

the Land Value Tax party to get nominations on the official ballot for the next election."

It was therefore suggested that adherents of the Land Value Tax Party vote for some member of the party in the blank columns. The Executive Committee has authority to make nominations for any state office, but they may suggest that some member of the committee or any member of the party be voted for in the blank column. Similar suggestions may be adopted in other states where embryonic Land Value Tax Party groups are in process of formation. It may be possible in some districts to place legislative candidates in the field.

ACTIVITY IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Pennsylvania Single Tax League has been holding successful meetings on Monday and other evenings at the City Hall plaza and other places. In July meetings were held every night for nearly three weeks. During the last few months over five hundred pieces of literature were sold at the open air meetings. Our Philadelphia friends have received and filled orders to the number of about two hundred for literature from Canada and the United States, and have sold thirteen hundred books in all.

Among the speakers at the open air meetings during the summer were Chas. D. Ryan, Thomas Kavangh, Joseph Winslow, Peter J. Winslow, Alexander Stirlith, John Dix, Jerome C. Reis, Alfred Guerero, and James Robinson.

The admirable articles from the pen of Frederick J. Haskin on the British Crisis which appeared in the columns of the *Globe and Commercial Advertiser* of this city during the month of July were highly intelligent studies of the various phases of British Politics. Mr. Haskin understands what is at the bottom of the struggle, and seldom have we read in the columns of any metropolitan newspaper articles of equal clearness and penetration.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PARLIAMENT TO CONVENE NOVEMBER 15TH
—THE MEMORIAL TO PARLIAMENT SIGNED
BY 134 MEMBERS—PERTINENT CARTOONS
—WORK OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS—CONFERENCE OF SINGLE TAXERS AT MANCHESTER.

Parliament was prorogued on September 3rd, and will meet again on November 15th. Then we hope to hear the result of the deliberations of those party leaders who have been conferring with a view to arriving at a settlement of the vexed question as to whether the people or the Peers are to govern this country. Whatever may be the recommendations of the eight gentlemen who form the Conference the final word rests with the people, and it is safe to say that they are in no mood to pander to a reactionary out-of-date institution such as the House of Lords. That any vital concession to the Lords will utterly wreck the Liberal Party and the character of its leaders is no doubt well known to Mr. Asquith, Lord Crewe, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Birrell. The temper of the people will stand no concessions to their ancient foe—a temper which is well and forcibly expressed in the words of the poet, Swinburne:

"Clear the way, my Lords and lackeys;
You have had your day.
Here you have your answer—England's
yea against your nay—
Long enough your house has held you;
up and clear the way!"

Here the struggle over the Land question is going on in a manner that compels attention. The temporary lull of a couple of months ago came to an end with the publication of the Valuation Forms, and now, whether men wish it or not, they are being compelled to range themselves on one side or the other, for or against the principles of the Budget of last year, and for or against the Government which passed the Bill.

Looking calmly at the political situation one feels with Louis F. Post, that herein the British Isles "the warfare of Demo-

cracy against privilege in the most subtle forms it has yet disclosed has just begun. Yet we may confidently believe with the optimism of the true democrat, that the modern battle for the ethics of democracy will end, as all those that have preceded it in the history of the race have ended, in a victory for rights over privileges."

Yes, the fight has surely begun, and our hope lies in the fact that the conflict is being waged, not so much as to the question whether it would be expedient to tax land values, but as to whether it would be just to do so.

"Is it right?" This is the vital question men are asking themselves. To those of us who believe with Henry George that "Justice means liberty, and liberty is the natural law," and that "the Single Tax is the tap-root of liberty," the answer is clearly in the affirmative. So it is with an ever increasing number of the electors.

At no period in the history of our movement has there been more valid reasons for genuine optimism than now. In and out of Parliament the forces making for the taxation of land values were never so united, or their powers so well directed.

The last act of the Land Values group in the House of Commons prior to the prorogation, is the strongest possible evidence in support of the view here expressed. This was the Presentation on August 3rd, of a Memorial to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Members of the Cabinet. Below is the title and text of the Memorial.

LAND AND TAXATION REFORM.

"We, the following Members of Parliament, desire to place on record our grateful appreciation of the efforts of the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the other Members of the Cabinet, in placing upon the Statute Book of the Country the Budget of 1909-1910, which for the first time recognizes the principle of the separate valuation of land, and thus provides the foundation necessary for such further reforms as will result in securing for the people of this Country a more equitable distribution of the burdens of the State, in securing to each the results of his own

labor, and in opening up the land to those who can make the best use of it.

We therefore respectfully urge the Government to continue and develop the policy inaugurated by the Budget by:

- (1) Making Land Values available for public needs;
- (2) Freeing industry from monopoly and undue burdens of taxation;
- (3) Completing the policy of Free Trade by—(a) Securing greater opportunities to produce in our own Country by affording greater opportunities to use the land; and (b) Abolishing the duties that remain on the food of the people.

We ask that this policy may be carried into effect by—

- (1) Hastening the completion of the Valuation of all land, apart from improvements, provided for in the Budget of 1909-1910;
- (2) Making that Valuation accessible to the public;
- (3) Empowering Local Authorities to levy rates on the basis of that Valuation;
- (4) Levying a Budget Tax on all Land Values, to be applied—(a) In providing a national fund to be allocated toward the cost of such services as Education, Poor Relief, Main Roads, Asylums, and Police, thereby reducing the local rates; and (b) In substitution of the duties on Tea, Sugar, Cocoa, and other articles of food."

This memorial bearing the signatures of 134 Members of Parliament indicates a line of policy which is well calculated to secure the largest possible amount of support, whilst disarming the largest amount of opposition. In my judgment it is the embodiment of the wisest and strongest policy which could possibly be devised.

The enemy is not asleep. He is wide awake and very active. Like our own party, (I mean the men standing for the Taxation of Land Values) our enemy is well organized. Practically unlimited funds are at his disposal. He sees the drift of things and will spare no effort to frustrate our policy and dish the Government which has initiated it.

The Valuation and Taxation of Land Values overshadows all other questions. The publication of the Valuation forms has

had a "moving" effect upon the forces of reaction throughout the whole length of the land. Now that the Government is calling upon the owners of land to fill in Returns, giving description, area, gross value, etc., of their holdings, it is being denounced for setting up a tyrannical inquisition. Property Owners (really land owners) Associations are being set up all over the Country to undermine the effort of those responsible for carrying out the scheme of Valuation.

Opposition is varied in character, but for every move by the landed interest, there is a counter move by our Organizations. In this interesting and exciting game the United Committee and the various Leagues are playing an important part. In fact, one feels that were it not for the activities of the Committee and its auxiliaries, the land policy of the Government would lack that adequate defence which is necessary.

The Tory press is full of leaders, notes, reports of speeches and correspondence, the chief features of which are mis-representation and abuse.

A recent issue of a leading Tory paper, the *Daily Telegraph*, contained forty letters, a leader and a special article on Valuation. Other opposition papers are also devoting a large amount of space to the discussion of the subject. *Punch* recently had a good cartoon, and upon that the *Daily Telegraph* commented as follows:

PUNCH'S PICTURE.

Under the title of "The Holiday Task," Mr. Bernard Partridge presents in this week's *Punch* cartoon a "study of a Free-born Briton," who, within the period usually allotted to his holidays, is required, under threat of a penalty of £50, to answer a mass of obscure conundrums relating to Land Values, in order to facilitate his future taxation. The picture is a moving one. Through the open door the country landscape may be seen, but the Free-born Briton, seated in his shirt sleeves at a table, has eyes for nothing but a paper headed "Duties on Land Values," of which he has got as far as the middle of the first line. With one hand clutching his head, and a finger of the other pressed hard down on the text, he sits with staring eyes,

surrounded by documents on "Tithes," "Minerals," "Easements," "Assignments," "Fee Simple," "Title Deeds," "Imaginary site Value," and every other conceivable phase of the land laws. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not withhold his pity from the sufferer."

Naturally the *Telegraph* omits to inform its reader that the Valuation forms would have been issued in the early part of the year, but for the fact that the Lords had delayed the passing of the Budget by some six months or more.

The *Punch* Cartoon has been reproduced in *Land Values*. I would also like to see it reproduced in the REVIEW.

Under the title of "Philosophy," an excellent cartoon by F. C. Gould has appeared in the *Westminster Gazette*. It represents a Meeting and a conversation between a Squire and an Agricultural laborer—both typical characters—and runs as follows:

(Squire)—No, Hodge, I'm not at all well! How the deuce can any landowner be well under this wretched Radical Government! It's taken me a whole week to fill up those beastly Land-tax papers.

Hodge, (the Village Philosopher): Well now, Squire, us 'ave all got our troubles: Yew've got more land than you can rackon in a week, and I've never been able to get any land to rackon with at all."

Amongst the papers which support the Valuation Scheme must be mentioned, The *Westminster Gazette*, The *Daily Chronicle*, *Daily News*, *Yorkshire Observer*. As one of our friends remarked, at times these papers read almost like a daily edition of *Land Values*. The fact is that friend and foe are putting forth efforts unequalled at any previous time, and out of all this conflict it is reasonable to assume that truth will out and justice will finally be done to the people who have too long been oppressed.

The Land Union, at the head of which is Mr. E. G. Prettyman, M. P., is reported to be promoting a scheme for securing 250,000 appeals against the Valuations. This it is hoped will bring about the downfall of the whole scheme and those responsible for it. In other words, landowners are not only anxious to change the law, but are

openly advocating the violation of what is now the law of the land. This kind of thing is just being overdone and will likely produce unexpected results. In a prospectus just issued by the Land Union, it is stated "The responsible Government has made a direct attack upon the private ownership of land in this country. It has done so under pressure of a well organized and insidious campaign, financed by a foreign millionaire." In their appeal for subscriptions they give the name of the Honorary Treasurer as Mr. Sidney Hoffnung-Goldsmid.

To give a detailed account of all that is being done by the United Committee and its helpers would require more space than you can afford, but I think I am safe in saying that they represent the most enthusiastic as well as the most effective support of the Valuation Scheme, which, whatever may be its weaknesses and its faults, has brought the enemy out into the open. It has raised discussion. It has compelled the Landlords to defend their privileges. It has wakened up the people and has dispelled the apathy which has always been the greatest obstacle to progress. It is the Henry George men of Great Britain through their Single Tax or Land Value Leagues who have brought about the present encouraging state of affairs.

As M. E. G. Price, M. P., (Chairman of our Parliamentary Group) recently said in a letter to Mr. John Paul:

"The work of the group is the most important and abiding of any in the House of Commons. I look back upon the efforts of 1906-7-8 as the real beginning of the Budget. But your work in the country for years has been the real ground work. If the cause only continues to grow as it has done it will revolutionize our country."

A country solicitor writes to the *Times* of August 22nd: "For once the ideas and forces of revolution have got law and order on their side. Landlordism is to be undermined and destroyed in Great Britain, and instead of being able to invoke the powers of the law, or of the army, it finds them in other hands. This Revolution is unlike a great many of its predecessors; it has a sobering, steadying effect upon the Nation.

The landlords and the lawyers may struggle and kick, but there is an overwhelming force opposed to them."

In years gone by the arduous work of breaking up the ground and sowing of the seed had been done here and there in the country. We had just reached a point where the organization of the scattered forces was essential for the harvesting of the crops. The one thing needed to bring about this organization was funds.

For years great sacrifices had to be made by a number of our fairly well-to-do friends, but in spite of all they could do our efforts were badly crippled for the want of money. Just at the right moment along came a man who had not only money which he wanted to use in the movement, but a splendid enthusiasm which had an inspiring effect. Mr. Joseph Fels (the man to whom I refer) and his devoted wife came to the support of the movement at this critical time, and today there is no end to the activities of the United Committee and the Leagues it represents. The demand for our speakers and literature is greater than ever. Many well known supporters of the movement occupy high positions in the Liberal Party and the Government. Labor M. P.'s are also giving more and more earnest support.

The Secretary for Scotland has recently appointed M. J. Dundas White, M. P., private Parliamentary Secretary (unpaid). A three weeks speaking campaign is now being arranged for Mr. White in the Highlands (October 20th to November 10th), and our Highland friends are delighted at the prospect of hearing a gentleman who has long been known to them as a careful thinker and exponent of our views. The campaign is likely to finish with a Conference at Inverness, to be organized by a Highland Land Values League now being inaugurated by our Scottish League of which Mr. James Busby is Secretary.

The United Committee is publishing an excellent pamphlet from the pen of Mr. White, in which he opens with a statement of the fundamental right to the use of land as stated by Henry George. The pamphlet contains a preface by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George.

Another very useful pamphlet now being

published is a reply to "The Land Union Guide," signed by Crompton L. Davies and John Paul. The pamphlet has been widely commented on by the press. The *Daily Chronicle* of August 12th says:

"The booklet contains a crushing exposure of the Land Union agitation, and sets out in a brief and admirable manner the case for the Taxation of Land Values."

The officials of the United Committee and Leagues are kept busy giving interviews to newspaper men, politicians and others, and are reaching out to various kinds of new work as the demand of the hour requires.

The annual meeting of the English League, of which Mr. Frederick Verinder has been the Secretary from the beginning (27 years), was held on July 20th, in the Essex Hall. Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, K. C. M. P., was succeeded as President by Mr. Henry George, Chancellor M. P. Amongst others attending the meeting were, Alderman P. Wilson Raffan, M. P., James O'Grady, M. P., Francis Neilson, M. P., and Mr. Lewis H. Berens the energetic Treasurer. Mr. Berens reported that he could not remember a year of such continuous progress, not only in Great Britain, but all over the world. Our Treasurer is always happy when sales of literature are good, for this he takes to be a reliable guide as to public interest and progress being made in our movement. This year Mr. Berens was specially happy in giving his Financial Statement, for he was able to report a record sale of literature. Mr. Berens suitably referred to the activities of the United Committee and to the generosity of Mr. Fels, which had enabled so much to be accomplished.

The first Conference of British Single Taxers is to be held at Manchester from Friday the 30th inst., to Monday, October 3rd. The Manchester Town Hall has been booked for the Conference and the Lord Advocate is to open the discussion on the Friday evening. The Henry George Dinner will be held on the following day, and is expected to be a great success.—F. SKIRROW, London, Eng.

Is every Single Taxer in your locality a subscriber to the *REVIEW*? If not, what will you do?

OUR BRITISH COMRADES AND THE BRITISH SITUATION.

(For the Review.)

BY GEORGE WALLACE.

Spending a few weeks in Old England, I naturally look about to see what is doing in the land value tax movement, by making calls on old friends and workers; however, this is the worst season of the year for such a visit. August is the great month for an Englishman to "go on his holiday," and many of our working brethren are over on the Continent or elsewhere, taking vacation.

One man on whom I have called for many years past, is J. B. Hamilton, a member of the London Stock Exchange. The old gentleman is now 83 years of age, and still vigorous. With much satisfaction, and even with pride, Mr. Hamilton mentions the fact that he entertained Henry George at his house a quarter of a century ago. He is still a thorough believer in the land value tax philosophy, and also a believer in the final triumph of the cause. He mourns over the fact that it cannot be accomplished in his time, but he took a red-hot interest in the recent fight for the Lloyd George budget, which he regards as an entering wedge for the introduction of justice and humanity into the management of human affairs.

The first evening after reaching London, it was my privilege to attend by invitation a meeting of the Executive Committee of the English League for Taxation of Land Values. Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M. P., is president of the League, and also acts as chairman of the Committee.

After routine business was attended to, I was asked to address the Committee on the work in America. Gladly I presented the letter of greeting from the Land Value Tax party, which was published in the last number of the *REVIEW*. It was received in the most fraternal spirit, and the members were glad to learn that it is our hope to start a vigorous propaganda in America. Our English brethren have never been able to understand why the Single Tax cause has made so little progress in the native land of Henry George, and why we allow