

LAND VALUES.

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"OUR POLICY."

"We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community—the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacred to the individual all that belongs to the individual."—*Henry George.*

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.

"The greatest gift the hero leaves his race
Is to have been a hero. Say we fail!
We feed the high tradition of the world,
And leave our spirit in our children's breasts."

The sad news of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's death, following as it did so soon after his resignation of the high office he so worthily filled, will have been received with specially profound regret by all earnest Land Reformers. They will realise, as we acutely realise, that the cause of radical Land Reform has lost its most earnest, sincere, powerful and influential supporter in the front rank of the official Liberal party. Sir Henry knew what we are fighting for and gave repeated proof that he approved of both our aims and our methods. In truth, Henry Campbell-Bannerman stood for everything most healthy, elevating and enduring in modern Liberalism. During the long period of reaction, from which we have so recently emerged, he, almost single-handed, upheld the banner of Liberalism in the political arena, and remained staunchly faithful to the eternally true principles for which it stands. Neither the glamour of the gold of South Africa nor of the fashionable Imperialism, blinded him for a moment. He bowed the knee neither to Aristocrat, Plutocrat, nor Demagogue. Lesser men might falter, compromise, and

hang back, but he remained true. Hence it was to him that the Nation turned, almost as one man, both prior to and during the last General Election, as the one possible Liberal Prime Minister. It was the confidence he alone inspired that rallied to the Liberal cause thousands who had come to doubt the sincerity, earnestness, honesty and usefulness of the official Liberal Party. Hence it may well be said that it was Henry Campbell-Bannerman alone who made possible the advent to power of the present Liberal Government.

To Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's sterling qualities as a man, the organs of public opinion, Liberal, Labour, and Tory, have done abundant justice. His bravery and courage, his "unfailing courtesy," his "simple and winning humour," his "unselfish devotion to his high conception of duty," and so on, have all been abundantly recognised and eulogised. But his hold on the confidence and affections of his fellow-countrymen was due to very different qualities, of which scant recognition has yet been made. Though richly endowed with the good things Privilege lavishes on her favoured sons, Henry Campbell-Bannerman repeatedly proved himself a staunch democrat. From his lips never came any slighting reference to any assumed failure of democracy. For he knew what democracy means, what democracy involves; and he knew that, though never yet accorded a fair trial, it is inevitably destined to rule supreme over the political destinies of the progressive nations of the world. It was this that gave him his keen political insight, and made of him the far-seeing statesman events have proved him to have been; and it was this, and not his amiability, courtesy or urbanity that has endeared him to the hearts of the common people, whom he loved so well and served so faithfully. During the past decade the thoughtful democracy of Great Britain, more especially perhaps of Scotland, learned to realise that in Henry Campbell-Bannerman they had found a man whose heart beat in unison with their own, who shared their highest aims and aspirations, their bitter indignation with the prevailing social injustices, of which the masses of the people are the helpless victims, and their unflinching determination to see them removed, a man well qualified to lead and guide the nation in the new crusade on behalf of social justice and economic freedom, or, to use his own words, "to press on the crusade of land reform." And right well has he justified their affection and confidence.

During the long years he was deprived of power and relegated to the shades of Opposition, Sir Henry perforce had to content himself with fearlessly opposing every action or proposal calculated to tarnish the fair escutcheon of the nation or to injure the industrial masses of the people. But as soon as power was within his reach, so soon as the nation turned to him for instruction and guidance, he rose to the occasion and made noble use of his powers and opportunities. Once again he turned the attention of the nation to social reform; once again he directed the intelligence of the nation to the eternal struggle between privilege and justice, between monopoly and freedom. His burning words have left an impression

never to be eradicated from the minds of the people who loved and trusted him as no British Prime Minister has ever before been loved and trusted. Boldly he indicated the direct cause and origin of the remediable social ills that afflict the nation, and indicated the one simple and effective means by which they can be speedily and permanently removed. His voice and influence, and his alone, brought the question of radical and far-reaching Land Reform to the very forefront of the field of practical politics in Great Britain. He instructed the people as to the true meaning of the political struggle in which he had played so brave and consistent a part; and he instructed his Party as to the one means by which they could prove their sincerity and earnestness, by following which alone they could hope to retain the confidence he had won for them. We sincerely trust they will show their respect for his memory by following his instructions. They cannot hope to better them.

Henry Campbell-Bannerman's life-work is over; he has passed to his rest. Of him it may be truly said that the common people loved and trusted him, and that he deserved their love and justified their confidence. We feel he would have desired no other epitaph. He was a sturdy warrior in the sacred cause of human freedom, and his noble example should inspire others to follow in his footsteps—

"Who work for freedom win not in an hour.
The seed of that great truth from which shall spring
The forest of the future and give shade
To those who reap the harvest, must be watched
With faith that fails not, fed with rain of tears.
And walled around with life that fought and fell."

L.H.B.

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a visit to Glasgow last autumn I was struck by what I saw there. Glasgow, as your lordships know, is one of the cities in which the congestion of population is most serious. At the time I refer to I believe I am right in saying that there were no fewer than 15,000 empty houses in that city. That shows that the difficulty is not one of finding accommodation, but of finding accommodation suitable for the class of people you want to benefit.

One word as to the new basis of rating which, we are told is to be set up. I have not that blind confidence in all public officials that his Majesty's Ministers seem to have, and my confidence in them is not increased by the fact that I find that even his Majesty's Ministers themselves put forward what seem to be fallacies of the most extraordinary description. Here is one which I have taken from the same source, which is a fertile source, the utterances of the Solicitor-General for Scotland. (Laughter). He announced not long ago that land "owes its value, not to the exertions or the expenditure of individual owners, but to the industry, energy, and enterprise and to the expenditure and rates of the community." That is, if I may be allowed to say so, a most wild and extravagant doctrine. (Hear, hear). Will the noble earl who is to follow me contend that the man who builds a house at the cost, say, of £20,000, owes the whole value of his property to the expenditure and rates of the community? I hope the noble earl will tell us whether that is a doctrine that commends itself to him and his colleagues. If it does not the sooner he brushes it on the one side the better. Your lordships will not forget that the Bill which has already passed on this subject dealt merely with urban areas, and I think my noble friend behind me gave your lordships a very appropriate description of the manner in which such a system would affect purely agricultural districts in which the unimproved value of the land might be a minus quantity and where, consequently, the whole, or the greater part, of the burden of the rates would be transferred from the purely agricultural part of the area and thrown upon those who are so unfortunate as to dwell in the towns and villages. And I think we ought to consider the towns and villages. And then I think we ought to consider very carefully whether some extent of local option should not be allowed to local authorities before they are compelled to put in force the provisions of the Bill. Upon all these points we are far from satisfied. We are glad to give the Government the opportunity of convincing us. That opportunity would most properly arise when we get into Committee. We shall then be in a much better position to deal at close quarters with these points and to decide whether this measure is one which your lordships should send down to the other House. (Cheers).

The EARL of CREWE.—The noble marquis stated very truly that there was a marked difference between this debate and that which took place on August 26th of last year. At that time the rejection of the Bill was moved by Lord Robertson, and it was rejected without any protest on the part of the noble lords opposite. The noble marquis stated that we had made a somewhat unfair use—I think that was the gist of his observations—of that rejection to attack their lordships' House. Well, was the Bill rejected last year on the ground of date or on its merits? Lord Robertson moved the rejection of the Bill in a very powerful speech, in which he had not a good word to say for the Bill. It is perfectly true that at a later period of the debate the noble marquis opposite called attention, as he was perfectly entitled to, to the fact that the Bill arrived at an unconscionably late period of the Session. That we fully admitted, and we expressed our regret that it should be so; but it was not