

graphy and extracts from his writings. These suggestions ought to be carefully considered, and we trust that our friends will write us regarding them.

It is hoped that Single Taxers in all the principal cities will take steps to make the celebration an event in their locality. Duluth, Minn., is the first city to respond and from a local paper there we extract the following:

"Plans are on foot among the believers of the Single Tax in America to hold a big demonstration next August, which month contains the birthday anniversaries of Count Leo Tolstoy and Henry George.

Samuel Nixon is at the head of the movement in Duluth, and a celebration will probably be arranged for here.

It is proposed to hold the demonstration as a tribute to Tolstoy from Americans for his efforts in behalf of the Single Tax theory."

In this city the Manhattan Single Tax Club has undertaken arrangements for the celebration here, and has appointed a committee to take preliminary steps, such committee being Henry George, Jr., as chairman, Joseph Dana Miller and Whidden Graham. Chas. Sprague Smith of the People's Institute has volunteered to cooperate.

Let our friends everywhere take steps to assure a national celebration that will occasion the widest newspaper comment.

DEATH OF A. VAN DUSEN.

We regret to learn of the death of A. Van Dusen, of New York City, at an advanced age. For many years Mr. Van Dusen has been an earnest friend of the Single Tax cause, helping it in many ways. He has long been in poor health. It is impossible to give many facts connected with Mr. Van Dusen's life, for no one could have equaled him in the self-effacement with which he devoted himself to well doing. He has labored and helped with word and works the great cause he loved, and his passing robs us of another of the great and patient souls who have done their share for a better society, quietly, unostentatiously and with no thought of self.

Death has been busy elsewhere. L. A. Russell, of Cleveland, to whom Tom L. Johnson referred *Progress and Poverty* for an opinion upon its logical merits, is dead. It will be recalled that the reading of Mr. George's work also made a Single Taxer of Mr. Russell.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.*

CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN'S REAL SERVICE TO THE CAUSE—LLOYD GEORGE'S REMARKABLE SPEECH IN MANCHESTER—INDICATES THE NECESSITY FOR SWEEPING ECONOMIC CHANGES.

When writing you two months ago we were rejoicing in the fact that the Prime Minister (Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman) had so far recovered from his indisposition as to be able to take his accustomed place as leader of the House of Commons. Unfortunately, though strong in spirit, he was very weak physically, and he soon had a relapse from which it is to be feared that he is not likely to rally. "C. B." as Sir Henry is affectionately called, has kept up the fight with a very serious complication of diseases, and, we are told by those who have been permitted to see him that he is more cheerful than his followers.

According to a London correspondent writing at the beginning of the month:—

"It is the unalterable belief of some of his most intimate friends that the breakdown was preventable. Had he, they say, gone to the House of Lords as soon as he succeeded to the Premiership, he would have been hale and hearty to this day. Lady Campbell-Bannerman was strongly opposed to his acceptance of a Peerage, and her wishes were to him a sacred law. No sooner was he invested with the post of highest service under the Crown, with the concurrent task of leading the House of Commons, than his wife took to her bed in what proved her final illness. It was her husband's devotion that had much to do with the sudden

*This letter was written prior to the death of the premier.

revulsion of feeling that in a few weeks made him the most popular Premier of modern times. When, at three o'clock in the afternoon, he came down to the House of Commons to answer questions, direct the course of business, or take part in debate, members knew that he had been up all night personally attendant on his sick wife. Occasionally it happened that he hurried from the bedchamber to preside over a Cabinet Council before going down to the House. This state of things, lasting through some weeks, was sufficient to break down the health and strength of a younger and stronger man. It was the beginning of the end for which the nation is waiting in silent sorrow."

On account of continued serious illness the Premier on April 5th, sent to King Edward his resignation. By all the progressive forces this was felt to be a great calamity, for without exception everyone desiring political progress had come to love and trust the man who with such consummate skill and tact had brought them from a rent and distracted party to a position of unity and strength such as had seldom if ever been equalled. Everyone feels that the loss of C. B. at this juncture is irreparable.

As was to be expected the King—who was staying at Biarritz at the time—sent for the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. H. H. Asquith) who had been acting as leader during the Premier's illness. Mr. Asquith appears to have had little difficulty in forming a Cabinet which has given general satisfaction. He has handed over the Chancellorship of the Exchequer to Mr. Lloyd George who has been succeeded by Mr. Winston Churchill as President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Walter Runciman—a good young Radical—has taken the place of Mr. Reginald McKenna as President of the Board of Education, the latter having succeeded Lord Tweedmouth as first Lord of the Admiralty.

Some other changes of less importance have also been made with the result that a great many people regard the ministry as stronger and more Radical than ever. Whether this is so or not remains to be seen. It is certain that by the resignation of "C. B." we, as Single Taxers, have lost our best friend.

By his many straight and strong utterances on our question "C. B." has done more than all the other Liberal leaders put together, to give our question the prominent position which it occupies to-day, and if, as I yet expect, that we shall get legislation on our lines, it will be due to the influence and forces set in motion by him. I venture to say that your correspondent, Mr. Bagot, stands alone amongst Single Taxers in England in believing that "C. B." could be either bullied or coaxed into slackening his efforts to pass measures for the taxation of land values.

When the history of the last ten years has been written and all the facts of the case laid bare, it will be found that this good man was in every sense of the word:—

"Statesman, yet friend of truth, of soul sincere,

In action faithful and in honour clear."

Like Lord Rosebury the new Premier has been connected with the Imperialist section of the Liberal party—a section which could hardly have the confidence of Radicals. However it has to be admitted that Mr. Asquith has served faithfully and well under his predecessor, and by faithful and good service has won the exalted position he now holds. Personally I am inclined to think that Mr. Asquith has profited by his close connection with the Ex-Premier, and, from a close observation of his recent work I am inclined to think that we have reason to hope that he will do all that he can to carry on the work mapped out by his former chief. Mr. Asquith is a comparatively young man (born 1852) and has under him the youngest cabinet which ever controlled the destinies of this country. The question of greatest interest to your readers is as to what the new cabinet will do to advance our cause. I am not yet without hope, especially when one remembers Mr. Asquith's recent utterances on our question, as reported in my last letter.

Again (Feb. 26) the House of Commons passed the Scottish Land Values Bill through Committee and third reading by 347 to 90 (majority 257). What will be the end of this bill yet remains to be seen. It has had a first reading

in the House of Lords, and some of our friends think that it will be passed in some form—probably by limiting it to urban districts and perhaps by making it optional.

We are looking forward to the introduction of an English Valuation after Easter, but of course, the Cabinet changes with the loss of time involved will necessitate the dropping of a portion of the government programme.

So far as one is able to judge at the present time the failure to get our measures passed by the present government would mean the putting back of the clock for a long time. None of the socialist parties here appear to see what the Taxation of Land Values really means or what it will do to solve many of the problems for which they have their own little palliatives—palliatives which won't even palliate. Just now the elections are taking place in Yorkshire and Lancashire on account of Messrs. Runciman and Churchill having to seek re-election consequent on their appointment to offices of profit under the Crown. The fights are mainly turning on Free Trade, Licensing and the Education question. The Land Values question seldom receives any attention in these contests. However, it is well to know that Mr. Runciman has long advocated the reform, and Mr. Churchill is also favorable.

Yesterday, Mr. Lloyd George paid a visit to Manchester and delivered his first speech as Chancellor of Exchequer in support of Mr. Churchill. The correspondent of the *Liverpool Post and Mercury* writing of Mr. Lloyd George's speech said:

"In a voice now somewhat mellowed by the passing years, but in a style almost totally unrestrained by the dignity and responsibility of high office, Mr. Lloyd George offered a brilliant defence of the policy of the Government against privilege and monopoly, in education, licensing, and commerce, questions which in a few burning sentences he raised from the sordid level of electioneering dodges to the high plane of ethics. His handling of the Free Trade question and his exposure of the lunacy of Tariff Reform rank among his best performances, and his eulogy of commercial freedom as the great pacificator of the nations evoked

thunderous applause. I noticed with regret, however, that, apparently through a lapses of the memory, he left undeveloped a most interesting and important train of thought, Free Trade, he said, might be the Alpha, but it was not the Omega of Liberal policy; it was the grand foundation for a fine building, but it was only the foundation. Just at that point he was lured into speaking of the legacy of work he had left for his successor at the Board of Trade. What he failed to make clear, to me at any rate, was the character of the future superstructure and the manner of raising it. The vagueness of his subsequent references to the necessity for the redistribution of the wealth of the richest country in the world was disappointing and the speech, while admirably serving the pressing purpose of the hour, just fell short of a historic pronouncement of future progressive policy."

The Manchester and District Branch of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values has invited the views of the candidates on this subject. Mr. Churchill gave a favorable reply. Mr. Joynson-Hicks, though he did not reply to the committee's letter, has stated at one of his meetings that if elected he would vote against the policy, and Mr. Dan Irving wrote:—"Pending complete ownership and use of all land on behalf of the community, I am in favor of the taxation of land values."

Mr. Dan Irving is candidate for the Social Democratic Federation. Mr. Joynson-Hicks is the Tory Candidate and although a Tariff Reformer he is trying to evade that question and fighting mainly on the Education and Licensing policy of the government.

F. S. SKIRROW.

YORKSHIRE, Eng.

SCOTLAND.

SOCIALISTS CHALLENGE MR. URE TO A DEBATE—THE SOLICITOR GENERAL WILL ACCEPT IF HIS CHALLENGERS DRAFT A BILL FOR SOCIALISM.

Our interest at present centres round Westminster. The Land Values (Scotland)