

If he is in favour of making Land Values the basis of the city taxation, and would he support a motion in the Town Council asking the necessary powers from Parliament to give effect to this principle?

Mr. G. B. Waddell, honorary treasurer of the S. L. R. Union has been again asked by the Dennistoun Ward Committee to stand for the Dennistoun Ward in room of Councillor Davidson who is retiring. Mr. Waddell has replied that owing to pressure of business he cannot see his way at the present time to come forward.

To enable us to put our views before the electors we would ask members and friends to send us a list of all Progressive Candidates for Municipal honours in their district, by the 20th inst.

Single Tax Items.

Don't hamper industry by taxation.

Glasgow is on the look-out for a new park for the East enders.

The Glasgow Trades Council are in favour of taxing unlet houses.

Several Parish Councils have lately gone in for the taxation of unlet property.

Land ownership does nothing, earns nothing; therefore it should get nothing.

The Bingley Co-operative Society have just purchased 30 acres of land, at £400 per acre.

Land was sold recently in Buchanan Street, Glasgow, at £75 per square yard.—*Daily Paper*.

The Helensburgh Burgh Commissioners are after some "tied-up" land for a recreation ground.

The Glasgow ratepayers paid £12,000 the other day for four acres of land for a recreation ground.

The land belongs to the people. Keep this in mind, whatever be the political expedient of the moment.

The community creates land values. The community makes government expenses necessary. Pay the one with the other.

If what a man makes belongs to the maker, what a man does not make is not his, except by gift. Who gave the land to individuals?

The Co-operators at Shieldhall are building skywards, because they can't afford to pay the adjacent landowner's price—£1500 per acre.

Tax windows, houses darken. Tax houses, they become scarce and rents rise. Tax wealth, it disappears. Tax land values, and more land is offered for use.

FOR ACCESS TO WATER!—The Edinburgh and District Water Trust have purchased ground from the Earl of Wemyss, comprising 2,475 acres, at a cost of £20,000.

A labourer turns a desert into a garden, and then we increase his taxes. The speculator turns a garden into a desert, and then we diminish his taxes. Verily, we are a great people.

A tax on land values is a just system. It would take, for the uses of the people, the values of land created by the people, and relieve the ratepayers of the present burden of taxation.

NOTICE!—Anyone erecting a building on a vacant lot, or constructing a factory to produce goods, shall be treated as an enemy, and punished according to law by an increase of taxes.

Money will now go further than it ever did before, but you have to go further to get the money. If you are a landowner, necessity and the law compels the tenant to bring the money to you.

The *Glasgow News* the other night commented on the fact that the value of the site upon which the Glasgow Municipal Buildings stand, increased in a hundred years from £800 to £175,000—the price the ratepayers had to pay for it.

All human beings are by nature endowed with an inalienable right to the use of the earth. Therefore, no person or combination of persons should be permitted to monopolise any portion of the earth without paying the community for the privilege.

"It is undesirable," said John Morley, in the House of Commons in 1890, "that great increments, great additions—that have not been earned by those to whom they accrue, and have been formed by the industry of others—should be absorbed by people who have not contributed to that increase."

"Studies in Landlordism."

BACK TO THE LAND.

By H. S. MURRAY.

In our last article we discussed the growing evidence amongst the people of a desire to have a settlement of the land question, which the present iniquitous Rating Bill has brought into prominence. Indeed, the present state of things is altogether intolerable. Here is a country, the land of which is not used for productive purposes in the interest of one class, and that a very small one. Its use and cultivation is not determined by what can be got out of it in produce, but by the amount of rent it will yield to a given landlord. It came out in the course of the discussion on the English Rating Bill, or, at anyrate, it was asserted by its supporters, that by relieving land of poor quality of rates it would make it pay a rent and thus make it worth while to the landlord to let it for cultivation. This proves at once that its cultivation is only

A QUESTION OF RENT,

although it must be quite clear to anyone that land might still give employment to capital and labour, even although it paid no rent at all. It further transpired during the debates that the agricultural rental of England amounts to no less a sum than £49,000,000, divided amongst a small number of proprietors, who are simply drones, while the labourers, who, along with the farmers, are the real producers of all that wealth, only get the much less sum of £31,000,000, which, divided amongst 850,000 labourers gives an average wage of 14s. per week; yet these monopolists are legislating to have their rents increased at other people's expense. It is not, however, the amount they receive which constitutes the evil so much as it is what they prevent others receiving. They are not only a burden on the land themselves, but they actually prevent its cultivation. It is the power they exercise over the land, as well as over the rent, which enables them to keep it out of use. Many of them have got far more land than they know what to do with, or can look after; while others are so embarrassed with debts, mortgages, and settlements, that they are powerless over their own estates.

If they are very rich the cultivation of the land becomes to them a matter of indifference. If they are very poor it becomes an impossibility. Large tracks are thus thrown out of use and fail to afford that outlet for capital and labour which are necessary to the support of the people, and for which the land was intended by nature. If these tracts could be brought under the plough they would at once afford an outlet for capital and employment for labour, whether they produce a rent or not to the landlord, and in this manner the terrible congestion in the towns would be relieved.

LAND AND THE UNEMPLOYED.

It is well known, indeed, it is a matter of common observation, that there are large numbers of men in the big towns constantly out of employment—a class who constitute a danger and a menace to the social order. These are constantly being added to by incomers from the country, who are driven from the land outside because, as has been already explained, the land outside is not put to its proper use, viz., that of affording employment to the people. These incomers not only have difficulty in finding employment themselves, but they reduce the wages of those who are already there. By increasing the density of the population, and the consequent demand for houses, they raise the value of land in and around the towns, and thus enable the monopolists of ground values to practise their methods of extortion with greater success. The process amounts to this, that the land monopolist in the country, having fleeced the labourer in the country, then drives him off to be fleeced in turn by the land monopolist in the town. The labourer is thus helpless to protect himself, and finds himself, so to speak, between the devil and the deep sea, being neither able to turn to the right hand or to the left, and having continually before his eye, not "trespassers here will be prosecuted," but "toilers here will be plundered!" In economic language it means down go wages and up goes rent, which is the necessary consequence. Thus the social inequalities which at present are so glaring are aggravated, discontent amongst the

people fostered, and the stability of our institutions threatened by a ready ear being given to socialistic schemes which would only inflame the evils they are meant to cure.

THE CURE DOES NOT LIE IN SOCIALISM.

It lies in freeing the land. It lies in bringing the land and the labourer together, in destroying the power of the land monopolist over the land. It lies in making the cultivation and use of the land not a question of rent to the landlord, but a question of enterprise to the capitalist, and employment to the labourer. Back to the land should be the cry of every social reformer. By this means we must find a solution, and, indeed, the only possible solution of the question of the unemployed. That there should be such a question to solve is an absurdity to begin with. That men who won't work should starve is quite right and proper, but that large bodies of men should be found able and willing to work, and yet not be able to find it, is an absurdity on the statement of it, and proves that there is some underlying cause which must be working in violation of natural law. Now, this violation is at once explained by our land monopoly.

THE LAND IS THE TRUE SOURCE OF ALL EMPLOYMENT.

It is either by working directly on the land, in extracting its products, or indirectly in working those products up, that all employment for labour is to be found. Some ignorant mechanic or weaver may think that he has nothing to do with the land because his employment consists in making engines or weaving cloth. But, if he will think for a little, he will see that, before he can be employed in either of these ways, the iron must first come out of the land, and the wool must first be grown on the sheep's back. Unless, therefore, the land is put to its proper use he will suffer like his neighbour. Unless capital and labour are employed in taking iron from the bowels of the earth and breeding sheep on the land, he will lose his employment, just as the labourers will lose theirs who are directly employed in mining the ore and tending the sheep. It is thus seen at once that the interests of the mechanic and weaver are identical with those of the miner and the shepherd, and the employment of all four depends upon the land being put to its proper use, that it depends upon the land being opened up to capital and labour and removed from the control of the aristocratic idler, who looks upon it, not as an instrument for affording employment, but merely as a rent-producing machine for the support of his own absurd dignity and personal aggrandisement. Thus it is that the land is divorced from its proper use, and in many cases has become a mere plaything to minister to the vanity of idleness and ostentation, instead of being the source of employment and support for the people, which is the plain and evident intention of nature.

"Equity utters dictates to which we have not yet listened; and men may then learn that to deprive others of their rights to the use of the earth, is to commit a crime inferior only in wickedness to the crime of taking away their lives and personal liberties."—*Herbert Spencer, "Social Statics."*

"Whom shall we get for him to eat?" asked Claudius. "Alas! there is a great scarcity of criminals!"

"Indeed I have thought very seriously about it of late," replied the Ædile, gravely. "It was a most infamous law, that which forbade us to send our own slaves to the wild beasts. Not to let us do what we like with our own, that's what I call an infringement of property itself."—*Lord Bulwer Lytton, "Last Days of Pompeii."*

"The Government, as well as the ruling classes, know in their secret hearts that the Land Question contains all social questions; that with its solution all special privileges would disappear, and that this question is the leading subject of the day. Yet, while they pretend to care for the well-being of the masses, and while they raise for them benefit societies, factory inspection, income taxes, aye, and eight-hour working days, they carefully ignore the Land Question."—*Count Leo Tolstoi.*

READ THE APPEAL TO LAND REFORMERS ON PAGE 4.