That is a cruel injustice, and widespread poverty becomes just as certain under such conditions as that daylight comes with sunrise.

It seems strange that although no one who studies this proposition disputes it, the relation of the facts to the distressing conditions which result therefrom are so little studied and understood. We clearly regard it as a crime worthy of state prison punishment if one individual forcibly takes part of the earnings of another; but we take a different view when one man reaches out and takes part of the earnings of a whole community. That is simply because we have become accustomed to it, and because the laws of the land make it a crime in the first instance, while the laws provide for wrongful taking in the other case. One wrongful taking is contrary to, and the other authorized by, state law; both are contrary to natural justice.”

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News—Foreign.

GREAT BRITAIN.

RADICAL REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE—
GRAND DEMONSTRATIONS AT GLASGOW CITY
HALL AND BELLEVUE, MANCHESTER, TO
HEAR SOLICITOR GENERAL URE—DECLA-
RATION OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR
ENGLAND.

The year 1907 is one which British Single Taxers can look back upon with great satisfaction. The progress made since the news letter for your last January issue was penned has been of an encouraging character. Twelve months ago the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the land values taxation (Scotland) bill issued its report after examining some thirty witnesses consisting of Solicitors, Valuers and other experts, the committee recommended:

1. That the bill referred to the committee be not further proceeded with.
2. That a measure be introduced making provision for a valuation being made of the land in the burghs and counties of Scotland apart from the buildings and improvements upon it, and that no assessment be determined upon until the amount of the valuation is known and considered.

The bill referred to, though falling far short of these recommendations of the select committee, had served a most useful purpose, having provoked discussion which had a very valuable educational effect. Without this bill the committee over which Mr. Alex Ure, K. C. M. P. (Solicitor General for Scotland) presided, would not have been appointed. In that event it is conceivable that apart from the value of the report, the event of greatest importance to the land values movement in Great Britain might not have taken place.

The report of this select committee, drafted and signed by the Chairman, was the strongest and clearest demand for the application of the Single Tax principle to local taxation which had hereto been made by any responsible body of politicians. The following quotations show the radical nature of the report.

“The most valuable economic advantages of this Reform follow from the change of the basis of rating. We have already referred to the nature of these advantages which may be thus summarized:

First—Houses and other improvements would be relieved of the burden of rating. This would encourage building and facilitate industrial developments.

Secondly—As regards the towns, it would enable land in the outskirts to become ripe for building sooner than at present, and would thus tend very materially to assist the solution of the housing problem. It would have a similar effect in regard to housing in rural districts."

Such a declaration of the principle for which we stand was well calculated to cheer and encourage Single Taxers. When the report had been published Mr. Ure was invited to address a meeting under the auspices of the United Committee of the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values and that gentleman readily consented to address a demonstration to be held in the City Hall, Glasgow, on March 7th, when he had an enthusiastic audience of about 3,000 persons. Our friend and co-worker, Edward M'Hugh, traveled all the way from Birkenhead to Glasgow to hear Mr. Ure. After the meeting he wrote in the highest terms of the address. Such praise from a man like Edward M'Hugh was proof that the cause had gained the adherence of a man whose moral courage, ability and eminent political position were bound to bring the movement into the front rank of political questions.

The United Committee of the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values which had been formed on the 23rd of March with Crompton Ll. Davis and John Paul as secretaries undertook to organize a number of demonstrations at which Mr. Ure consented to speak.

Following the Glasgow meeting came one at Belle Vue, Manchester, which was characterized by the *Manchester Guardian* as the largest land reform meeting ever held in Manchester. About 3000 persons representing a great variety of political and social reform associations from Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorks and other counties.

On October 9th Mr. Ure had an enthusiastic audience of between three and four thousand persons at the Coliseum, Leeds. This was followed by successful meetings at other places in England and Scotland.

Mr. Ure's identification with our movement is undoubtedly the event of the year and in the short space of time during which he has been with us the question of the

taxation of land values has come forward in a most marked fashion.

Even within the last few weeks the Solicitor General for England (Sir William Robson, K. C., D. C. L.) has declared that the taxation of land values, in his opinion, lies at the root of social reform and is the first step in the direction of their realization. Politicians who have been pushing forward the Small Holdings Bill, and who considered it of far greater importance than the taxation of land values, are, now that they have got it, realizing that the demand for small holdings is forcing up the price of the land available by 25 per cent., and they are now screaming loudly in consequence for a land valuation bill.

Another pleasing feature this year has been the increased demand for literature dealing with our question and there seems every prospect of a still greater demand in the near future.

Amongst the pamphlets which have been republished and which have had an extensive sale are: *The Crime of Poverty, Thou Shalt Not Steal, Thy Kingdom Come, Land and People, Moses, Scotland and Scotchmen, The Labor Question.* (An abridged edition of the *Condition of Labor*), the other works of Henry George, the *Story of My Dictatorship*, and others.

A new move on the part of the United Committee which is likely to have excellent results is the establishment in connection with their new office of a press bureau, under the direction of Mr. John Orr, M. A., of Glasgow. Its functions are to supply news of the movement, articles and correspondence on the question and generally to see that, wherever possible, newspapers are influenced in the right direction.

The Land Values (Scotland) Bill carried by the People's Representatives by a majority of about four to one was ignominiously rejected by the House of Lords. Mr. Ure and other prominent Liberals assure us that this bill will be sent back to their Lordships without amendment and that it will be accompanied by or closely followed by an English Valuation Bill.

We may rest assured that if the Prime Minister is spared to lead the Liberal party for a little while longer, these and many other long overdue measures of reform will become law. The Prime Minister is not the

man to boast or make statements of a serious character lightly. He has said "*The will of the people shall prevail.*"

Clearly we have stirring times ahead of us.

F. SKIRROW.

NEW ZEALAND—AUCKLAND.

Hon. George Fowlds in a recent speech at Grey Linn, referred thus to Sir George Grey, the great statesman whose foresight helped to make New Zealand what it is today as well as the greater New Zealand it is yet to become: "Apart from pastoral leases, only 778,087 acres of Crown lands remained. During the three years ending 1906, the land parted with totalled 1,158,861 acres, so that what was left would only do for another two years at that rate. Was it not wise for them to make some provision for endowments, before the whole of the Crown lands passed away to private holders. (Applause.) He was not enamoured of leasehold, because there was another way of securing the benefits of the land for the State. (Laughter.) His own feeling was in favor of a graduated land tax. The second point of the bill was to prevent the aggregation of large estates, hence the £50,000 limit. There were two kinds of farmers; the man who farmed the land, and the man who farmed the farmer. (Laughter.) The last principle of the Land Bill was that of making endowments for education, charitable aid, and old age pensions. Did the people think Sir George Grey was unwise when he set aside the valuable endowments for the City of Auckland? No, Sir George Grey's forethought was frequently extolled. That being so, why should not the present Government set aside further endowments?"

THOSE who have not read "The Digger Movement," with its fascinating account of the career of Gerrard Winstanley, by Lewis H. Berens, of England, should hasten to secure a copy.

THE latest converts to the principle of the referendum are Senators Foraker and Dick of Ohio. For this work in converting the two Senators to this doctrine Rev. Herbert Bigelow is to be credited.

DEATH OF JOHN F. BAKER.

From the *Canadian Single Taxer* we are pained to hear of the death of John F. Baker, of Kingston, long a subscriber to the REVIEW, as well as a contributor to its columns. This tribute to his memory by W. A. Douglass appears in the columns of our contemporary:

Mr. Baker was a man whom to know was to admire, respect and love. His face bore the imprint of sincerity, honesty and earnest purpose. From the time he made himself master of the sublime truths taught by Henry George he never failed or flinched in his efforts to make known these truths to his fellow men. No lofty monument, no ostentatious pageant, accompanied his remains to the last resting place. Those outward and meaningless displays attend the men who have won fame, often by the accident of birth, or by the destruction of their fellows on the field of battle. But Mr. Baker has left behind him a monument more enduring than that in the good that he has accomplished, and in the share that he contributed towards the inauguration of that civilization which, Moses like, he toiled for, but which he was not permitted to see.

MAX HIRSCH writes us from Melbourne, Australia, that he has been compelled to postpone the writing of the handbook on political economy for which he has been collecting material. With the completion of the task now imperatively calling for all his activities he will be in a position by the beginning of the present year to resume his work with his pen, which will include one or more contributions to the REVIEW.

WORK FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

The following letter has been sent out by the General Secretary of the American Single Tax League, outlining the plans for work:

The responsibility for organizing ourselves, however, rests largely with those who are now working independently, and we are appealing to every known Single Taxer for his active and sustained assistance.

In furtherance of the expressed desire of