

The battle will not be over when the polls close on 6th December. During the Election voters are, for the time at least, keenly interested in political and social questions. Get them to join the League, and we will endeavour to keep up their interest during the later stages of the fight for Land and Liberty.

THE PEOPLE'S LAND THE NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

I

Freedom! Our native land
Makes that supreme demand;
The People's Land:
Spotless Sincerity!
Dauntless Temerity!
As your plain pathway, see
The People's Land.

II

Dark, in that dawning grand,
Stretches, where'er we stand,
The People's Land:
Down with Monopoly!
Up with true Liberty!
That Right from Wrong may free
The People's Land.

III

Almighty Good, command!
Claim, through pure heart and hand,
The People's Land!
Thrice cursed Cupidity!
Shrink at that dread decree,
All you now hold shall be
The People's Land!

WEAF.

IS THIS A PIECE OF "CAPITALISM"?

As you are aware, the opening of the Vaal River Barrage was performed by Prince Arthur of Connaught a week ago to-day.

The construction of this barrage across the Vaal River twenty-five miles down-stream below Vereeniging has created a storage reservoir capable of impounding 13,633,000,000 gallons of water.

Length of reservoir	40 miles
Greatest width	4,000 ft.
Depth of water at barrage	25 ft. 1 in.
Depth of water at Vereeniging	17 ft.
Approximate total cost of scheme	£1,320,400

Of the total cash, no less than £272,229 has been spent in Vereeniging in the construction of the main pumping station, service reservoirs, precipitation tanks, railway sidings, staff quarters, etc.

It is, however, the enormously increased value of all your farms, and more particularly your river farms, to which I would draw your attention. You have 65,000 acres of ground riparian to the reservoir. The potentialities of the district can hardly be imagined.—Mr. Julius Weil, moving the adoption of the annual report at the twenty-fourth general meeting of the Vereeniging Estates Company, held at Johannesburg.—OBSERVER (London), 2nd September.

The BURNLEY EXPRESS and the BURNLEY NEWS (24th October) gave good reports of Mr. Fred Skirrow's "instructive and eloquent" address on Land and Liberty, to the local Co-operative Men's Guild. Many questions were asked leading out to an informing discussion.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY

Address by Dr. Robert Braun, Buda Pest, at the International Conference, Oxford, on 18th August

(Dr. Braun spoke at the same Session as Dr. J. J. Pikler. By an inadvertence, mention of his address was omitted in the report of the proceedings printed in our October issue)

Mr. Henderson wrote in his admirable letter to this Conference that Englishmen do not invent, they only improve. Considering the very prominent part Englishmen have played in the history of the world's greatest inventions, I can hardly agree with the first part of Mr. Henderson's opinion. And as to the second, I wish the English and the other nations would suppress their inclination to improve where there is no need of improvement.

We Hungarian Single Taxers find that Henry George's idea of taxing land values in order ultimately to abolish private property in land needs absolutely no improvement. It is good enough as it stands. We were from the beginning absolutely opposed to all exemptions, graduations, increment duties, etc. We are willing to compromise on any other point, for instance, as to the percentage of the land values to be taken to begin with for public purposes, as to the frequency of re-valuation, and so on. What we are absolutely opposed to is a compromise on the question of principle.

There is no more essential part of democracy than the restoration of Nature's gift to the people. Everything else is a side issue. Experience is the most costly teacher, but fools will take no other lesson. And I am sorry to say that it is this teacher that has taught us, by way of revolutions in recent years in my country, that the mere conferring of political rights to classes hitherto without any rights, is far from meaning their emancipation. Parliamentarism is an English invention and the result of an evolution of many centuries, and it is accompanied by a spirit of tolerance not to be found in any other country in the world. On the Continent it is otherwise. The tendency of the Government is to exterminate the Opposition—sometimes by physical means—and the tendency of the Opposition is to start a revolution. If there is a possibility of solving the present economic and political crisis in a peaceable way, it will be solved in the United Kingdom.

But we cannot wait for some hundred years for the political education of our masses. Something has to be done in the meanwhile. Let me tell you something of the social structure of my country. Hungary is a country ruled by a landed aristocracy with hardly any influence opposed to it. About 70 per cent of the whole population is agricultural, and about 30 per cent of the whole population is illiterate. Though there are independent peasant freeholders, they are politically uneducated and are quite unorganized. The majority of the agricultural population are either landless or are unable to make a living on their own land. The middle classes are especially weak politically and most of them follow blindly the social ideals of the aristocracy. There is but one politically and completely well-organized class, the industrial labourers; and they are Socialists with hardly any exception. As in this country, the Radicals and the Labour Party are for the Taxation of Land Values.

In one respect, we compare favourably with many more democratic countries. There is scarcely any community or municipality in Hungary that is without revenue-yielding public lands. In many cases this land is of very substantial value. Thus in Buda Pest, about 30 per cent of the land value is in the hands of the public—not streets or public parks but real site value of occupied land. There have been attempts to alienate this publicly-owned land but I am glad to say that for the past twenty years or more, the idea has been favoured neither by the Government nor by public opinion.

Considering the existing political structure of Hungary, you will understand that it is in the cities where most can be done for land values taxation. There is the line of least resistance.

When I came to this country twenty-four years ago, I was already a convinced Single Taxer. I had read the works of Henry George before I had met a single English-speaking person. This Conference is certainly a great inspiration to Dr. Pikler and to me. No reading of books or reviews could have given us that feeling of optimism and activity, which evidently prevails among Single Taxers in so many other countries. It will increase our own optimism and our desire to work for the movement. But all this optimism and desire for activity will not induce us to take risks. Our watchword will be: No compromise in matters of principle and no risks in the application of these principles.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE AN AUSTRALIAN PROTEST

The following protest by our Australian co-workers against preference and in favour of Free Trade appeared in the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, 8th October:—

The Free Trade and Land Values League of Victoria, Australia, has passed a resolution condemning the decision of the Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. Bruce) to advocate at the Imperial Conference the granting of preferential conditions to Australian products at the ports of Great Britain.

The League believes that the proposed discrimination by Great Britain in favour of Empire products, penalizing by tariff taxes imports from other lands, would involve her abandonment of the principle of Free Trade, and would be a serious blow to the progress of mankind towards a higher civilization. In order to secure trade privileges to a few, Great Britain is asked to revive the unjust and economically unsound principle underlying the old Corn Law and other tariff restrictions which she repudiated because they aggravated the poverty and degradation of the people. The result of preference would be that Australian and Home products would be raised in price, and thereby the struggle for existence of Britain's poor and unemployed would be still further increased.

The assertion that Australian loyalty to Great Britain depends upon preferences and privileges granted her is, says the League, a libel upon Australia, as shown by her action and sacrifices during the late war, shortly before which Great Britain had "slammed the door" in the face of similar preference proposals. As Great Britain has prospered by making the whole world her market, so would Australia by opening her ports to the trade of the world, rather than by the beggarly policy of seeking preferences so as to secure prices above the world's parity. For Great Britain to establish hostile tariffs against the outer world, to accord privileges to countries within the Empire, is to adopt a course which must destroy her present amicable trade attitude towards all foreign nations.

Sir Arthur Balfour, President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, London, 24th October:— "Deflation of the currency had been blamed for unemployment. No doubt it had something to do with it, but there were other causes." There are, and voices are heard these times telling of unemployment in the days when neither deflation nor inflation had any say in the matter. It is not rent that determines the price of commodities; it is the other way round, and the law of rent has no time to consider currency reform. However the exchanges may be rigged up, the rent of land will bite off any advantage to society in due course.

NOTES AND NEWS

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, Secretary-Manager of the Cleveland Ohio, Single Tax Club, has conceived the idea of having Henry George's SOCIAL PROBLEMS placed in the rooms of hotels. The managers of Cleveland's large hotels have given their consent; \$1,500 is wanted for the purpose, and one member of the Club says he will be one of five to give \$300. The circular giving this news talks of the Club closing down, but in the teeth of such good enterprise we trust this will not be necessary. The Club has done splendid service in the past, and it ought to continue. The spirit of Tom L. Johnson has surely not forsaken the City he made famous by his great stand for civic justice and democracy.

The MALTA JOHN BULL quotes with warm approval from recent articles in LAND & LIBERTY on the land question and emigration.

The publishers of the FAIRHOPE COURIER, Fairhope, Alabama, U.S.A., announce in their issue of 26th October that they are reprinting as an educational leaflet the "Declaration of Principle and Policy" of the International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values held at Oxford, 13th to 20th August. Price \$1.00 per 100, post free. The issue of 2nd November contains Mr. Bolton Hall's inspiring address, "I am Only One Man," at the Oxford Conference, appearing in LAND & LIBERTY for November.

Negotiations between the Eastbourne Town Council and the directors of Devonshire Park with a view to the purchase of that property are proceeding. A similar scheme was before the town in 1913, when the price asked by the Company was £110,000. The proposal was then rejected by a poll of the ratepayers. Now the matter has again been broached. Since 1913 the Devonshire Park Company have improved their property and it is believed that the figure they would now be prepared to accept is the original price of £110,000, plus the amount spent on alterations, £9,000.—THE TIMES, 18th September.

The gross annual value of Devonshire Park stands in the Rate Book at £1,650 gross, £1,320 rateable.

A. G. A., Major, Bournemouth, in a letter to the DAILY NEWS (London), 24th October, says:—

"The vast sum of £40,000,000 (possibly more) which is to be spent on great national improvements will, while providing some temporary relief to the deserving unemployed, eventually result in a further permanent endowment of landlords. The making of new roads and the construction of bridges to cope with modern traffic will inevitably have the effect of increasing the value of land where these improvements are carried out. So the community, having borne the burden of increased taxation to finance these schemes, and having had to pay fancy prices for land to carry them out, will afterwards be faced with the demand for increased rent on account of the improved value, improved at the taxpayers' expense."

Perhaps some of our Bournemouth readers will find the Major's address, and compliment him on this word in season.

In a captivating description of the Island of Arran (Firth of Clyde), in the GLASGOW EVENING NEWS, the writer remarks that an annual journalistic joke of the Spring-time used to be, "The cuckoo was heard on Saturday in Arran for the first time this year, by the kind permission of the Duke of Hamilton." The "joke" to-day finds hard expression in the feuing value of the land. The cuckoo is still heard with that gracious permission of the owner of the island.