

shops. The municipality gave them two hundred and fifty acres in the heart of the city, upon which the shops and yards are built, with a value of something over \$2,000,000. When tax day came around the company flatly refused to pay except upon the land, which, under a threat of moving away, the city accepted a total amount of \$3,750. The amount under the same assessment as the rest of the city would have been \$15,800.00. When I asked a councilor why the council did not play fair and exempt everybody else's improvement, so that the men who work for the company would be equally favored with the company, he only glared at me. These abuses have produced a reaction until everybody is anxious for a change, the press, the pulpits, the merchants. When you mention the Single Tax people want to know about it. Since beginning our campaign several months ago, the petition has grown from sixty to over two hundred and thirty municipalities. We are now putting out about four hundred press notices a week to as many papers, which with scarcely an exception are endorsing our work.

FRANK E. COULTER.

S. Tideman, of Peru, Ill. has a letter in the *Daily Post* of La Salle condemning the proposed primary law.

Richard Plaut has been elected member of the Los Angeles City Council. The Council of nine members together with the mayor constitute the ruling power of the city.

Last Fall Mr. Wm. McNair, Single Taxer of Pittsburg, was Democratic nominee for district attorney, and though the city is hopelessly Republican, actually succeeded in frightening the opposition by the vigorous campaign that he waged among the workers, ably assisted in this work by R. E. Smith and B. B. Mc Guinness. Next Fall it is proposed to carry on the same fight in the congressional contests, with Free Trade and Federal Revenue by a Direct Tax on Land Values as the slogan.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN

SPLENDID SPEECHES BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT—POOR SHOWING MADE BY THE DUKES ON THE HUSTINGS—ENTHUSIASM LIKE THAT OF THE OLD ANTI-POVERTY DAYS.

The great political campaign carried on in Britain during the past few weeks has been the most instructive and the most encouraging which has taken place for many a long day.

Prime Minister Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, Alex. Ure and E. G. Hemmerde are the men who have done most to instruct and educate public opinion. It is impossible to overestimate the value of the speeches delivered by these leading statesmen. The encouraging feature of the present political situation is the keen interest now being taken in the land and social questions. From the proudest duke to the humblest day labourer our people are now fully aroused to the supreme importance of the issue at stake in this election.

The most amusing thing in this campaign is to see the way the Dukes and Lords have come out into the open in defence of their unjust privileges. Nothing better than this could have happened for the cause of progress. This is exactly what every good Radical has been praying for for years and now that the opportunity has come we are seizing it and turning it to the best advantage.

One can honestly say that the way the people have treated our greatest aristocrats when on the political platform has come as a surprise and must have been a great shock to these worthies. They have had to submit to being heckled, contradicted, laughed at and jeered at. The public performances of the noble Lords have now come to an end, as may be seen by the following announcement in *The Daily Chronicle*, January 11th:

"No more performances.

The Wild Peers Variety Company,

which has lately been touring the country in the enormously successful misrepresentation of the people's friends, or the backwoodsmen come to town, disbanded on Saturday evening, much to the regret of the Liberal Party, whose cause their many excruciatingly funny performances (with the comic unrehearsed effects) have done so much to assist.

The many sackfuls of letters received from delighted audiences in all parts of the country testify to the general amusement their dramatic efforts have caused, and the rollicking fun they have gratuitously provided for a people who had not hitherto credited them with such a seemingly exhaustless fund of humorous business and comic relief.

If the majority of the star turns were tinged with unnecessary vulgarity the fault will, perhaps, be condoned when it is recollected how indefatigably these noble performers have worked to add to the hilarity of the nation at much personal inconvenience, and in the blessed cause of Charity.

It is regretted that time would not permit of their giving a performance of the little Play on the People, especially written for the occasion, entitled, "What the Publican Wants."

In view of the above announcement the *Daily Chronicle* feels sure its readers will make due allowance for the absence of many columns of highly diverting political performances which has done so much during the last few weeks to enliven its pages.

Yesterday, Jan. 10th., saw the dissolution of the most Democratic parliament of modern times. With the King in Council at Buckingham Palace, and the same council ordained, the new parliament should assemble at Westminster on Feb. 15th. The constitution of the last parliament at its dissolution was as follows:

Liberal and Labour	418
Conservative	168
Nationalists	83
Socialist	1

670

Taking into account the democratic

wave of feeling which is now sweeping over the country and looking at the above set of figures, it is inconceivable that the final result of the election which begins on Saturday can end in anything but a substantial working majority of Liberals in the new parliament.

While some tories are nursing the hope that the Radical majority will completely vanish at the polls there is certainly nothing in the public meetings or general sentiment of the country to indicate such a catastrophe. And looking at cold figures one finds that the tories have to gain nearly two hundred seats to obtain a working majority. All Democratic and many Tory election experts consider this to be beyond possibility. Henry George, Jr., who is now in this country and who has heard Lloyd George speak at some of his big meetings, told the writer the fire and eloquence with which the speaker preached pure doctrines, and the fervour and enthusiasm of his audiences reminded one of the old Anti-Poverty meetings. This opinion from one of Henry George's experience is most encouraging and the fact that such a sentiment pervades British politics will be as gratifying to the readers of the Review as to the writer.

F. SKIRROW

London, ENG.

ITALY

LAND TAXES IN ROME AND OTHER PARTS OF ITALY—NEW BUILDINGS EXEMPT FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS—TAXATION LEVIED WITH A VIEW TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE SPECULATION IN LAND.

Second series of memoranda and extracts relating to land taxation and land valuation prepared for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

Report by Dr. Betts, Acting Legal Adviser to this (British) Embassy.

Rome, July 14, 1909.

The (real estate) tax is assessed on the net rent, calculated by deducting from the