

Fifth—Extension of lecture courses.

Sixth—When found practicable, to concentrate our energies on some one State so as to get the Single Tax into operation.

We do not intend to dictate a program; that would be forced and unnatural; the great body of us land value taxationists must continue to do the work. We wish to know where we should help and what efforts should have organized help.

We solicit first, suggestions regarding any phase of the work; second, volunteers for publication work or other service; and third, such subscription as you can afford.

In any case, do not neglect to enroll and to send us names on slips received.

JOHN J. MURPHY,

Sec'y American Single Tax League.

WOMAN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE IN MAY.

The 8th Annual Conference of the Woman's National Single Tax League will be held in Washington, D. C., on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 15th, 16th and 17th, 1908. As Washington is one of the most attractive cities in the nation to visit, and as this will be one of the most interesting conferences the League has ever held, the Executive Board hopes that all Single Taxers who expect to visit Washington in the near future will remember the dates of the conference and arrange to be there at that time.

Two meetings on Friday which are to be made especially attractive for women, a dinner Saturday evening and a public meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association on Sunday afternoon, will be features of the conference. Any Single Tax women who are not members of affiliated clubs, may become individual members with all privileges, by applying to the treasurer Dr. Mary D. Hussey—East Orange, N. J. and sending the annual dues \$1.00.

Any information in regard to the conference will be gladly sent by Mrs. Minnie B. Ryan, 485 Hancock St. Brooklyn, N. Y., or Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, 1441 Clifton St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

GEORGE WALLACE still continues his interesting communications to the South Side Observer of Rockville Centre, N. Y.

News—Foreign.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE FIGHT RENEWED IN THE COMMONS—THE KING'S SPEECH CONVEYS ASSURANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY—CARRYING THE WAR INTO IRELAND—ALEXANDER URE IN BELFAST.

At times there have been murmurings of discontent at the manner in which the government was dealing with the question of taxing land values. These ought to cease after recent events in the House of Commons. In my last letter I had to report the rejection by the House of Lords of the Scottish Valuation Bill which had been passed by the Commons by a majority of about four to one. During the recess Mr. Ure and other members of the government assured us that the Scottish Bill would be sent back and that an English bill would also be brought forward. Well, Parliament re-assembled on Jan. 29th and was opened by their Majesties in person.

To Single Taxers the points of chief interest in the King's speech were the promise of a bill to "Amend the Valuation of Property, in England and Wales for the assessment of Imperial and Local Charges" and further the promise that "the bills relating to the Scottish Land and Valuation which were introduced last session but failed to become law will again be submitted to you."

On Thursday, Feb. 13th, the morning papers contained such headlines as—

"THE FIGHT WITH LORDS COMMENCED."

"SCOTTISH LAND BILLS TO BE SENT BACK."

"THE PREMIER'S RESOLUTION."

These carried a hope to the democracy, for they were an indication that the Prime Minister was sufficiently restored to health and strength to take the lead of the progressive forces in the House of Commons, and that under his leadership the attack upon the House of Landlords would be thorough and effective.

In the discussion on the bill in the House of Lords last session it was contended by Lord Landsdown that there was not sufficient time to properly discuss the bill. "If we refuse" said he, "to read this bill a second time, I trust it will be reintroduced."

On Tuesday, Feby. 13th, the Prime Minister moved his guillotine resolution which allowed only three days for the various stages of the two bills to pass through the Commons.

As he (the Prime Minister) said:

"It is to gratify this wish of Lord Landowne, which I admit is reasonable—(opposition cheers)—that we re-introduce both of these Bills in the earliest days of the Session. (Ministerial cheers.)

"But I must refer to something else that was done last Session. A resolution was adopted on my motion restricting the power of the House of Lords to alter or reject Bills sent up by this House, and requiring that within the limits of a single Parliament the final decision of the Commons shall prevail. (Ministerial cheers.) The procedure we now recommend the House to adopt is in accord with the spirit and intention of that resolution. (Ministerial cheers.) We are therefore carrying out an announced and considered policy, and members cannot complain of any surprise being sprung upon them. (Ministerial cheers.)

"Our recommendation, I am aware, constitutes an innovation. This is the first time in the history of this House that a Bill has been a second time sent to the House of Lords within the compass of a single Parliament. If these Bills are to go up to the House of Lords for reconsideration why should we waste the time of this House in their discussion? I hold that by this resolution we are maintaining the dignity and saving the time of this House." (Ministerial cheers.)

So long as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is spared to lead the Liberal Party we know that the cause of Land Reform will be pushed ahead as far and as fast as circumstances will permit. Our cause however is fast reaching the point where success will not depend on the sympathy and support of a few leading men. Our hope is in the country itself, for however those in Parliament may sympathize with our aims and policy, it is only as they get the driving power from the electors that they can move along Radical lines.

Thanks to the magnificent work being done throughout the length and breadth of the country by Mr. Alex. Ure, our cause is

commanding that attention and support which in a few years will make its position so strong that no government will be able to refuse us legislation.

It has been truly said that "the will of the people is the supreme power in the State." Recognizing this fact British Single Taxers have spent their efforts in educating public opinion. The present position of our cause justifies their method.

Mr. Ure's work on the platform and in the House of Commons is beyond all praise. Two days before the opening of Parliament he carried the gospel of land values over to Ireland, where in Ulster Hall, Belfast, he had an audience approaching three thousand persons, whilst hundreds were turned away for want of room. For one hour and forty-five minutes Mr. Ure held his audience spellbound. The usual resolution thanking him for his address and approving of the principle of taxing land values was carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard M'Ghee who was present and supported the resolution, said, after the meeting, that he had heard nothing to equal Mr. Ure's address since Henry George.

During the three weeks occupied in organizing the meeting a shop was open for the sale of literature and the purposes of an office. During that time hundreds of people called to buy literature, to ask questions and discuss our proposals. Those who were present as organizers of the meeting had pleasant recollections of experiences in Ireland which will never be forgotten. The meeting was promoted by the local association among whose members are Mr. W. A. Metcalfe (Pres.) and Miss Lindsay—a lady who had the acquaintance of Henry George, and who has been in the movement almost from the beginning, and Mr. Wm. Bowman, who took the Chair for Henry George at a meeting in the same hall. Acting under the guidance of Mr. Paul the local committee carried through a piece of propaganda which will have enduring effects.

For the present efforts will be concentrated on Parliament where important developments are daily expected.

Events of vast significance and hope to Single Taxers have taken place since the foregoing lines were penned. In the House of Commons on Tuesday last (18th inst.), a

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