

- Jan. 22.—J. W. Graham Peace on "Free Trade and Land Values."
 „ 29.—Fredk. Verinder, "The Historical Case for Taxation of Land Values."

The Organising Secretary (Mr. J. W. Graham Peace) will deliver a course of Lectures at the North Hackney Liberal Club, Linden House, 126, Stamford Hill, on the following dates and subjects:—

- Wed. Jan. 6.—"The War and its Causes."
 „ 13.—"The War and the Workers."
 „ 20.—"The War and the Land."
 „ 27.—"The War and our Liberties."

OTHER JANUARY MEETINGS.

- Mon. 11.—Executive. 8.
 Tues. 12.—"Lend-a-Hand League," Blackfriars Mission, Stamford Street, S.E.: Fredk. Verinder, "The Bible and the Land Question." 8 p.m.
 Sat. 16.—St. John's Literary and Debating Society, Elliott Road Schools, Vassall Road, S.W.: J. W. Graham Peace, "Women's Interest in the Land Question." 7.45 p.m.
 Tues. 19.—New Court Debating Society, Lennox Road Mission Hall, Fonthill Road, N.: J. W. Graham Peace.
 Sun. 24.—Uxbridge Brotherhood: J. W. Graham Peace, "A Contrast in Labour Problems." 3 p.m.
 Mon. 25.—Central Council (as above). 7.30 p.m.
 Th. 28.—Central Hackney Women's Liberal Association: J. W. Graham Peace. 3 p.m.
 Sun. 31.—Wandsworth Adult School: J. A. Marshall. 10 a.m.

FREDK. VERINDER, General Sec.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

67, West Nile Street, Glasgow

A very few words will, unfortunately, suffice to describe the activities of the League during the past month. It is not to be expected that the "man in the street" will listen, or even be inclined to listen, to anything other than the War, and how it affects the interests of the Nation from day to day.

The meetings which the Executive decided to hold to discuss "the War and cognate subjects" have been very successful, and have been exceptionally well attended. On Friday, 27th November, Mr. David McLardy opened a discussion on: "Were we justified in going to War?" This led to a keen and animated discussion, which lasted over two hours. On Friday, 11th December, ex-Bailie Peter Burt opened a discussion on "Conscription." This provoked an informing discussion. On Friday, 18th December, Mr. William Cassels gave a review of Mr. Norman Angell's "Great Illusion," which was much appreciated. A feature of these meetings is the large number of members who take part in the speaking.

The Executive have arranged to hold a social meeting early in the New Year.

JAMES BUSBY, Secretary.

WELSH LEAGUE

98—100, Queen Street, Cardiff

The Executive Committee has not met for some considerable time, and it has now been decided to call the Committee together on Saturday, January 9th, at Cardiff. There will be a general discussion on the position of affairs, and arrangements for the Annual Meeting will probably be made. Our President, Alderman Raffan, M.P., intends being present, and it is hoped there will be a good attendance.

EUSTACE A. DAVIES, Hon. Secretary.

HIGH RENTS CRIPPLE ARGENTINE AGRICULTURE

We reprint from the London GLOBE of 15th December the following striking contribution from a "Buenos Ayres Correspondent" which shows clearly how industrial depression is caused by high rents. Fortunately in Argentina the results of land speculation are being more and more appreciated and, as we have had occasion to report from time to time, the taxation of land values is rapidly becoming the foremost issue in Argentine politics. Meanwhile it is refreshing to see that even in such circles as the GLOBE caters for the evils of land monopoly are so boldly exposed. The correspondent says:

In Argentina, at the present time, nearly every person with whom one converses announces sagely that "things are in a very bad state." It is questionable whether the majority would be able to say, precisely, what they intend to convey by this remark. It would be difficult to controvert the fact that there is just as much land under cultivation, or in use as pasture land, as hitherto. Manufacturing, to the small extent that it is carried on, has not diminished. There are as many labourers and workmen in employment as at any time during the last ten years. If the amount of productive labour exerted by the people of a country is a measure of its wealth, these conditions do not give any colour to the opinion that "things are in a very bad state."

The majority of the workers are farm hands or small farmers. They are doing as much work as ever they did before, growing cereals, hay (alfalfa), linseed, sugar, &c. The "estancieros" have as many cattle, or if they have not, it is solely due to the fact that the prices paid for animals have increased so much during the last five years that the "estancieros" have sold faster than they can produce. Seeing that any decrease in the number of animals is due entirely to large sales incident on temptingly high prices, it does not point to an alarming condition of affairs. The farmers and "estancieros," who do not own the land they farm, have quite recently been paying higher rents than ever they did before. The landowners have been richer than in any former period.

The farm rents have now risen so much that the farmers are not able to pay them in full unless they are vouchsafed a bumper harvest each year. When the harvest is an average one they get into debt, and then acquire agricultural machinery and other necessities on credit, or against a mortgage on the next year's crops. The high rents have caused the value of the land, on paper, to increase enormously. The landowners have considered themselves fabulously rich, on paper, and have spent lavishly of their incomes.

This year the harvest in the Argentine Republic has not been a bumper one. The wheat crop in the south was a complete failure due to drought. Later, when the rain came, it fell in sheets. Animals were lost down south, and the maize harvest in the mid-country, which had promised such an amazing yield, was damaged to the extent of about 25 per cent. This unique series of adversities upset the balance, which was tottering, and hence the plaint that "things are in a very bad state."

The things that are in a very bad state are the rents because they are too high under the present unscientific conditions of farming, the spending propensities of the landowners because they are governed by too much optimism, the indirect taxes because they are levied by men who are not over-sagacious. The things that are not in a bad state are (1) the land, because there is more under cultivation, or used as pasture land; and (2) the labouring people, because there are as many of them and just as hard-working as in any previous year.