

ENGLISH LEAGUE

376 and 377, Strand, London, W.C.2

Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Kay Robinson, D.S.O., Royal Sussex Regiment, who was killed on April 26th, was educated at St. Edmund's School, Canterbury, and at the beginning of the war was on the staff of the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society, and was a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. He joined the Inns of Court O.T.C., and in due course was gazetted to the Royal Sussex Regiment, and was sent to the Western front in March, 1916. In a little over a year he was in command of a battalion. He was mentioned in despatches more than once. For gallantry in connection with the capture of the Schwaben Redoubt he was awarded the D.S.O., and for fine leadership and courage in the fighting round Tower Hamlets he won the Bar. His Brigadier, in a letter to the widow, describes him as "a born leader of men, and quite fearless in action." "I cannot" he says, "speak too highly of the splendid work he has done during the recent fighting. His death will be a great loss to me personally and also to the whole brigade." One of his officers writes:—"It is no exaggeration on my part to say that he was the bravest man I have ever met, and as true a friend as any man could have."—Colonel Robinson had been a member of the League for the past ten years. R.I.P.

The General Secretary has again to thank many members of the League, and other friends, who have sent him kind letters of sympathy since the news of his son's death appeared in last month's LAND VALUES. Letters which have lately come to hand from officers in Palestine speak in the highest terms of this brave young soldier. He died, instantaneously and painlessly, while taking part in an operation in which his company suffered very severely; and was buried on a hill with twelve of his comrades, with the Company Commander and Second in Command at their head.

Arrangements are now being made for the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the League—about the middle of July.

The accounts for the current financial year will be closed on June 30th. Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions are requested to forward them to the office now.

As the result of postal propaganda in the South Western Counties, a number of new members have lately been enrolled.

Marked copies of local papers recording the selection of Parliamentary Candidates, or reports of their speeches, will be gladly received at the League office. A register of candidates for the new constituencies is being prepared, and has made considerable progress., but owing to pressure of war news intimations of selection are more likely to be found in local than in the London papers.

Meetings of Women's Co-operative Guilds were addressed by the General Secretary at Paddington on May 10th, and by Mr. Joseph Sheward at New Southgate on May 24th. The latter meeting was one of a series.

During the summer months, the meetings at Kingston-on-Thames and at Battersea will be held only once a month. Dr. Pearson hopes to carry on open-air meetings at Hanwell. The first was held on May 16th.

Meetings arranged for June are:—

- Mon. 3.—Latchmere Baths (Small Hall), Latchmere Road, Battersea: A. H. Weller, "The Housing Problem," 7.45 p.m.
- Wed. 5.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Co-operative Grocery Stores, Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey: Fredk. Verinder, 3 p.m.
- „ 5.—Fife Hall, Fife Road, Kingston-on-Thames: H. J. Bullivant, "The Right to Work," 8 p.m.
- Fri. 7.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Stores, Kensal Rise: Fredk. Verinder, "Land, Labour and Taxation after the War," 3 p.m.
- Mon. 10.—Executive, 7 p.m.
- Mon. 24.—Executive, 7 p.m.

- Tu. 25.—Worker's Educational Association, Assembly Hall, Northwood, Middlesex: Fredk. Verinder, "Taxation of Land Values," 8.30, p.m.
- Th. 27.—Women's Co-operative Guild, New Southgate: Joseph Sheward.
- July 1.—West Norwood Sisterhood, Primitive Methodist Church, Knight's Hill: Fredk. Verinder, "The Bible and the Land Question," 8 p.m.
- „ 1.—Latchmere Baths, Battersea: Dr. R. E. Pearson, "History of Poverty in England," 7.45.

After the War there will be for some time a world-shortage of Food stuffs: Food is grown on land.

There will be an enormous demand for the raw materials of industry to replace the wastage and destruction of War: The raw materials can only be got from the land.

There will be a great need for houses for the people: The houses can only be built on land, with materials drawn from the land.

The demobilised soldiers and the discharged munition-workers will be looking for jobs:

Every job of productive work is either a job on land (agriculture, mining, quarrying, building) or on the working-up and distribution of materials obtained from land (manufactures, shipbuilding, transport, commerce, shopkeeping, etc.).

Why not begin to study the Land Question now?

[The above is being printed by the English League in the form of a handbill, with space for the announcement of meetings, etc.]

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN

AUSTRALIA VICTORIA

In an informing article on Railway Freights and how to reduce them, appearing in the BENDIGO ADVERTISER, 26. 9. 1917), Woolloong writes:—

In two previous articles appearing in the BENDIGO ADVERTISER on 3rd and 30th August it was pointed out that railway freights could be reduced by at least 25 per cent. on existing rates, and an anticipated deficit of £750,000 could be made up by a tax of 1d. in the £ on all Victorian ground values, and which would yield £782,364.

Parliament has the power to, and a patriotic Parliament should, alter this system so that railway freights can be reduced by at least 25 per cent. The method of raising the interest on the railway debt by an impost on ground values has the merit of taking the revenue from where the railways create it, and from where it cannot be passed on. No person, therefore, will be able to make a profit on this form of raising revenue—it taxes no one—it is simply a return for value received.

CALIFORNIA

The Great Adventure Movement

The Great Adventure Council (203, Tajo Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles) is making an active campaign on behalf of a Constitutional Amendment to be voted on this autumn providing for the raising of all State and Local revenues by taxation of Land Values only. It will be

remembered that in 1916 over 260,000 votes were cast in favour of a similar measure. The activity of our Californian friends is making the land monopolists extremely uneasy, not to say frightened, and we have much pleasure in printing the following eloquent tribute by their opponents. It is from a circular issued by a body called the "People's Anti-Single Tax League."

Do you know there is grave danger of a Single Tax law being adopted at the next General Election, unless our property owners wake up to a *serious* situation?

Do you also know that the Single Taxers have a fund said to be in excess of \$100,000 with which they are extending their propaganda throughout the State of California?

Do you also know that the proponents of Single Tax are circulating their initiative petition in *your* city and throughout the State, and that they have already secured many thousands of signatures of voters? Their claim is that they can carry California by switching only 70,000 voters in the last election.

You do know, doubtless, that in the event the Single Taxers are successful, property values will be so impaired in California that they will be practically worthless, and *your property* will probably suffer confiscation.

The Single Taxers have raised a cry of "Open California's Twenty Million Idle Acres to Raising Food, Mines and Oil Wells to Use—Feed and Equip the Allies, Win the War." Their cry is being heeded by thousands of thoughtless people throughout the State who are leaning toward this seemingly patriotic, but immeasurably false appeal. They are making the supreme effort of their lives in this State, by enlisting the aid of their entire National organisation, and they say they are going to *win at any cost*.

The circular concludes by an appeal for \$25,000 to \$50,000 for a campaign fund.

Commenting on this The Great Adventure Council says:—

This appeal to the Land Profiteers foreshadows a strong defensive to the fall campaign for the enactment of single tax in California.

Its flattering reference to the single tax war chest is somewhat previous. Our bank balance April 1st was \$78.93, but this amount plus the ardour and effective work of the campaign committee, looks like a hundred thousand dollars to the Anti-Single Tax League, no doubt.

Their modest plea for "\$25,000 to \$50,000" is less candid than our frankly-spoken need of a hundred thousand.

In the 1916 campaign they spent upwards of a million dollars against the total of \$11,000 by the Great Adventure.

Any one of the bank presidents, land speculators, and big business operators whose name decorates this letter-head can spend more on servants, joy rides, and baubles per year than the last single tax campaign had to spend.

It will be different this year—and the result of the election will be different.

SPAIN

A remarkable little book, with an arresting title, comes from Spain. It is called *La tierra libre* ("Free Land"), with the sub-title *No pidais pan, pedid tierra!* ("Don't ask for bread, ask for Land!"). Its author, Señor Julio Senador Gómez is a Republican by conviction. He was asked by some friends to assist in the formation of a new party to establish a Republic, "the only means of salvation for the country." The letter which he wrote in reply grew into this small book, written in an extremely lively

style, and full of good argument and apt illustration. The monarchy, he says, is like the red rag that the bull-fighter flourishes in the face of the bull. The stupid bull attacks the red rag, and is killed because he hasn't the sense to attack the man who flourishes it. Attacks upon the monarchy merely distract the people's attention from their real enemies. The real government of a country depends upon its mode of production, and this again depends upon the way in which its land is owned. In Spain, as in other countries, land is monopolised by the few. Five Dukes own 70,000 sq. kilometres: whole towns "belong" to a single individual. The mass of the people, who create the value of this land, are hungry; officialism and corruption are rampant: the people carry an intolerable load of indirect taxation; tariffs are imposed in the interests of landlords and their middle-class supporters; the National debt increases and national deficits grow. Even if, by an armed rising, or by a miracle, a "Republic" could be established, things would be no better, unless the Land Question were first dealt with. This means that the first task is to educate the Spanish people on the Land Question. Señor Gómez' remedy is a "direct and single" tax on land values. "It is necessary to bring it about that land shall have no value, except for him who cultivates, plants, pastures, builds, or works mines." "If, through the action of the tax, the people found themselves restored to the use of the land, all the poor of to-day would cease to be poor from the very moment in which they obtained the opportunity to labour; for the simple fact of digging creates an exchange-value which is not a monopoly-value; he who possesses an exchange-value commands credit; and he who commands credit nowhere suffers poverty." Individual, municipal and national freedom would naturally follow on economic freedom, and, as people freed from the fear of poverty would not put up with lords and tyrants, the true Republic would come, because it is "the definitive formula of Democracy." Señor Gómez pleads, therefore, for a Republican-Labour Party for Spain, with the Single Tax as its main objective. Altogether an inspiring and hopeful little book. F. V.

BRAZIL

By courtesy of Senhor Joaquim Bento Alves de Lima, of Sao Paulo, I have just received a copy of a new Portuguese translation of Henry George's "Social Problems" (*Problemas Sociaes*), published by the Escolas Profissionais do Lyceu Salesiano Sagrado Coração de Jesus, of Sao Paulo (price not stated). It is a large octavo of 302 pages, in paper covers, well printed in good type. The translators (unnamed) have written a short preface, in which they declare themselves convinced disciples of the "sane doctrines co-ordinated and published to the world by Henry George," and "as his works are almost unknown in our country . . . the translators have endeavoured, by this means, to call the attention of their fellow-countrymen to them, convinced, as they are, that in the doctrines preached by Henry George about the liberation of the labour of man, and the concentration of all taxation on the common property, land, is the key to the solution of vast social problems." We heartily congratulate our Brazilian friends on this valuable addition to their means of propaganda.

For the twelve months the farm land sales of the Hudson's Bay Company were 386,300 acres against 255,200 acres in the preceding year, the money value being £1,419,900 and £871,500 respectively, but the town lots disposed of realised only £1,000 against £9,700.—"*Glasgow Herald*," April 4th.

If production had not passed the simple stage in which all labour is directly applied to the land and all wages are paid in its produce, the fact that when the landowner takes a larger portion the labourer must put up with a smaller portion, could not be lost sight of.—Henry George: "*Progress and Poverty*," Book iii., chap. viii.