

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

Canada and other countries to get so far ahead of us. I have told them that a new impetus had been given to the movement by the budget fight in England; that we are trying to take advantage of the awakened sentiment, and get it organized to accomplish good results. Further I told them that we hoped to see much better progress made in the near future than in the somewhat discouraging past.

It was a great pleasure to spend a couple of hours with the determined band of men who are on this Committee, both when addressing them and also in social intercourse afterwards. They are live men, earnest and determined in their work, and they were much pleased with the greetings which I brought to them. By a very hearty vote Mr. Frederick Verinder, the Secretary, was instructed to prepare a suitable response, sending the greetings of the League to the brethren in America.

It has been encouraging to me to spend a few days in Manchester, where the League is constantly engaged in vigorous work. As John Bagot wrote me, the Manchester League is "always on the job." The first evening after reaching the city it was my privilege to address the Economic Class at a largely attended meeting. Knowing I was to be present, they had reserved the whole evening for their American brother. After the address was concluded, a number of very interesting questions were propounded as to the Single Tax work and philosophy. The answers were well received.

On Friday evening the weather was fine, and it was my privilege to speak at a large open-air meeting at the gate of Alexandra Park. On Sunday afternoon I addressed a meeting in an enclosure in Birchfield Park. The crowd was so large as to tax my voice, but they manifested great interest in the cause, not only during the delivery of the address but in asking pertinent and proper questions when I got through. The man who asks intelligent questions at the proper time is a useful member of any audience. Moved by the eager interest of the multitude in the land value proposition to benefit all the people, and to lift the present day load from suffering humanity, I was led to remark to the chairman of

this meeting, in language from the highest authority, that "The fields are white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few." There is no doubt that mankind is eager for the Single Tax doctrine—by which is meant the abolition of land monopoly—but there are very few to carry this blessed message to the hungry and thirsting multitude.

In London the P. S. A. Brotherhood hold Sunday afternoon meetings in many of the churches. I have had several invitations to address these meetings, and gladly accepted when possible, being compelled to decline more than half that came to me. It was my privilege to address a large congregation in the old Abney Church on Sunday last. Here it seemed indeed to be "sacred ground" in the church where Isaac Watts, the poet, John Howard, prison philanthropist, and other old-time worthies worshipped when on earth. My discourse was on fatherhood and brotherhood as revealed in the Sermon on the Mount, and the manifest interest of the audience was very gratifying when it was made clear to them that Christ's teachings applied to earth would make land monopoly impossible—that with the existence of such monopoly here God's will could not be done on earth as it is in heaven. It had never before been made plain to them from the pulpit that the foundation of the Single Tax philosophy was found in the Lord's Prayer. A very hearty vote of thanks showed that this view of Christ's teachings was acceptable to the common people, if not to their regularly ordained teachers.

Mr. Chancellor also urged me to address several meetings in his Parliamentary district. Was able to attend only one of these; to accept all invitations would turn a vacation trip into a season of work rather than of holiday recreation. Mr. Chancellor is one of those faithful ones who do not hide their land value tax light under a bushel after getting office from a political party. He represents Haggerston, an east end London district, which has always been regarded as a Tory constituency. It would be so yet if Mr. Chancellor hadn't waked the people up with the gospel of anti-land monopoly, with its cheer for the

poor and needy. The example of this Member in Parliament is commended to some of our Single Tax politicians in America.

Here in London I miss from their accustomed places the tireless workers John Paul and Frederick Verinder. Both of them are over at the Free Trade Congress at Antwerp. But John Orr, the clear thinker and pungent writer, is filling Paul's place in his absence.

This Free Trade Congress has attracted considerable attention in English and European newspapers, but it will not cut much of a figure in the law-making bodies on this side of the Atlantic. Almost everybody over here admits that free trade is the correct system in theory; but when a European nation wants more money with which to carry on its business, especially its hideous preparations for war, its legislative body promptly resorts to import duties as well as internal revenue taxes for raising the immense expenses. The management of this Congress had invited Mr. Verinder to prepare a paper on the relation of the Single Tax on land values to the free trade cause. Many Single Taxers from England and elsewhere attended the Congress, but Mr. Verinder and his associates were treated with scant courtesy, although he had been asked to prepare the paper. The topic was put off till the last day of the session and then only five minutes allowed for discussion.

The Free Traders of Europe are quite willing to have the Single Taxers assist them at their meetings; but, like the tariff reformers of our own country, they are not willing to assist in the land value tax movement. They still cling to land monopoly, by means of which many of them are very wealthy. As most of these Free Traders are of the house of Have, rather than the house of Want, their treatment of the subject is perhaps naturally to be expected. The time will soon come when the scales will be removed from the eyes of Land Taxers over here, as they are being removed from Land Taxers' visual organs in the United States. When that occurs they will see that both Protectionists and Free Traders, although quite content to receive their votes, will do nothing in

return to further the great scheme intended to lessen and finally abolish poverty.

When Single Taxers unite to fight their own battle—the battle of humanity—and treat all other good propositions as secondary or subservient, the battle will be won. There is no doubt that our English brethren will be strengthened in this idea by the cavalier treatment they received at the Congress. It is a universally admitted fact that in the last Parliamentary elections the Liberal party of England was saved from a crushing defeat by the land taxers, who also supported the Liberals' free trade platform. But the Free Traders are not ready to reciprocate, not believing in, or at least not accepting, the land tax philosophy. It may be they will have to submit to another Tory triumph before they get around to the right position in politics as well as statesmanship.

A memorial to the Liberal Ministry has been signed by 134 Members of Parliament, demanding advanced legislation on the land tax question and that the land valuation now being made shall be hastened. To an outsider it seems doubtful if anything could be hastened in England; here the people move very slowly and deliberately. It is predicted that the work of land valuation provided for in the budget may run over a number of years. However, there is some satisfaction in knowing that it will not have to be done again very soon. Land values here do not change so rapidly as they do in America, and annual assessments or appraisals of values are not necessary. The changes are to be noted when sales take place, and then the Government is to take 20% of the increased value. The Land Taxers declare that in the course of time they will change this 20% levy to 100%, thus taking for the people all the unearned increment in land values, which of right belongs to them.

This work of making a valuation is very tedious, and very annoying to the small owners, as well as to those who have large holdings. Papers are presented to each owner of land, containing a great many questions to be answered. These are annoying and vexatious to many, and create some dissatisfaction among the Liberals, many of whom are land owners. It is

feared that a considerable number of Liberals will become so annoyed as to vote against their party at the next election, and thus turn the Parliament over to the Conservatives.

A very interesting pamphlet by Lewis H. Berens and another, entitled "The Story of my Dictatorship," has been put on the market at the price of one penny. It is published by the English League, and 50,000 copies are already printed. To my view it is the best pamphlet issued since the days of Henry George, and if widely circulated cannot fail to make many converts. Mr. Berens is the League Treasurer. I regret to know that he is in somewhat failing health, and am sorry not to be able to meet him on this visit. A year ago I had two very pleasant interviews with him.

One of the most earnest Single Taxers of this country, and also one of the clearest thinkers, is John Bagot, of the Manchester League. He is editor of the *Middleton Guardian*, which has a weekly circulation of nearly 10,000. His editorials always ring true for the cause. Although turned three score, Mr. Bagot is developing great capacity as a public speaker. He says any one can speak to his fellows if he has a knowledge of language and a good cause; that he had done very little public speaking since he was a young man until recently; that the uplift of humanity by abolition of land monopoly being now uppermost in human thought, and the people anxious to hear, he cannot remain quiet. In clear voice and simple language he expounds the truths of this gospel and the common people hear him gladly.

The active and irrepressible Joseph Fels of Philadelphia and London, is always at it, not only in spending money but in doing active work for the cause. He has recently visited Denmark and succeeded in putting the organization started in that country into working condition, with the main office across the street from the Parliament buildings. Instead of spending money after the manner of Andrew Carnegie in setting up libraries and the like, Joseph Fels is spending his large fortune in trying to teach the people how to get back the inheritance they have lost.

There are other workers here of whom I

would be glad to write, but this letter is already as long as you will wish.

GEORGE WALLACE.

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SPAIN.

Senor Antonio Abendin has an article in the *Madrid Herald*, of July 15th, in which he compares the condition of the province of Galicia with that of Denmark to the disadvantage of the former. But he points out that the system of peasant proprietorship in Denmark has resulted in the mortgaging of the properties of the Danish peasants to the German capitalists. He points out that the Galician peasant is the most heavily taxed of all the peasantry of Europe and in consequence the most miserable. Results are indicated in lack of culture—great numbers being unable to read and write—and routine agriculture of backward development.

As a remedy for these conditions the reformers of Galicia look to the peasantry proprietorship of Denmark. But Senor Abendin shows that the peasants of Denmark see no real remedy in this peasant proprietorship, but ask for the abolition of taxes and tariffs of all kinds on commodities, and in place of these a tax on the value of land, which value is not due to any individual exertion, but to the industry and progress of the community.

Senor Abendin concludes: "Yesterday England, to-day Denmark, very soon Germany (and in a short time Sweden) are showing to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear the road by which political and economic emancipation cometh. No better programme could the active redemptionists of Galicia select."

IN FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE DANISH SITUATION.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Mr. Berthelsen, the author of the article which I translated for the *REVIEW*, on the Danish Peasants' Programme, is concerned lest any wrong conception should arise from my rendering of the Danish word "Husmandstand" by the term "peasantry."