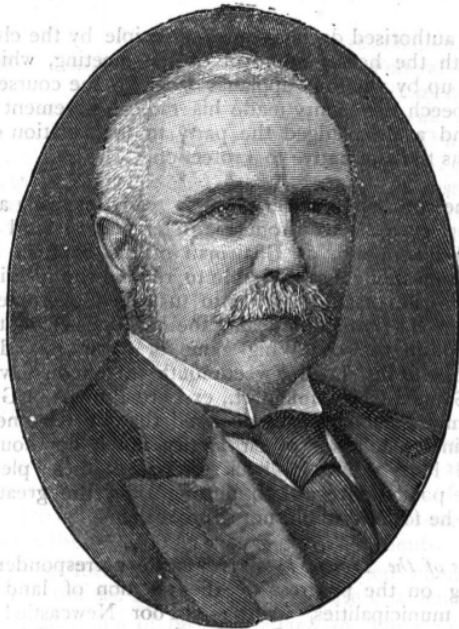


THE LIBERAL LEADER ON THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES AS THE ALTERNATIVE TO PROTECTION.

Photo by H. S. MENDELSSOHN, 14 Pembridge Crescent, Baywater, W.



SIR HENRY CAMPBELL BANNERMAN.

The Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, M.P., Leader of the Liberal Party, speaking at a great Liberal demonstration at Glasgow, 27/1/04, said in the course of a most telling address on Liberal policy:—

"But we have a still greater estate at home which is not half developed. There is the land question. (Cheers.) Most municipalities are agreed that a revision of our rating system must be undertaken, and that the owners of site values—those who enjoy in an especial degree the fruits of the common enterprise and outlay—ought to make a fair contribution to the common charge. (Cheers.) Among the municipalities which have been convinced by experience—sometimes by hard and unpleasant experience—of the necessity of this reform this great city of ours—as I am glad to call it—(cheers)—is the most conspicuous, and when the time comes to deal with this question the series of conferences initiated by the City Council of Glasgow, although the conferences were not assisted by a Commission—(loud cheers)—will be of the utmost value. The rating of site values, let me say, is not a mere question of the apportionment and incidence of the rates. It goes to the root of the most pressing and most neglected of social questions. (Cheers.) What is claimed for it, and rightly is, that its effect will be to increase the supply of houses and improve their quality, and to reduce

the rents—(cheers)—which in many cases are artificially high, and a cause of widespread impoverishment to the people. Now, which do you say is the better policy? Which is most likely to conduce to the comfort and wellbeing of the people and to the health of the children? (Hear, hear.) A policy that will increase the number of homes and reduce the public burden on the poor man's house; or the policy which, while it leaves the land monopoly untouched, will make houses dearer by taxing building materials and food dearer by a universal food tax. (Cheers.) No, I made an error—not a universal food tax—Pig's flesh and pig's food—(laughter)—are both exempt. Is there a single reform, or class of reforms, more to be desired than one abolishing or greatly mitigating the scandal which attaches to the richest country in the world, so long as tens of thousands of our citizens, strive as they may, are unable to win for themselves shelter worthy of the name of home? (Cheers.) I know I am speaking in the presence of men who have wrought day and night to cure this evil in past years. (Applause.) That is the state of things to-day, and we have no business to be content with it. (Cheers.) It is a source of misery and demoralisation. Take the drink traffic. (Cheers.) There is no one with a fuller appreciation of the evils of that traffic than I have, but are they greater than those of overcrowding. (Cries of "Yes," and "No.") They may be more direct and more apparent, but after all is it not the case that with the public-houses, especially in great part, emptied the excess we all deplore would speedily begin to abate. If everyone had a house in which he could find comfort and take pride? (Cheers.) So long as there is no comfort possible in a room for a man in his own home of an evening, I am afraid we may legislate, we may preach, we may talk on platforms, the public-house is the master of the situation. (Cheers.)

FREE TRADE PETITION—1838.

"Holding one of the principles of eternal justice to be the inalienable right of every man freely to exchange the result of his labour for the productions of other people, and maintaining the practice of protecting one part of the community at the expense of all other classes to be unsound and unjustifiable, Your Petitioners earnestly implore your Honourable House to repeal all laws relating to the importation of foreign corn and other articles of subsistence and to carry out to the fullest extent both as affects Agriculture and Manufactures, the true and peaceful principles of Free Trade by removing all existing obstacles to the unrestricted employment of Industry and Capital."—Quoted by Cobden at Manchester, 15th January, 1846.