

land values. Part of the work undertaken was a series of trips by the Secretary to country districts. The plan adopted may be explained by an example. Arrive at a country town early in the morning. Start at once distributing leaflets showing the cause of high prices and how to reduce them. A notice of the place of meeting is on the leaflet. After breakfast go round the business portion of the town handing out leaflets, enrolling new subscribers to our paper *The Standard*, and selling George's "Progress and Poverty," "Protection or Free-Trade" and other books. In that way you meet a lot of people, have a good many brief arguments on points raised, and materially help to advertise the night's meeting.

Of course, advertisements are previously inserted in the local papers. The meeting is held in the open air at the most suitable street corner to get a crowd. The address is a plain talk upon the subject with some local coloring added. Then the speaker invites questions. Sometimes there are none, or perhaps a few, or question time may occupy an hour. Notes of the address up to a column, in a few cases a column and a half, must be supplied to the local papers. That is necessary to secure a report in some cases, while it is usually appreciated. It saves the country reporter, who is usually not an expert, time and trouble. Besides that you get in the points you want to place before the public. The next day do the same and so on. I spend one, two, or three days in a town according to its size and importance.

I have now had five trips of about a fortnight each in the latter half of the month from September 1911 to January 1912. I have travelled 4,168 miles, almost all by train, addressed 43 meetings, all but four of them being in the open air, personally distributed about 30,000 leaflets, enrolled 355 new subscribers to our paper *The Standard*, and sold £12.10. worth of books for cash. The reports in 60 papers have averaged about a column. Someone is really wanted on such a mission all the time in this State. It was my intention to go on four more trips to other districts in the latter half of February and May inclusive, but our Assistant Organizer

has resigned and we have had to abandon the plan for the present. What we have to do is to create a public sentiment in favor of our principles, and the best way is to go as directly as possible to the people, state our case and get them to read our literature.—A. G. HURR, Sydney, N. S. W.

ENGLAND.

The labor unrest is the principal item of table talk in Great Britain today. For the moment emigration is being overlooked; the housing question goes hand in hand with the boot, bread and butcher meat questions, and we are turning our attention to the poverty question which includes all these things.

The working people are beginning to think not only that they are not getting their proportion of the increased wealth, but that their share is actually a diminishing quantity. Free Trade lecturers have been showing what a wealthy people we are judged by the average £4 per family per week, but this kind of comparison fills no empty cupboards. Men who would in ordinary circumstances run away from statistics are beginning to quote figures to show that money wages have risen 15% in the last dozen years, but that the cost of living has risen 18%.

In all such movements there is room for the demagogue and the charlatan. We are in the midst of a movement engineered by some Socialists who are a bit premature in their idea of "sacking the gaffer." Syndicalism is on the top wave, and general strikes are in fashion. A railway strike was threatened, and a coal strike is now in progress.

The men can be got out easily enough by such manoeuvring, but the leaders are not finding it easy to get them in again on any better terms. Today the members of the Cabinet are on their trial. They are being denounced by all sorts of irresponsible people who probably will be denounced in turn later on. When people see that there is no use in running their heads up against immovable objects they will hardly thank the people who led them to believe that there was.

Meantime the quiet unostentatious work of undermining the position of the strongly entrenched monopolists goes steadily on. For the moment this movement is nearly drowned in the noise of strife. Unfortunately the difficulties of valuation are still with us. The 1909 Budget of Lloyd George has not succeeded in bringing in a complete valuation of land yet. The Government are again in the position they were in about 1908. By-elections are producing decreased majorities, and lost seats. There is only one way that the Government can regain their position, and that is by the method they adopted in 1909. Another, and more drastic attack on landlordism is due—in fact overdue. It is a movement which would gain the support of people who are not enamoured of Insurance Bills, and promises of nine-pence worth for fourpence.

The municipalities are now taking a revived interest in the question of rating land values, and as before Glasgow leads the way. The Corporation of Glasgow is petitioning Parliament for powers to rate land values, and they are asking the assistance of other authorities in their petition. The position can be seen from the following resolution passed by the Council.

TWO IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

1. At a meeting of the Glasgow Town Council held in the Council Chambers, January 25th, 1912:—

That, having regard to the facts (1) that the principle of the Taxation of Land Values has been consistently supported by the Corporation with the view of securing to the city and the ratepayers the benefit of such taxation, and (2) that the Government are at present collecting or are in contemplation of collecting, information and all relative data as to the true valuation of all lands situated in urban and suburban districts throughout the country for the purpose of such taxation, the Corporation, following out their recognised policy in regard to this matter, resolve to petition Parliament to the effect that powers be granted to all local rating authorities throughout the country—county, urban, and town councils—to impose and levy on the new valuation a

tax on the value of land for local purposes, distinct and separate from the increment duty to be imposed and levied under the provisions of the Finance (1909-10) Act, 1910. (*Adopted by 43 votes to 11.*)

2. At a meeting of the Glasgow Town Council held in Council Chambers, February 1st, 1912:—

That, the Corporation having approved of the resolution contained in the Parliamentary Bills Committee's minute, of date 25th January, 1912, relative to the levying of a tax for local purposes on the valuation of land under the Finance (1909-10) Act, 1910, the Town Clerk be instructed to communicate the said resolution to all rating authorities in Great Britain, requesting them to petition the Government in favor of the same at the earliest possible date. (*Adopted by 40 votes to 17.*)

So far the resolutions have not been before all the rating authorities, but they have been favorably received by a great number of important rating bodies.—WM REID, Leeds, England.

NEW ZEALAND.

DEFEAT OF HON. GEORGE FOWLDS—HE WILL NOW LEAD THE FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE—COMPLEXION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DUE TO AN ABSURD ELECTORAL SYSTEM—A NEW ELECTION PREDICTED IN 12 TO 18 MONTHS.

In spite of an apparent set-back at the general elections in December last, our prospects here are very bright. It is true that the Liberal-Labor Government, headed by Sir Joseph Ward, lost a number of seats, and may not be able to retain power, but the defeat looks worse than it really is and the great growth of the Labor vote, which is very sympathetic with us, more than makes up for it. Owing to cross currents and a great expenditure of money by "our friends, the enemy," our leader, the Hon. George Fowlds, ex-minister for Education, failed to secure re-election in Grey Lynn, which he has represented since 1902, being first elected for Auckland City in 1899; but such a man cannot be kept out of Parliament long; and, unless