

tempt to redeem the pledges given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement of April 29th, 1909, to provide machinery for a complete valuation on a capital basis of the whole of the land in the United Kingdom."

Whatever concessions the Chancellor may make, or whatever false steps he may take, he has done a great service to the cause of progress. He has raised a fight which is likely to continue until the people are thoroughly educated as to what the land question is and what it involves. From a thousand platforms and innumerable leaflets, etc., facts and arguments are being given to interested people. Landlords have actually threatened to commit suicide in order to avoid the land taxes, and have only been deterred by fear of the death duties that would have to be paid on their estates when passing to their heirs! Other landlords have threatened to leave the country, whilst others are threatening to close some of their numerous houses and dismiss large numbers of their servants. The people, however, are wholly unimpressed by these threats and often turn Budget-Protest meetings to Budget-support meetings, carrying a resolution of support and ending by hearty cheers for Mr. Lloyd George.

With men of the ability and standing of Asquith, Grey, George, Churchill, Ure and others defending the land taxes and valuation we are full of hope for the future. Even from Tory-ridden Ulster come reports of revolt on the part of Secretaries of Tory organizations who refuse to take any part in the work against the Finance Bill, believing it to be on right lines. Some of us have often said that the raising of the land question as a political issue would bring many surprises and this is one of them. The REVIEW could hardly do a better service to its readers than to publish the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered at Lime House, London, on July 30th.

The United Committee of the League continues its good work, and no part of the country is without its educative agency. Splendid platform work is being done by Messrs Mc'Ghee, McHugh and many others, and the newly elected President of

the English League (Mr. Hemmerde, K. C.) has consented to speak at Preston on Sept. 27th. Preston is the constituency of Mr. Harold Cox, who once was a strong supporter of our cause and a correspondent of the *New York Standard*. He is now one of our bitterest opponents. We are rousing the Preston liberals against him, and along with Mr. Mc'Ghee, I have just concluded a week's campaign in the town. The few Liberals who are against us are being effectively opposed. Sir Thos. P. Whitaker was President of the Huddersfield Junior Liberals, but his attitude towards the land question not being favorable a resolution was passed which caused him to resign his position. Mr. Mc'Hugh has been speaking every day for a fortnight in the Huddersfield District, and has received fine encouragement. The meetings have been large and most appreciative.

At the beginning of July Mr. Henry George, Jr., gave us a call on his homeward journey from Japan. The visit was opportune, as it gave him a chance of seeing on the spot how things were going over here. The visit unfortunately was only very short, but we were able to get together a good gathering of stalwarts. Judge Edward Osgood Brown, of Chicago and Mr. Jos. Fels were among the speakers.

Your readers will perhaps be wondering what the House of Lords will do with the Budget. Nothing, most likely, but if the Lords should throw it out the fight will still go on and probably their action would give the movement for taxing values an additional impetus.

F. SKIRROW.

LONDON, Eng.

VICTORIA.

The second session of the 22nd (State) Parliament of Victoria opened on the 30th June. The Governor's Speech contained the following paragraph:

"My advisers recognize the urgency of effecting a fundamental alteration in the incidence of land taxation, and a bill will be submitted for your concurrence by which means it is believed the settlements and cultivation of the arable lands of the

State will be sufficiently encouraged, and provision also made for the approaching shortage in revenue caused by the expiration of the financial sections of the Commonwealth constitution. Embodied in this bill will be found provisions for the assessment and taxation of unimproved land values."

It is stated that the bill will provide for the taxation of the unimproved value of land without any exemption. This remains to be seen.

Commenting upon the above item on the Government policy the *Argus* says:

"The Ministerial statement is that a land tax will be necessary for the purpose of revenue, apart altogether from its use as a political penalty upon landholders; and if this statement can be justified, it will remove the objection which must attach to a merely afflictive tax."

This partial approval by the *Argus* of the policy of taxing land values instead of industry is an encouraging sign of the times. I hope in my next to give some details of the measure, and to be able to report satisfactory progress in Parliament.

A. C. NICHOLS.

EUROA, Victoria.

HON. Tom L. Johnson was nominated for Mayor by the democrats of Cleveland. The vote stood 15,039 to 1,317. Herman G. Baehr was nominated by the Republicans.

"WHEN Bjornson and Tolstoy go there will be no great men left in the world," says Richard La Galliene.

ARE you still a Single Taxer? A pertinent question addressed to a number of those once active in the movement.

AN interview with John J. Hopper adorned by a portrait of this prominent independent and Single Taxer, and possible candidate for mayor of Greater New York, appeared in the *N. Y. American's* issue of August 30th.

THE JOSEPH FELS FUND OF AMERICA (For the Review)

BY DANIEL KIEFER, CHAIRMAN OF THE
FELS FUND COMMISSION.

MR. FELS AND THE MOTIVE THAT INSPIRES
HIM—WORK OF THE COMMISSION TO DATE
AND SUM SUBSCRIBED—MANY SINGLE
TAXERS STRANGELY INDIFFERENT TO
THIS MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY.

When Henry George gave his idea, embodied in the pages of *Progress and Poverty*, to the world thirty years ago, he expressed the hope that it would attract some man of power who, by the championship of his cause, would compel universal consideration of its truths.

In Joseph Fels, the millionaire manufacturer of Philadelphia and London, this hope is fulfilled. Mr. Fels is rendering the Single Tax movement in various countries substantial financial aid and thereby imparting to it a needed stimulus.

He has offered to the Single Taxers of America the sum of \$25,000 annually for five years, an equal amount to the British League and varying sums to the Single Tax organizations of Germany, Denmark, Hungary, New Zealand, the Australian states, Canada, etc. These contributions are conditioned upon the raising by the Single Taxers of these countries of an equal amount. Mr. Fels proposes to match every dollar so raised up to the stipulated sums.

In a recent interview granted by Mr. Joseph Fels to an English magazine writer, on being asked what was the real underlying reason of all this effort outside his business in support of a theory, he answered: "My reason? Beyond the fact that I believe this would be a reform which would settle most if not the whole of the problem of poverty, I have another reason. When I turn my toes up to the daisies, and go to enrich the flowers, my money will be no help to me. I feel I had better put it where it will do the most good now while I have breath and a few brains left to apply it."

For several years he has been lending his aid, by voice, pen and means, to our cause