

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

VALUATION NOT PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY—ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS—MAKING TROUBLE FOR LLOYD GEORGE.

Valuation of British lands for taxation according to the budget, is not progressing as the radical land-tax people desire; in fact, the cost so far is greater than the tax realized.

Mr. Lloyd George seems immersed in the insurance of workers, and meets with much opposition. It is doubtful whether the workers of the United States would submit to a compulsory tax of 6 cents per week, even for their own future benefit; but in England, especially London, the need of amelioration is great.

With a guide furnished through the kindness of Mr. George Lansbury, M. P., I had a good view of an East side "settlement school." The building was good, being a new one, but seemed to have excessive ventilation for children; indeed all England seems ventilation mad. The school children were thinly clad, with about four inches of leg at the knee bare. In the kindergarten the infants of 3 to 4 years were taking their nap. Their little tables were inverted and hammocks swung from the legs, and in the middle of a large room on the floor were six rows of seven or eight each, of bare legged "kids", without covering except their thin clothing. High windows were open at the top, and only a coal grate warmed or rather failed to warm the room. Many were coughing, and the teacher remarked that these kept some of the others awake; still many were asleep. But after their nap they toddled home rather cheerfully.

Some of the children are furnished a luncheon by the County Council. A teacher complained that certain well fed supervisors from the West side had power to come and investigate any such case, and stop the lunch of a child whose parents were being pauperized by such reckless charity. The child might not fully understand why his food is suddenly cut off, but

maybe his character is developed by such a vicissitude; anyhow the inspector gets credit for economizing. I saw some of the "homes", and wondered why there is no strike for better conditions. In one back yard there was a pile of match boxes, made by the women and children at 5 pence a gross.

Mr. Lloyd George, though a woman suffragist, receives only condemnation from one suffragist association—the wealthiest one. They accuse him of hypocrisy to justify their hatred of his land rent policy, though they deny all political leanings. Following are newspaper clippings which show the real situation.

"Mr. Pethick Lawrence explained that he had intended to give £100 at the meeting, 'but in view of the Prime Minister's attempt to trick the women of the country,' he proposed to make it £1,000. Over £4,000 was either collected or promised."

"On Wednesday afternoon posters were carried by a number of women round Parliament Square. The posters bore the words 'Lloyd George Found Out,' 'Lloyd George Betrays the Women's Cause,' 'No Manhood Suffrage for Us,' 'Lloyd George no Friend to Women.' "

"In scathing terms Miss Pankhurst denounced the enemy of the woman's cause, Mr. Lloyd George. The women, she said, are immune from that disease which seems to afflict so many men, 'Lloyd Georgeitis.' Women are not, and never have been, deceived by him, and by a ruthless exposure of his Suffrage record Miss Pankhurst proved up to the hilt his hypocrisy in posing as a friend of the women's cause."

The following is from Mr. Lloyd George's speech at Bath. These are not the words of a hypocrite:

"I have never been able to understand how, unless you deny to a woman the possession of a soul, with all the infinite responsibility that fact implies, you can deny to her the power which you give to man in the government of the country to answer these responsibilities."

This did not convince Miss Pankhurst. At the next meeting she demanded that he convert the cabinet to woman suffrage or resign, as not being in harmony with

the cabinet, citing former members who resigned for that reason; but a little later made her demand ludicrous by admitting that Mr. Asquith, the premier, was anti-suffrage, he announcing that a majority of his cabinet were opposed to him! She forgot to cite a case where the majority of a cabinet resigned, instead of a minority. Another Suffrage Association, whose members seem not so anxious to perpetuate easy incomes, say that "to obstruct or bully the only man in the Government who can effectively oppose such enactment, because he is not doing it exactly your way, would be to be obsessed by a sense of your own importance and omniscience to an extent that is ludicrous."

Americans wonder why Mr. Asquith's suggestion to allow a member to amend his suffrage bill so as to include women, is unsatisfactory. The United States Cabinet is entirely apart from the house, the legislative body. The British cabinet sits in the House of Commons and leads most debates, and submits new bills. It is as though our president and cabinet should sit in the House and take the leading part in legislation. Therefore, when the Premier refuses to frame a bill or measure, leaving it to amendments, such measure has a bad start, and the party in power is almost sure to vote as the leader thus indicates. This is why the suffragists want their demand made "a party measure."—C. F. HUNT, London, England.

NEW ZEALAND.

HON. GEORGE FOWLDS NARROWLY DEFEATED FOR GREY LYNN.

Geo. Fowlds has been defeated as Parliamentary representative for Grey Lynn from which he was elected in 1902, 1905 and 1908. The first ballot taken early in Dec. resulted as follows:

Hon. G. Fowlds (G).....	3081
J. Payne (Lab).....	2183
W. H. Murray (O).....	1565

Under the New Zealand system this

made a new ballot necessary, which a week later resulted as follows:

J. Payne (L).....	3454
Hon. G. Fowlds (G).....	3423

Majority for Payne..... 31

Mr. Fowlds says, with the same hopeful courage which has sustained him for so many years in victory and defeat:

"Personally, I am neither sad nor downheartened at the result of my own election contest, or at the result of the elections generally. I intend to join at once with others in organizing a real Labor-Liberal party on the democratic basis of a bare majority."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

During August, a bill to amend and consolidate the District Council Acts was introduced into the House of Assembly. The chief feature of the bill, so far as our league was concerned, was the clause giving power to raise revenue by a tax on the unimproved value of the land. With a view to strengthening the movement for reform, a circular letter was drafted, and this, with a petition form, was sent to every District Council in the State, 144 in all, asking that signatures be secured for same, and the petition be presented to the Legislative Council praying them to pass the clause giving power to rate on land values. Many satisfactory replies were received, and it now rests with the Council to decide the fate of the clause.

On September 23rd, a poll of the rate-payers of Norwood and Kensington was taken on the question of rating on land values. The Council of the League did all in their power to make the poll a success. Literature explaining the principle was freely circulated throughout the district, willing workers went through the tentative assessment and picked out all whose rates would be reduced, and post cards were sent to each of these. Meetings were held in every part of the municipality, but although a big majority of those going to the poll recorded their votes in favor of the principle, the 25% affirmative votes