

in the House of Lords, and some of our friends think that it will be passed in some form—probably by limiting it to urban districts and perhaps by making it optional.

We are looking forward to the introduction of an English Valuation after Easter, but of course, the Cabinet changes with the loss of time involved will necessitate the dropping of a portion of the government programme.

So far as one is able to judge at the present time the failure to get our measures passed by the present government would mean the putting back of the clock for a long time. None of the socialist parties here appear to see what the Taxation of Land Values really means or what it will do to solve many of the problems for which they have their own little palliatives—palliatives which won't even palliate. Just now the elections are taking place in Yorkshire and Lancashire on account of Messrs. Runciman and Churchill having to seek re-election consequent on their appointment to offices of profit under the Crown. The fights are mainly turning on Free Trade, Licensing and the Education question. The Land Values question seldom receives any attention in these contests. However, it is well to know that Mr. Runciman has long advocated the reform, and Mr. Churchill is also favorable.

Yesterday, Mr. Lloyd George paid a visit to Manchester and delivered his first speech as Chancellor of Exchequer in support of Mr. Churchill. The correspondent of the *Liverpool Post and Mercury* writing of Mr. Lloyd George's speech said:

"In a voice now somewhat mellowed by the passing years, but in a style almost totally unrestrained by the dignity and responsibility of high office, Mr. Lloyd George offered a brilliant defence of the policy of the Government against privilege and monopoly, in education, licensing, and commerce, questions which in a few burning sentences he raised from the sordid level of electioneering dodges to the high plane of ethics. His handling of the Free Trade question and his exposure of the lunacy of Tariff Reform rank among his best performances, and his eulogy of commercial freedom as the great pacificator of the nations evoked

thunderous applause. I noticed with regret, however, that, apparently through a lapses of the memory, he left undeveloped a most interesting and important train of thought, Free Trade, he said, might be the Alpha, but it was not the Omega of Liberal policy; it was the grand foundation for a fine building, but it was only the foundation. Just at that point he was lured into speaking of the legacy of work he had left for his successor at the Board of Trade. What he failed to make clear, to me at any rate, was the character of the future superstructure and the manner of raising it. The vagueness of his subsequent references to the necessity for the redistribution of the wealth of the richest country in the world was disappointing and the speech, while admirably serving the pressing purpose of the hour, just fell short of a historic pronouncement of future progressive policy."

The Manchester and District Branch of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values has invited the views of the candidates on this subject. Mr. Churchill gave a favorable reply. Mr. Joynson-Hicks, though he did not reply to the committee's letter, has stated at one of his meetings that if elected he would vote against the policy, and Mr. Dan Irving wrote:—"Pending complete ownership and use of all land on behalf of the community, I am in favor of the taxation of land values."

Mr. Dan Irving is candidate for the Social Democratic Federation. Mr. Joynson-Hicks is the Tory Candidate and although a Tariff Reformer he is trying to evade that question and fighting mainly on the Education and Licensing policy of the government.

F. S. SKIRROW.

YORKSHIRE, Eng.

SCOTLAND.

SOCIALISTS CHALLENGE MR. URE TO A DEBATE—THE SOLICITOR GENERAL WILL ACCEPT IF HIS CHALLENGERS DRAFT A BILL FOR SOCIALISM.

Our interest at present centres round Westminster. The Land Values (Scotland)

Bill has passed Second Reading. You will probably receive details of the Debate from London, and learn also of that strange Liberal, Mr. Harold Cox, M. P., once a strong opponent of landlord monopoly, who last week moved the rejection of the Bill.

Answering a question in the House of Commons regarding an admiralty purchase of a piece of land near Greenock, the Secretary for Scotland said the plot was bought for £27,225, and consisted of 10 acres of land and $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres of foreshore.

This patch of ground in the Assessor's Roll was valued at about £25. The foreshore was not entered at all.

We are indebted to Mr. Dundas White, M. P. for raising questions of this nature. The answers appear in newspapers all over the country.

The Solicitor General for Scotland, Mr. Alex. Ure, M. P. whose name and whose speeches will now be familiar to your readers all over the world has been invited to debate with a leading Socialist, in Armadale—a mining town in the center of Mr. Ure's constituency. Mr. Ure has agreed provided the socialist speaker will draft a Bill embodying a method by which Socialism can be introduced.

We are all awaiting this Bill with interest and amusement. So far Socialists have had the easy task of condemning and criticizing the proposals of others. Now that they are eager for power, and prepared to accept the responsibilities of a Political Party, it is time for them to submit some definite scheme of action.

The Scottish Land Values Bill, and the Small Holdings Bill have aroused fierce opposition among the Tories and the House of Landlords. They know an attack is being made upon their stronghold.

If the socialists had any foresight they also would actively oppose those Land Bills. One or two of the Socialist leaders instinctively feel that the policy of taxing Land Values will injure the prospects of State Socialism. But most socialists do not understand; and are so busy with two-cent schemes, and peddling palliatives that they cannot comprehend the wider course of events.

We believe, with a tax on Land Values operating in this country, and with small

farmers settled over our land out of the reach of landlord tyranny that the increased opportunities for labor will make men more able to look after themselves and less in need of organization by State Officialdom.

Socialism requires a helpless Proletariat—in order to grow. Liberalism is busy cutting the feet from Socialism and from taxation by pushing forward real Land Reforms.

JOHN WILSON.

BATHGATE, Scotland.

NEW ZEALAND.

REAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS IN 1907—
CHANGES IN TARIFFS AND THEIR EFFECTS
—ARBITRATION ACT LIABLE TO BREAK
DOWN—LABOR NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT
TRIBUNALS' DECISION WHERE WORK IS
EASY TO GET.

During the year 1907 considerable progress was made in land reform and tax reform in the dominion of New Zealand. The session of parliament that year was a record both in length of time occupied and in number of important measures passed. Being the first actual working session of Sir Joseph Ward's Government the party led by that gentleman have reason to be satisfied with their new leader. In land reform the progress made has been partly in the direction of further taxation of land values and partly in the direction of setting aside of eleven or twelve million acres as a reserve, the revenue from which is to be used for public purposes, Education and Old Age Pensions. It will perhaps be remembered by some of the older Single Taxers that the late William Saunders of England, in speaking of compensation to landowners, said, "If we are going to have compensation, let it be for the robbed and not for the robbers." In the Old Age Pensions scheme of this dominion I perceive a partial carrying out of Mr. Saunders idea. The old age pensions of 10/ per week paid to poor people over the age of 75 years, provided by a tax on land values is certainly compensation to those who have been robbed of their opportunities and their earnings.