

GLASGOW TEMPERANCE CRUSADERS

MR. WALTER FREER'S CAMPAIGN

The Glasgow Temperance Crusaders in their Pleasant Sunday Evenings at the St. Andrew's Hall and Coliseum Theatre claim to be abreast of the times, in their forward movement. In his informing statement of their high aim Mr. Walter Freer, foremost among those who give loyal and untiring service to the community, says, with ample justification, "that these meetings, with the musical programme and the lectures provided, during the past 13 years, have been productive of much good, stimulating the youth of both sexes to acquire a fuller knowledge of their responsibilities as citizens of a great democratic nation; offering to men and women of matured years a bright and cheerful meeting where they may listen to the language of great thoughts, as expressed in beautiful music and in words well spoken by ladies and gentlemen of public honour and esteem." The combined attendance at both meeting places numbers over 7,000 persons.

Mr. Charles E. Crompton gave the address on Sunday, 21st October; subject "Is there a Cure for Unemployment?"

One who was present (not a Glasgow man) writes: "The speaker did excellently. I watched the audience closely. It was all attention the whole time and was most appreciative. I must pay a tribute to Mr. Freer for the splendid work he is doing for Glasgow folks in these Sunday evening entertainments."

Another correspondent: "Mr. Crompton made a magnificent appearance in St. Andrew's Hall last night. The hall was full. He has a fine voice, and the cheer he got showed he had impressed his audience."

The local papers gave a good summary of the address the gist of which we publish in this issue.

As we go to press, Mr. Freer writes: "We had in our two Halls a total audience of about 7,000 people, and your friend Mr. Crompton discharged his part of the proceedings in a very masterly style. He wasted no time in preliminaries, got to his subject at once and spoke for twenty-five minutes which was according to time. I am pleased to say, our audience gave him a most attentive hearing and he was rewarded with a very appreciative and hearty vote of thanks."

Mr. A. W. Madsen, B.Sc., is the speaker for Sunday, 4th November, subject: "Municipal Problems and Land Value"; on 11th November, Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., will deliver the address: subject, "Social Justice."

THE CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Charles E. Crompton at Glasgow

"Is there a Cure for Unemployment" was the subject of addresses delivered in St. Andrew's Hall and in the Coliseum Theatre, Glasgow, on Sunday, by Mr. Charles E. Crompton, of Carlisle, who was chairman of the eight days' International Conference at Oxford on the Taxation of Land Values. Mr. Walter Freer presided at the St. Andrew's Hall gathering, and Sir Robert Wilson at the Coliseum, some four thousand being present at each meeting.

Mr. Crompton said he thought the barrier to man employing himself and providing decent housing conditions was the institution of private property in land, which must be removed, if men were to be free to employ themselves in the production of what they required.

Natural opportunities at the present time were being withheld from the disinherited by those people who claimed to possess the natural resources in the earth. Let us take an example. One of the most urgent needs of humanity at the present time was decent homes. Houses were built

of natural raw materials from the land of the country. To extract the necessary materials it was necessary to employ human labour, but under existing conditions owners of land were preventing unemployed workers from exercising these rights. The proposal to tax land values would, he thought, remedy this state of affairs were it municipally and nationally enacted. If a tax on land values were levied on all land according to its true value a great deal of land now unused would be brought into use. Houses could only be built from materials obtained from land—clay for bricks, stones, slates, timber, etc. If a tax on the value of land—land that contained these materials—were imposed, the owners of such land would require to have it exploited in order to be able to pay the tax. The only way of doing this would be to call on labourers to come and work on land, and this would mean a demand for quarrymen, brickmakers, slateworkers, foresters, etc., now unemployed. He besought his audience to picture all the land of the country calling, under the pressure of the land value tax, for labourers to work upon it, and what would be the result? Would there be enough workmen to fill the demand? He doubted it. But more than this, imagine all these people at work in the brickfields, slate and other quarries feverishly producing the necessary essentials for houses. Enormous quantities of stones, bricks and slates would be offered in the market. Everyone knew that as supply increased the tendency of prices was to fall. He asserted that under the taxation of land values such a demand for labour would be created as would lead to the increased production of the commodities necessary for human welfare, at prices which would have a downward tendency, and this applied not only to houses but to food and clothing, which in a similar manner were produced by human labour from land.

In conclusion, he urged that the only radical cure for unemployment was in the opening up of the natural resources of the earth which God had given in unlimited degree to the children of men. Politicians and philosophers might keep their eyes fixed on the Ruhr, on every land but Britain, as an avenue through which to solve unemployment, but he thought that no compromise, no substitution, would avail, and that the real cure for unemployment was here in Scotland and in England, securing access to God's bounties in the soil by forcing all valuable land into use by taxing land values.

J. W. BENGOUGH

Single Taxer and Cartoonist

The STAR (London), 3rd October, reports the death of our old co-worker, J. W. Bengough, at his home while at work on a cartoon.

He died at his post at the work he loved to be doing. His cartoons appearing in LAND & LIBERTY twenty-five years ago and especially those he designed for the Glasgow Single Tax Bazaar Catalogue in 1902 made his name familiar to our readers of that time. His Primer on Political Economy, composed of words of one syllable, made his name a household word in Single Tax circles; and his latest work named "Chalk Talks," a review of which has been unavoidably crowded out of our columns these past two issues, tells of his great and illuminating platform work. In a recent letter he expressed the hope that the Oxford Conference was in every way satisfactory. He was a diligent worker, gifted with fine talent as a cartoonist which was ever at the service of those who stood for Free Trade and Radical Land Reform. Perhaps the highest compliment we can pay to his memory is to say that it will be difficult, if not impossible to find another to take the unique place he occupied in our movement across the water. We sincerely sympathize with the brethren there in their great loss, and with the relatives and personal friends of the man.