

has been again brought up since 1902 by leading politicians, and is being actively pushed.

Our agitation in 1888-1894 had at least the result of calling the attention of several larger municipalities to the great importance of the question of the unused land about a growing city, and several of them, notably Basel, have largely increased their ownership and control of this land. We are endeavoring to teach the people the importance of the law of "Erbbaurecht" as advocated by the German Single Taxers but we would leave it entirely in the hands of the State, as we also wish to have the State control the water power.

Once more the best wishes of

OSCAR SCHAR,
President of Criminal Court.



THE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

COMMUNICATION FROM JOHN PAUL.

We are always gratified here at the reports of the progress of the movement contained in the REVIEW and wish you all success in the good work. Here on this side the question for which we stand politically, the taxation of land values, is making headway in all directions. The press of Great Britain as evidenced by the leaders and comments in the recent discussion in the House of Commons on Dr. Macnamara's Bill is much better informed as to the nature and scope of our proposal than two or three years ago. In October last the Municipal Council of Glasgow convened a meeting of the Local Rating Bodies to consider how best to promote the taxation of land values as a question affecting the local government of the country. It was a most satisfactory convention. Resolutions were passed affirming the principle that land values should be rated for local government expenses; most of the speeches in support of the resolutions adopted went to the bed rock of the question exposing the evils of land monopoly in quite a pleasing manner to a Single Taxer.

Part of the proceedings which met with the hearty approval of the meeting was the appointment of a Committee of twenty-five representatives from the various important municipalities to further discuss the matter and report to a subsequent meeting. The proceedings at the Conference were published by the Glasgow Corporation in pamphlet form of forty-six pages. Since that time the special Committee appointed have met in Glasgow, the proceedings of which have been published in pamphlet form of thirty-one pages. The result so far has been the appointment of two sub-committees to deal with a special bill applicable to England and another for Scotland. This work, as you know, is very important and very valuable from our point of view. It is work that no amount of money or effort could secure in political circles. The Municipalities of Great Britain have now taken hold of our question, and will proceed with it until legislative enactment gives power to rate land values for local purposes, and to overthrow the ring of land monopoly around our growing towns and cities which causes so much mischief and disaster everywhere. Most of the supporters in the municipalities have got the view of the economic importance of the taxation of land values as a means to the destruction of land speculation, and that makes them quite safe for us. In political circles the question has given place to Mr. Chamberlain's Preferential Tariff Proposals, which in plain words spells Protection, but that move has only altered the direction in which the energies of those who stand for our question shall take. The League here and in London and our own organization, which as you know

are more educational than political, have taken up the issue and pressed it forward in every direction in the light of Henry George's great work on the subject—"Protection or Free Trade." We have arranged for a special cheap edition of "Protection or Free Trade" by the publishers, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., issued at half price, 6d. We are putting them in the hands of the booksellers at this price, and advertising the book in the newspapers and by placard, circular and handbills. You will, no doubt, see what we are doing in this way in the July issue of "Land Values." Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the leader of the Liberal Party, has stated that the taxation of land values would do for our home trade what the abolition of the corn laws and free imports did for our international commerce, and we are doing our best to show the Liberals that it is along these lines the issue should be fought. We have issued a special manifesto on the subject which we propose to circulate widely. This is the finest opportunity we have yet had on this side to push our ideas to the front. The campaign has not yet started, but we are preparing as best we can. There is so much to do that several thousand pounds could be spent to great advantage at this time by our Leagues here in Great Britain, and I take the liberty, with your permission, of appealing to our co-workers in the United States to consider giving us a hand financially to meet this great work. I do this in the interests of our common movement, as I am quite satisfied that the great volume of sentiment for our question justifies us in doing our very utmost to make the answer to Chamberlain the Taxation of Land Values.

Our question is at the very door of Parliament here, and with the solid approval of the public that the politicians can neither afford to despise or ignore. A move to take advantage of this "new surge" in British politics at this time is going to help you in the States, and all along the line. The Cobden Club will not take this stand, and the official Liberals so far are making for a mere negation. The Scottish Single Tax League and the English League for the Taxation of Land Values are more than well equipped. We have a knowledge of the political situation, know the constituencies, what can be done and what ought to be done. Funds are urgently needed for the campaign. Of course we are doing our best to appeal for special support to our friends here, but we shall be very glad indeed to have the assistance of any of your side who feel like enabling us to take advantage of this good opportunity. Everywhere our speakers go they find the mass of the electors eager and ready to listen to our ideas. This is not in any way ephemeral, because the constituencies understand the taxation of land values. They have heard for years now about the question through the municipalities, in political organizations, and by the continuous distribution of our literature. They have a feeling from conviction that we are right, and listen readily to what I might call the new exposition of the question as the further and final instalment of complete free trade.

We had a very successful class here (Scottish Single Tax League) for the study of Political Economy during the past winter and extending into the Summer months. The class has brought us about 20 new Single Tax recruits, all enthusiastic and well armed to explain and defend our views. We had a good in-door speaking campaign in and around Glasgow, and have been busy at open air work these past two months. The Edinburgh League has also been busy during the past twelve months at similar work in the East of Scotland. At the Glasgow Municipal Elections, held in November last, 11 out of 13 contested seats returned candidates pledged to the taxation of land values. The English League has been active during the past year with splendid results. An important conference on the taxation of land values was held at Newcastle in November last under their auspices. A Branch Association has since been inaugurated for Newcastle and district. The League has also appointed Mr. Fred.

Skirrow, of Keighley, as their resident agent and secretary for Yorkshire and the midland counties of England. Fred Skirrow is known here as a loyal Single Taxer, and one of the very best of missionaries. The change of the name of the League from the English Land Restoration League to that of The English League for the taxation of land values, which took place at their annual meeting a year ago, has been more than justified. They have won many new friends, and got into touch with the politicians who cannot now avoid, even if they would, dealing with the question of land values. The League was behind all the good work accomplished by the introduction into the House of Commons of Dr. Macnamara's Bill on the subject, and the division and subsequent discussion in the press was all that could be desired. The references to the question by the Liberal leaders as one pressing for immediate recognition are now quite frequent and quite emphatic. Speaking recently at Leeds, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the leader of the party, said, "Let the value of land be assessed independently of the buildings upon it, and upon such valuation let contribution be made to those public services which create the value. This is not to disturb the balance of equity, but to redress it. There is no unfairness in it; the unfairness is in the present state of things. Why should one man reap that which another man sows? We would give to the landowner all that is his, but we would prevent him from taking something which belongs to other people. Here you have perhaps the clearest example in present politics of the cardinal, abiding necessary difference between the Liberal Party and our opponents. It is here that lies the chasm yawning between us athwart almost every public question. The issue is quite clear in the Liberal Party and its leader speaks in the language of "Progress and Poverty." Hitherto we had to meet and cope with abortive and emasculated schemes, such as betterment, future unearned increment, taxation of vacant ground. These are now fairly well out of the way; when they come up, as they occasionally do, they are easily and readily argued out of court by the numerous band growing in numbers everywhere and standing for the better understood and now more popular proposal. But a few years ago we could not look forward with any great degree of confidence to proposed legislation on the taxation of land values because of the too evident lack of knowledge on the part of those entrusted with political power, and the relative weakness as a political force of those who understood the question. Now we do look forward with confidence to the political effort that will be made, feeling sure that any step taken will be on the lines of the principle that guides the political aspirations of all those going intelligently our way. We feel here that we are living in our own day with high hopes for the future. Men and organizations everywhere are helping us in the discussion of social problems. Political parties have now got a knowledge of the question for which we stand, and our own friends all over the country are more sanguine than ever that our ideas are rapidly coming to the front. The taxation of land values with a view to providing revenue and overthrowing land monopoly does not wholly dominate our political life, but it overshadows the whole field. This issue of Preferential Tariffs will help us wonderfully; but indeed there is no reactionary proposal that can be advocated to-day without bringing our question another measure of popular support.

JOHN PAUL.

Glasgow, June 8th.

Remove from mankind the fear of poverty, and ninety per cent. of all the meanness and unkindness and viciousness will disappear instantly.

The Medico-Pharmaceutical Critic and Guide (N. Y.)