

hopes because she has apparently pretty well rubbed out private property in land. Tyranny there is no worse than in the French Revolution, though it deals with far greater multitudes, far more widely scattered. At any rate, Russia has tackled the economic question, and does not torture her political prisoners as we torture ours.

New York, N. Y.

BOLTON HALL.

BRITISH ELECTION NO MIRROR OF PUBLIC OPINION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Henry Georgeists in America who rejoiced at the budget land valuation machinery and proposed penny tax on the capital value of land equal to one-eighth on the annual value would be astounded at the result of the British general election. That result is not an image of popular opinion—due to single-member constituencies. May I give a summary of the real position, which I did as follows in several daily newspapers:

At the general election 14,297,750 of the electors of all phases of National Government opinion in Great Britain and Northern Ireland elected 553 M. P.'s, including those returned without a contest. The total vote of all sections of opposition opinion numbered 7,360,050 and only elected 62 M. P.'s. These figures are a remarkable condemnation of an electoral system which produces such results, and evidence the House of Commons as presently constituted is not what Mr. Asquith termed "an image of public opinion."

Further proofs of this view are:

In seven Lanarkshire constituencies, seven Unionist candidates polled 127,731 votes and elected six M. P.'s, and within those constituencies 106,464 Opposition Labor electors only secure one M. P.

The greatest example of the scandalous failure of the present electoral system to correctly reflect public opinion is the case of Liverpool. There, in its eleven divisions, 255,903 National Government voters elected ten M. P.'s, and 117,254 Opposition Labor electors in that city have only one representative in Parliament.

Glasgow Unionists polled 273,866 votes and elected ten M. P.'s. All the Opposition candidates polled 211,668 and only elect five M.P.'s.

Ayrshire and Buteshire elected four Unionists with a poll of 98,993, and 45,245 Opposition Labor electors elect no representative.

Renfrewshire also returned four Government supporters with a total of 89,258 votes. All the various Opposition candidates received 67,502 votes and their views are unvoiced in Parliament.

Edinburgh, Manchester and other big centres provide similar examples.

Emile Jaures said truly: "The law of contests in single-member constituencies is the law of murder—'Thou shalt kill thine adversary!' The law of contests in large constituencies with Proportional Representation is the law of justice—'You and your adversaries shall each have your fair share!' In this way the personal struggles which today so deplorably distort the conflicts of ideas would be greatly modified, if not abolished altogether."

May I submit that the present method of electing M. P.'s is anomalous and antiquated, produces unfair results, and that the National Government before it goes out of office ought to enact Proportional Representation, or the next swing of the electoral pendulum may produce results of a similar kind.

P. R. will make the House of Commons a real mirror of the national mind and in no way exaggerate public opinion.

Glasgow, Scotland.

J. O'DONNELL DERRICK.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THE Henry George Club of Lansing, Mich., has been formed with a nucleus of twenty-five numbers. The members meet for the present at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Robson, 608 Chestnut Street. Mr. Robson appears every now and then with Single Tax letters in the *State Journal and Capital News*, of Lansing.

DR. F. M. PADEFORD, of Fall River, Mass., has been speaking the Single Tax in the Christian Church of that city, and is creating much interest among those privileged to hear him.

CHARLES J. SCHOALES, of Philadelphia, renewing his subscription for himself and several libraries of that city, concludes: "Good luck to you and LAND AND FREEDOM. Both are needed now more than ever."

Commerce and Finance, the forward-looking financial paper, reprints Henry George's "Causes of Business Depression."

EUGENE W. Way is one of our indefatigable letter writers, chief in the *Seattle Star*. Mr. Way was formerly a member of the Legislature and City Council.

WALDO J. WERNICKE, of Los Angeles, writes us: "May I suggest to our Georgian workers, Messrs. Ralston, Byington and Basti, who seek to advance tax abolition measures, that the old-fashioned direct action (i. e., direct initiative legislation) is the true way to bring George's principles and proposals to the attention of the great number of people for their study and approval, opposed to the indirect way of legislators and Legislatures."

OUR old friend Alexander Pernod, of Chicago, writes: "Since we hope LAND AND FREEDOM may survive the depression and continue to serve the cause in the future as it has in the past."

W. A. CRONEBERGER, of Cleveland, O., says: "I certainly enjoyed reading the last issue of LAND AND FREEDOM. It was a hummer."

THE eightieth birthday of Francis Maguire, of the Henry George Foundation, was celebrated at the noonday luncheon of the Pittsburgh Henry George Club and many messages of congratulation from parts of the country were received and read. The *Pittsburgh Post* printed the portrait of Mr. Maguire with a sketch of his career.

REV. JOHN G. MCKINNON, pastor of the First Unitarian Church, Wichita, Kans., delivered a series of lectures in January. On the 10th, his topic was "Karl Marx and Modern Socialism," on the 24th, "Norman Thomas and the Soviet Experiment;" on the 31st, "Henry George and the Single Tax."

DONALD MACDONALD, of Fairbanks, Alaska, writes us that when the Bolsheviks gained access to the files of the Czar's correspondence they found letters from Tolstoy urging the Czar to institute the Single Tax. We believe this correspondence was never published. Mr. MacDonald wonders if Henry George men are aware of this.

WE have received a neatly printed pamphlet in memory of F. Perry, of Union City, Conn., whose death was recently chronicled in these columns. There are tributes from the *Waterbury American*, the *Naugatuck Daily News*, together with a sketch of Mr. Perry's career. He was eighty-three years old at the time of his death. We recall a visit to this office and the pleasant correspondence extending over many years. He was a printer by trade and the owner of the *Perry Press*, which will be continued by his son Harold R. Perry. Mr. Perry is survived by his wife and two sons.

JOAN CHAFFE, of New Orleans, increased her contribution to the Attention Fund of LAND AND FREEDOM, saying, "It is a real pleasure to do so."

H. C. JOY, of San Jose, Calif., wants a copy of "The Orthodox State," by the late John S. Crosby. This book has long been out of print, but it may be some one of our subscribers has a copy to sell.