

WASHINGTON STATE.

We all feel strong and better for the recent visit of Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow. During his stay of a week in our City Mr. Bigelow delivered eleven lectures besides several brief talks.

His lectures on "Land Value Taxation" and "The High Cost of Living and the Primary Cause" contain the burden of Mr. Bigelow's message and are exceptionally forcible and convincing. Both of these should be put into pamphlet form, for they would make most effective propaganda matter.

There was scarcely a dry face Sunday morning in the well filled Christian Church during the delivery of his lecture on "Les Miserables, the book and its people." The discourse in the Universalist Church Sunday evening on "The More Abundant Life" was handled with equal force and effectiveness.

I am convinced that Mr. Bigelow almost persuaded some of our good church going friends to be Christians; for he surely pointed continually to the natural law, that must be socially sought out and obeyed, before the individual can be free to attain to his highest and best.

Among all the many favorable and even enthusiastic endorsements of Mr. Bigelow's work, I have heard but one criticism. This came from an ardent prohibitionist who thinks national prohibition would really solve the whole matter.

In his concluding lecture on Universal Suffrage before the Spokane Equal Suffrage League, Mr. Bigelow incidentally said he did not favor prohibition. This lecture was somewhat curtailed in order to take the 9 P. M. train for Portland, so he did not take the time to develop his position regarding temperance.

I took some pains to try to convince my friends that even a minister could consistently and conscientiously oppose the dangerous coercive principle of prohibition.

Miss Elyne Walin, a member of the faculty of Coer D'Alene College, just across the border into Northern Idaho, who was instrumental in placing Messrs. White and Bigelows' afternoon lectures before that institution, writes as follows:

"Mr. Bigelow has come and gone and everyone of us are much better for it. I told Mr. Bigelow before he left us that I considered the lecture delivered to us by Mr. John Z. White and the lecture he had just delivered to be two of the best lectures it had been my privilege to hear. I can't take it back either."—WM. MATHEWS, Spokane, Wash.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THIS YEAR MARKED BY STEADY PROGRESS—
ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT THE LAW—NOT
A SEAT LOST TO THE LIBERALS IN BY-
ELECTIONS—GREAT MEETINGS ADDRESSED
BY LORD ADVOCATE URE.

We are fast approaching the end of another year, and whatever may be the measure of success in other and worthy causes there can be no gainsaying the fact that the year 1910 has been marked by steady progress for the Taxation of Land Values. Old friends are true, and as active as ever. New friends have come along to give us a hand. Speaking at Pontypool on Oct. 24th Mr. McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, said:

"For many years the taxation of Land Values was a voice crying in the Wilderness. To-day that voice spoke with the authority of law. We look forward to a bright future. They asked for taxes on our bread. We have given them the taxation of Land Values, and the more they press us the sterner will be our reply."

This is a straw that shows the drift of the current in the highest circle of Liberal politics. Up till now we have rather reckoned (and we have some justification for so-doing) the First Lord of the Admiralty as one of the forces against our Policy. Politicians may try to get up enthusiasm for "Free Trade" (of the Harold Cox kind), or on the "Osborne Judgment," for a "stronger Navy," "Payment of Members," "House of Lords" etc., etc., but it is around the "Valuation and Taxation of Land Values" that the real fighting still takes place. What will actually occur when the Valuation is completed and efforts

are made to make Land Values the basis for local rates, may be imagined by what is taking place now. A young Tory M. P. for Denbigh, speaking at Portmadoc on Oct. 26th, said that "If Landlords were compelled to suffer much longer owing to the imposition on them by the Radical Government of extra taxes, the time might arise when they would have to fight for their rights, and he would not hesitate, whenever the time came, to use once more the sword presented to Sir John Owen, an ancestor his, for risking his life for principles." The Speaker was Mr. Ormsby-Gore, heir to the Barony of Harlech. His family motto is "In this sign ye shall conquer." His coat of arms is said to represent a mailed fist pulling another man's leg. But however this may be we can afford to welcome such a fine fighting spirit on the part of so representative a defender of the landed interest.

That the enemy means to use every device in his power whether legal or illegal, is quite clear. Land Unions and Property Owners Associations are being formed with the avowed object of securing the repeal of the Land Clauses of the Budget of last year and in the meantime to discover ways and means of evading the taxes imposed on land. These Organizations have already taken cases into Court to test the validity of Form 4. A writ has been issued against the Attorney General, Sir Robert Chalmer, K. C. B., and other Inland Revenue Officers for a declaration that the notice requiring a person to fill up Form 4. is ultra vires, illegal and void. The Court decided against them, the validity of Form 4, being upheld. On Appeal Mr. Justice Lush on the King's Bench, Judge's Chambers, on November 3rd. dismissed the Appeal with Costs, holding that the decision of the Master in Chambers was right, and that the Action was wholly misconceived. Before me is a Pamphlet entitled "The Land Union's reasons for Repeal of the New Taxes and Valuation," price 6d. In the preface we are told that "It is intended to be of service to Politicians who are opposed to the Socialistic and predatory schemes of Mr. Lloyd George and the present Government." It claims to represent a Non-party Organization. After stating

that its creed is taxation according to ability, it quotes from Mr. Ure that: "Land Valuation would not be worth while if it stopped at the Budget Taxes. They asked that the Valuation should be made for another and greater purpose, in order that they might remove all rating and all taxation from the value of buildings and improvements, and place the whole of it upon the basis of the value of Land."

We are told that the Land Union is going to carry on an unceasing agitation for repeal. It quotes with approval a statement by Mr. W. H. Aggs, M.A., on the Finance Act as follows: "There is no wrong doing either legal or moral, in avoiding taxes which are not clearly and explicitly imposed, since, it is the duty of the State to use language of precision when it is imposing liability upon its citizens." The Union will only support Parliamentary Candidates who pledge themselves to the repeal of the land taxes and Valuation." All this opposition but brings "grist to our mill."

It is a gratifying feature of the present political situation that the Government has not lost a seat to the Opposition since the General Election in January. Only within the last few weeks two by-elections have taken place and both were won by Government supporters. Sir John Simon (the newly appointed Solicitor General), at Walthamstow, had an increased majority of 571, winning by the magnificent majority of 2766 over his Tory opponent. The latter refused the assistance of the "Land Union" and would not pledge himself to vote for the repeal of the Land taxes or Valuation, thus showing that Parliamentary Candidates fully realize the popularity of the Budget and at the same time telling the land Union that their services are not wanted by a conservative candidate! In the South Shields by-election the Government Candidate had a majority of 3011. The Land Union Pamphlet urges speakers to avoid the terms "Liberal and Conservative" and use only the terms "Communist or Robber Socialist as opposed to individualist or honest citizen." But the conservative candidate for Walthamstow gave these hot headed property partisans the go-by. He

politely told them to take themselves and their fireworks elsewhere.

The writer of the pamphlet speaks of the Undeveloped Land Tax as "the most insidious of all the land taxes in that it is apparently though not actually, insignificant in amount." Of course no Tory Pamphlet or speech is complete these days without some reference to Mr. Fels, the mention of whose name in the presence of the Land Union supporters produces an effect like the waving of a red rag at a bull. That the weight of public opinion is against them must be fully borne in upon their minds. The Tory Policy now includes "Tariff Reform, Social Reform, and Land Reform;" a sign of the times.

Here is a specimen of the depths to which the enemy has sunk. Speaking at Manchester Tuesday Nov. 8th, Mr. Wyndham said: "There ought to be no fear of dear food. It was not a question of political economy. It was a question of whether they believed in the good faith of two Englishmen—Joseph Chamberlain and A. J. Balfour." This of course is a piece of "blarney" on the part of Mr. Wyndham. The country knows how Mr. Balfour has valiantly fought and resisted the tariff reformers and that he is not at all in agreement with Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. Pretymen, M. P. at Leeds Oct. 18th 1910, said: "He did not appear in opposition as an owner wishing to escape a burden. He and the other officials of the Union opposed the taxes because they believed them to be wrong and injurious and calculated to produce little or no revenue. On the ground that the taxes were contrary to the interests of the State, they opposed them root and branch, and demanded the repeal of the Act. Again he opposed the land taxes because practically the whole of the investments of the working classes of this Country were in land and real property." The people are seeing through these pretensions. Lloyd George has brought into our political atmosphere something like the spirit which characterised the Anti-Poverty movement in New York when Henry George, Dr. McGlynn, Tom L. Johnson, Louis Post, James Redpath and others carried on their inspiring campaign. But here after twenty years

of incessant preaching and agitation on the part of Henry George's followers there is deep and abiding knowledge of the inner meaning of the movement. Mr. Lloyd George is striking the imagination and sympathies of the people. Without a doubt he is the best fighting force in Great Britain. He speaks in language that is understood and appreciated by the common people. A few more years of such well directed effort as he has given us in the past two years, and who can tell what progress we may register in the direction of human liberty? In places where a few years ago Single Taxers and their policy were treated with contempt it is now regarded with fear or downright resentment. But, however changes may have taken place in the minds of politicians and of the people as a whole, there has been no change in the sentiment or character of our landed aristocracy since the day when the late Professor Thorold Rogers declared that "there is nothing in the history of civilization more odious than the meanness of some of our English Landlords—unless it be their insolence." Every day brings proofs of the good judgment of Thorold Rogers in his estimate of the character of these people.

It has required a great deal of effort to waken the people to the enormity of land monopoly, but at last they are taking a real live interest in what is to them the most vital of all questions. The selfish attitude of our privileged classes is rousing the spirit of a people who for centuries have sheepishly suffered cruel injustice, almost without a murmur. Our landed aristocracy have ridden rough-shod over the rights and liberties of the disinherited masses. In turning the people out of their holdings they have cared neither for age nor sex, and every countryside has living memories of the most cruel oppression. They have used their powers as law-makers to rid themselves of the burdens which were rightly theirs, and they have rack-rented and reduced the people to poverty and despair. Now that the limit of toleration is reached and the nation is rising up in its wrath against this iniquity, we find these oppressors and their agents unctuously posing as the only true friends

of the widow and the orphan, the small property owner, and the farmer, and the members of Building Societies, etc.

From all parts of the country come reports of the breaking up of large estates. As I looked casually through my paper this morning, I read of the sale of Earl Manver's estate in Lincolnshire; that Sir Frederick J. W. Johnstone is reported to have decided to dispose of his Westerhall estate amounting to nearly 20,000 acres. This family have owned the estate since the year 1200. The Ludstone Hall estate in Shropshire with its moated 17th century Manor House is another property to be shortly brought into the market. These are only a few instances of the break-up of large numbers of estates which to have looked over the fence of a few years ago would almost have landed a farm laborer into goal. Earl de la Warr has intimated that he intends selling the greater part of Buckhurst Estate. This has been in the possession of the Sackville Family since the time of William the Conqueror. In face of all this one wonders what a universal tax on Land Values will accomplish when the mere prospect of it is producing such results.

How appropriate was the title of "Prophet" which in derision the late Duke of Argyle gave to Henry George? The world wide character of the agitation brings to mind one of his last prophecies. "Not merely wherever the English tongue is spoken but in all parts of the world men are arising who will carry forward to final triumph the great movements which 'Progress and Poverty' began."

At the recent Free Trade Congress one met Single Taxers from America, Belgium, Denmark, France, Sweden, Switzerland, and other Countries. The spirit of these delegates was in great contrast to the spirit of those who stood merely for the abolition or reduction of protective tariffs. Yes, the people are catching the spirit of a great movement. Thanks to the Landlords, they will not allow the fight to slacken, or the cause to go back. Every day brings reports of new efforts to stem the tide of popular favor for the taxation of land values. This is increasing the force of the struggle and extending the

area in which conflict is being waged. Believing that the doctrines of Henry George are unpopular the landlords are seeking to check our progress by associating the Government's land policy with the name and words of the man whose spirit leads the battle and whose works give the cause a world influence. We may welcome their efforts, for the spirit and works of the man who has brought us thus far may be relied on to carry us to victory.

By the time this reaches you we may be in the midst of another General Election. The Conference on the House of Lords Veto question held its 21st and last Meeting on Thursday. On Friday morning (Nov. 11th.) the following message came from the Prime Minister:

"The Conference which has been sitting to consider the Constitutional Question has come to an end without arriving at an agreement. It is the opinion of all the Members of the Conference that the conditions under which its proceedings have been held preclude any disclosure as to the course of the negotiations or the causes which led to their termination." When the Veto resolutions were passed in the House of Commons, on April 1st, last, Mr. Asquith said:

"If the House of Lords fail to accept our Policy or decline to consider it when it is formally presented to that House, we shall feel it our duty immediately to tender advice to the Crown as to the steps which have to be taken if that policy is to receive statutory effect in this Parliament. What the precise terms of that advice will be, it would, of course, be improper for me to say now. If we do not find ourselves in a position to ensure that statutory effect shall be given to the Policy in this Parliament, we shall then either resign our Offices or advise a dissolution of Parliament. But in no case could we advise a Dissolution except under such conditions as will secure that in the New Parliament the judgment of the people as expressed at the elections will be carried into law."

This was followed by the death of King Edward and the dispute between the two Houses was referred to a Conference consisting of four Liberals and four Conservatives: Liberals: M. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd

George, Lord Crewe and Mr. Birrell. Conservatives: Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Cawdor, and Mr. A. Chamberlain.

Radicals all over the Country rejoice in the fact that the Ministerial representatives have made no concession, and that the question is now to be fought out to the bitter end.

The following important dates may be of service to your readers:

DIARY OF THE CRISIS.

These are important dates in the development of the Crisis:

Feb. 21st, New Parliament opened by King Edward.

March 22nd, Lord Rosebery's resolutions passed in the Lords.

March 29th, Veto Resolutions introduced in the Commons.

April 14th, Commons Veto Resolutions passed and Bill embodying them read a first time.

April 19th, Lords fix date for the Commons Resolutions, May 24th.

May 6th, Death of King Edward.

June 13th, Mr. Asquith announces Veto Conference.

June 17th, First Meeting of Conference.

July 27th, Adjournment for Recess after twelve meetings.

Oct. 11th, Conference resumes.

Nov. 8th, Mr. Asquith received in audience by the King.

Nov. 10th, Conference breaks up on 21st meeting.

Mr. Balfour, it may be pointed out, paid a visit to Balmoral on September 29th, when the King was in residence.

On Saturday, November 12th, the Yorkshire *Daily Observer* contained this from Lloyd George, which indicates that it is no sham battle we are about to be led into. He says:

"Having in vain used every endeavor through conciliating methods to win equal political rights for all Britons, we are now driven to fight for fair play in our native land. We repudiate the claim put forward by 600 Tory Peers, that they were born to control the destinies of 25,000,000 of their fellow citizens, and to trample upon their wishes for the good government of their own country."

In our organization, or rather I should say in all our organizations throughout the country specially devoted to the promotion of our policy, there has never been a greater amount of activity or a finer spirit shown. At Glasgow, Newcastle on Tyne, here in Yorkshire, in Lancashire, in the Midlands, in the South of England or in Wales; wherever our people are banded together, there is the most encouraging enthusiasm for the fight. There are hundreds and thousands of active men and women, all over the land, earnestly discussing what Taxation of Land Values means. Form 4 has proved to be a most humanising document. It has turned this Country into a debating Society for the Taxation of land values.

For the first time in the history of the Movement we have convened a week-end Conference of our people, held at Manchester, September 30th to October 2nd. It was a most successful and inspiring series of meetings. On the Saturday evening we held a Henry George Memorial Dinner, which in numbers and enthusiasm for the work, exceeded any previous similar meeting. The guests of the Committee at the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fels. Unfortunately through indisposition, Mrs. Fels was not able to come from London, but we were glad to have from her a warm message of sympathy and approval. Mr. Fels, himself, was in his usual breezy enthusiasm. Some people think of Mr. Fels as a man who is putting money into the movement. That is true, and it means much to the movement; but what we appreciate is the man himself. The amount of work Mr. Fels puts into the agitation, his interest in the work, and his own personal efforts in trying to convince people of all classes that this is the right policy in politics, entitle him to a foremost place among those who are striving to carry the policy of Henry George into practical realization.

On Friday evening the Lord Advocate opened the Conference by a masterly exposition of what the Land Clauses of the 1909 Budget meant for the Country. Mr. Ure still continues his marvelous enthusiasm and industry, speaking nightly all over the country to huge audiences, telling

them the story of the existing system of rating, how it hampers industry, creates unemployment, and directly causes much of the poverty and misery which the people so patiently endure.

At Glasgow, on October 13th, he addressed a Mass Meeting in the largest hall in the City. It was acknowledged to be the greatest political meeting ever held in the "second City." The meeting was held under the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, The Scottish Liberal Association, and the Glasgow Liberal Council, and the subject of Mr. Ure's address was "Land Values, their Relationship to Free Trade, Housing and Unemployment." He boldly declared that Free Trade as we had it to-day was no cure for unemployment, no more than Tariff Reform was a cure. It was a most enthusiastic gathering, attended by representative Liberals and Land Reformers from all parts of the West of Scotland.

Here in Yorkshire we are just arranging to open a new establishment at Leeds, the leading town in the County, and so the work goes on.

The literature being distributed by the United Committee, has met so far with the greatest appreciation. In taking this literature into every house in the United Kingdom, the Committee has reached out to a great big piece of work which will have the most enduring effects for good.

We here do a great amount of work through the politicians, but we only work through these channels in so far as it enables us to create the sentiment in the community for our policy. The next move, after valuation of the land, is to have powers given to local bodies to make land values the basis of local rating, to substitute the value of land for the existing system of rating, which penalizes the improver and allows the monopoly value of the land to escape.

We are just, the papers advise us, on the eve of a General Election. The tory party, we are told, is not so keen for the fight. The Liberal Party is better equipped, but however this may be, we are going to win.

The question of taxing land values is now up in the public mind, and there it will remain until a great measure of eco-

nomic freedom is achieved. The Landlord Party are pouring out hundreds of thousands of pounds to stem this tide of popular enthusiasm for the taxation of land values. In this they are contributing much to the discussion, and maintaining it in ever so many different fields of thought and action. The more they talk and act, the better for our ideas and proposals.—F. SKIRROW.

TAXATION IN NEW MEXICO.

The taxation machinery is in the hands of the railroad through county bosses. It has been a powerful weapon of coercion. Tax rates are enormous. The State territorial rate is but 11 mills, but there are counties in which the rate is as high as 15 cents on each dollar each year.

The high rate is due to peculiar valuations. Houses of those who are "right" are valued as low as \$5 on the tax lists, while those who rebel frequently find homes of similar value listed at \$1,000.

The tax graft has been worked to the limit. It has been the cause of murders, of oppressions so tyrannous that resort to bloodshed has seemed the only relief. In this taxing the Santa Fe has fared well. It secured from Congress a flat tax of \$175 per mile on most of its trackage.—B. F. GURLEY in Cincinnati, Ohio, *Post*.

The London *Daily Mirror* contains five illustrations of the characteristic poses of Lord Advocate Ure and under them the following: "Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, who spoke at a land demonstration in Gladstone Park on Saturday alluded to the taxation of the future. He was anxious he said, to lift all taxation from men's labor. There was no man or woman in that gathering, however young and healthy who would live to see the day when the land taxes were repealed. They would, however, live to see the day when the principle would be extended far more widely than now."

Does every Single Taxer in your city take the REVIEW? If not, why not?