

DARLINGTON LEAGUE: Chas. Newrick, Hon. Secretary, 25, Chandos Street.

The Cardiff resolution on rating was passed at the meeting of the Town Council on January 8th without discussion. It had previously been up before the General Purposes Committee, when it was moved by Councillor H. Maw, and, after discussion, was carried by one vote. This is specially gratifying, in view of the fact that several supporters of the rating of land values were unavoidably absent. Darlington can now be quoted as one of the places where the Town Council stands for the rating of land values.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee a circular letter was drafted to be sent out to all Trade Union Branches in the district, inviting them to affiliate with and to support the League generally, and inviting them to receive speakers from the League.

The President of the League, Mr. S. Smith, and the Secretary have been busy lately paying personal visits to members and friends in order to give them the opportunity of assisting the special fund we are wanting to run a special series of meetings in the district. Up to now the response has been very encouraging, although we are still a good way off raising the amount we require.

PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE: Wm. King, Hon. Secretary, 21, Heidelberg Road.

The PORTSMOUTH EVENING NEWS of January 17th reports a meeting addressed by the Secretary in the Circus Schoolroom, Surry Street, Landport, under the auspices of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society. He was supported by Mr. G. C. Butler, member of the League. The chair was taken by the Rev. H. Siviter, L.Th. (President of the Y.M.M.I.S.), supported by Mr. W. T. Hawes (Vice-President) and Mr. E. J. Brown (Hon. Secretary). Mr. King said the question of taxation was one of the most controversial subjects of the day. He divided taxes into two classes, direct and indirect. The indirect taxes are levied on production; such as sugar, matches, tea, coffee, &c. The direct he again divided into two classes; first the tax levied in proportion to ability pay (income-tax), secondly the tax levied on benefit received (land value). Mr. Butler said there was never a time in the history of the world when the housing problem and unemployment needed such serious consideration and a remedy. The Taxation of Land Value League had a remedy, which was to take the tax from the rental value of the property and place it on the value of land. After discussion the Rev. H. Siviter warmly thanked Mr. King for his lecture, and said it had been a revelation in many respects, and provided food for thought.

EDINBURGH LEAGUE: T. O. Macmillan, Hon. Secretary, 70, Ashley Terrace.

The first meeting for the Session was held on January 15th, when there was a good attendance.

A report on the Glasgow Conference was made by Mr. D. J. Downie and Mr. W. J. Young, followed by an interesting discussion.

Several suggestions were made with a view to having more extensive propaganda in Edinburgh.

The next meeting will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall on Thursday, February 19th, when Mr. J. H. McLellan will give an address on "Pensions."

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

The Secretary made a tour of Easter Ross on the 14th and 16th of January, and besides getting substantial subscriptions, distributed a good quantity of literature and added a few members to the League.

A debate was held in Y.M.C.A. Rooms on the 14th of January between Mr. Braine, Headmaster, High School, and Councillor Jas. Macdonald on the Education Act and the increased cost incurred through it which falls with crushing effect upon the ratepayers. Mr. Macdonald showed how the burden of rates could be reduced and production of wealth increased thereby.

The Secretary has just received two splendid books, one from Mrs. Mary Fels on the LIFE WORK OF JOSEPH FELS, which ought to be an inspiration to those who grow faint and weary on the way.

The other book came from Mr. Francis Neilson, now in America, and is entitled A STRONG MAN'S HOUSE—an excellent work of fiction which should be in the hands of every land reformer.

JOHN BAGOT

In our columns last month, our colleagues in Manchester paid a parting tribute to John Bagot, who passed away on 14th December at an advanced age. As speaker, writer, and publisher he was one of the most devoted and zealous of the followers of Henry George. On the platform and at open-air meetings he was an untiring advocate. His weekly newspaper, the MIDDLETON GUARDIAN, was and is an open forum for the discussion of the philosophy and practical application of Single Tax principles. Long ago he earned the gratitude of his co-workers in the movement by the great service he did in publishing and advertising his wonderful Fourpenny (now 6d.) paper-cover edition of PROGRESS AND POVERTY. He had the conviction that by making this book widely known and procurable at a low price, he was doing his part in educating public opinion. The enterprise was a striking success. The Bagot edition, as it is familiarly called, has had a phenomenal sale. Reprint after reprint had to be made to meet the constant demand for the book, not only in this country but in all parts of the world where the English language is read. He published the same edition in red cloth at eightpence (now unfortunately raised to 2s. by increased costs) and another "presentation" edition on india paper and in leather binding. Through these editions, he has introduced many thousands to a knowledge of the doctrines which inspired all his own active public life.

As a speaker, John Bagot at once reached the hearts of his audience by his fervent and homely style of address. He spoke as from the pulpit, holding Henry George's masterpiece before him. That was the one book his hearers must read, and seldom he left a meeting without enrolling a number of new disciples.

In 1913 John Bagot published, as a companion volume to his Fourpenny PROGRESS AND POVERTY, the FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM, a brilliant series of essays which were contributed by a number of writers who each dealt with some special aspect, historical, theoretical or practical, of our reform. The book is a vade-mecum for students and speakers.

John Bagot gave all his physical and spiritual vigour to the cause. His memory will be revered far beyond the circle of his immediate associates in Lancashire. Sincerely we join his Manchester friends in the sympathy they extend to Mrs. Bagot and all the members of her family in their bereavement.

CANADA

The TORONTO GLOBE of 9th December reports that Premier Drury, of Ontario, has announced a policy of "War on the Land Speculator."

"A measure that would give local option to municipalities in assessing property I believe would be a good thing. It would allow the municipality to tax the land, not the improvements. That would be a very great advantage up North, where some of the land is held to the detriment of the whole town by non-resident people. We would give the people an opportunity if they wish to exempt improvements and tax the lands. If we do that we make it difficult for the land speculator to hold back the whole community for his personal benefit."

Exceptional prices were paid for agricultural land at the sale at Welshpool yesterday of the Llwynderw estate. A field of 5½ acres was bought by the tenant for £950, or nearly £190 per acre, a local record. The residence, with twelve acres of land, was bought for £3,100 by Mr. John Richards, of Llynelys, Oswestry.—"Manchester Guardian" January 16th.