

of vacant lands what they are worth to those who can afford to use them—keep all franchises in the ownership of the people.

"If this simple programme will do what its advocates believe it will, the marvel is that any hesitancy to adopt it is observed. At any rate, Germany has put in effect the tax on unearned increment from land. Great Britain has adopted it in her present budget. Now, the Land Value Tax party calls for deliverance from the 'American House of Lords.' It extends 'greetings and good wishes to the insurgents, independents and 'new idea' members of the Democratic and Republican parties,' and points the way to the 'land of promise' by the Single Tax route."

Prof. Robert Braun, Single Taxer of Hungary, reappeared in New York last month after a long trip through the west, where he had met most all the leading Single Taxers of the chief cities, and was received with a cordiality that his unselfish services to the cause, his modesty and great ability, so justly merit.

He was induced to speak at one of the open-air meetings of the Manhattan Single Tax club, and told the crowd who surrounded the stand something of the impressions he had gained of the movement while in this country. A supper at one of the Hungarian restaurants on the east side at Prof. Braun's invitation to Messrs. Macgregor, Brown, Weyman, and Miller, and a late leave-taking of our distinguished friend, were the incidents that marked his second visit to New York, followed by his final departure to his native land on the following morning. We know those who were permitted the rare pleasure of his society on his two visits to this city will unite in wishing him a pleasant journey to the country where those of our faith are yet few and timid, and to whom he will bring the strength and courage of his own splendid convictions and wealth of intellectual resource.

Laurie J. Quimby, editor of the *Chancellor* of Omaha, will stand for Congress from that city. His platform has the true ring.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE PRESENT TRUCE FOLLOWING THE KING'S DEATH OF ADVANTAGE TO THE OPPOSITION—THE LORD'S VETO DOOMED NEVERTHELESS—RAPID EXTENSION OF THE WORK—WINSTON CHURCHILL HAS JUST FINISHED READING PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

At the moment of writing British politics are very tame indeed when compared with what they were during the past fifteen months. The House of Commons which has so recently been the scene of long and fierce encounters between the representatives of democracy and of privilege would hardly be recognised as the same place by those whose acquaintance with it is limited to the recent past, the whole tone and temper of its members having so completely changed. As T. P. O'Connor says:

"The psychological condition of the House of Commons at this moment is unexampled in its history. That spirit of unrest, of contention, of briskness, of cut and thrust, which is its normal state, has vanished so completely that one thinks that either the Saturnian reign of universal peace or the decadency of universal exhaustion has suddenly come to the place; and that it is but the wreck of its former self."

Undoubtedly, exhaustion from the strenuous fight over last year's budget might in ordinary times have been sufficient to account for great changes, but in these exceptional times of political unrest, of determination for the eradication of special privileges there was little real evidence of political or physical exhaustion, on the part of the members of the House of Commons, or amongst the electorate throughout the country. The manner in which a few months ago all the forces of progress were lining up for what was expected to be the final struggle against our hereditary legislators was a sight to gladden the heart of every lover of freedom. Then came King Edward's death. This was made an excuse for deferring the civil conflict on which all parties were entering with the

spirit that promised great things for democracy. It was the hope of all reformers that at most the King's death meant merely the postponement of the conflict for a few weeks or months. The privileged classes, those satisfied with things as they are, claimed that it would be most unfair to King George for the Government to carry a Veto Bill and thus compel the new King at the very beginning of his reign to take sides. On the other hand it was claimed that the King can do no wrong, since as a constitutional monarch he can only act on the advice of his ministers. Then came talk of a conference between the Government and the Opposition, with a view to a settlement being arrived at. Doubtless Mr. Asquith had received a hint from his Sovereign that he would like a settlement to be reached by Conference with the opposition if possible. This was ultimately arranged and the following eight members were appointed:

For the Government, Mr. Asquith, Lord Crewe, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Birrell.

For the Opposition, Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Austin Chamberlain Lord Cawdor.

From the party point of view all the advantage arising from the Conference has gone to the Opposition. On the Government side there was great discontent, bordering on open rebellion. Radical, Labor and Irish Nationalists members of Parliament and their Constituents were anxious to come to grips with their hereditary foe. To be kept from the long looked for attack upon the Lords has had a very demoralising effect upon these fighting forces, and as the *Yorkshire Post*, (one of the leading provincial Tory papers) declared on June 21st "The holding of the Conference has put it for the present outside the scope of party warfare; the Radicals could not ask the electors to assist them in clipping the claws of the House of Lords; they could not assert that a struggle was going on between the representatives of the people and an hereditary Chamber, which represented only such interests as its members were strictly concerned in. This, no doubt, has been of great service to the Unionist cause; to get the Constitutional question side tracked

is clearly of advantage to the Unionist party." This is not likely to happen, for whatever understanding may be arrived at by the Conference, it will be the House of Commons that will have the final decision on the question of the Lord's Veto. But I do not think we need fear that any essential would be given away by the Government's representatives. A Government which has been democratic and strong enough to give us the Valuation of the Land need not be mistrusted on the Veto question. The Lords' power to Veto is doomed and must go by either agreement or conflict.

The announcement that there is to be an Autumn session of parliament has given great satisfaction to the supporters of the Government. For the present our question is outside the scope of parliament. The valuation of the land is being carried out and until this is completed it is difficult to see what else parliament can do along our lines.

In the Constituencies our proposals are daily becoming more popular as one finds in addressing meetings in all parts of the Country. The new work of the United Committee and the Leagues for the immediate future is to carry on the work of educating public opinion, and for this they are shaping well. One of the schemes now in operation is the distribution of specially selected leaflets to all the electors and households of Great Britain and Ireland. These are placed in very attractive looking envelopes with suitable letterpress printed on the face in bold clear type.

Where a Member of Parliament undertakes to have these distributed the United Committee gives the required number of envelopes with the member's photo and compliments on the front. Where there is no M. P. who will accept them the U. C. will send them out with their own compliments with such striking letterpress as

HOW TO REDUCE RENTS, RATES AND TAXES

Among the newest publications is "The Taxation of Land Values." A further plea of urgency addressed to the Government by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. This has been sent to Members of the Ministry and the Liberal and Labor members of Parliament.

A penny edition of "The Story of My Dictatorship" by Louis H. Berens and Ignatius Singer has just been published and is likely to have an immense sale.

The U. C. has increased its staff of late. Mr. C. J. Cawood who was until recently farming over 1000 acres of land in Yorkshire has retired and become one of the permanent staff. He is now charged with the distribution of the leaflets referred to.

Wm. Reid, a well known Glasgow Single Taxer, has also become a member of the permanent staff, and he will open an office at Newcastle-on-Tyne from where he will organise the Northern Counties of England. At the present time Mr. Edward McHugh is in Wales and is there meeting with success in organising a permanent committee which is to keep our question to the front in that quarter. All this work is made possible by the generous and continued support of Mr. Fels, whose example we hope may soon be followed by other earnest men who have hitherto withheld their support from our movement.

Owing to the larger staff and new work taken in hand the Committee has found it necessary to remove to larger and more convenient offices. They are still housed in the same building where they have a suite of six very commodious rooms furnished with almost every up-to date contrivance for the proper working of a first class office.

The formal opening of these new offices took place on Monday, June 27th, when members of the Committee and a number of friends were invited to tea to meet the Lord Advocate (Mr. Ure) and join in presenting him with an illuminated address. On behalf of the Committee Mr. Crompton L. Davies made the presentation which Mr. Ure acknowledged in a very fine speech in which he referred to the pleasure it has given him to co-operate with us in promoting the Land Values Taxation cause. He expressed his willingness to give the Committee all the assistance he could in the future. Mr. Paul, Mr. Fels, Messrs Dundas White, M. P., Wedgwood, M. P., Burt, Smithson and Byles M. P., also spoke. Amongst others present were Mrs. Wedgwood, H. G. Chancellor, M. P., Mrs. Fels, Messrs. Yancey Cohen (formerly of New

York) Fred Verinder, Edward McHugh, and James Busby.

On the same night the news came to us that Mr. Winston Churchill was just finishing the reading of "Progress and Poverty." It will be interesting to read Mr. Churchill's future speeches and to note whether he is able to accept the proposition that "the simple yet sovereign remedy, which will raise wages, increase the earnings of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human powers, lessen crime, elevate morals, taste, and intelligence, purify government and carry civilisation to yet nobler heights, is to appropriate rent by taxation." That this brilliant young statesman has read "Protection or Free Trade" may be seen from the following quotation from a speech delivered by him last January in which he said that "Land Reform and Free Trade stood together. They stood together with Henry George and with Richard Cobden and they stood together in the Liberal policy of to-day."

I am particularly glad to be able to report that the promoters of the International Free Trade Congress to be held at Antwerp in August have granted the United Committee the privilege of submitting a paper on "The Taxation of Land Values in its relation to Free Trade." The fact that the writing of the article has been placed in the hands of Mr. Verinder is a guarantee that the work will be well done.

F. SKIRROW.

London, Eng.

SPAIN

England has had the honor among the great nations of the earth to start the movement for the Single Tax and to hasten its application among peoples where it has as yet obtained no foothold. Spain is an instance in point. The Spanish people have learned during the past winter of the English movement and have followed it with much interest. The example of Great Britain has been of more advantage to us than years of preaching.

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