

The Sunday afternoon meetings of the Boston Single Tax Society were commenced for 1909 on Boston Common on the afternoon of April 18. The time is from 2 to 4 o'clock and the place is near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. The assistance of Single Tax speakers from other cities who happen to be in Boston on Sunday will be welcome at all times. Edward Doherty is Chairman.

John Z. White was kept busy during the nearly two weeks he spent in Massachusetts in March. He addressed many large audiences and on some days spoke four times, always acceptably.

W. L. CROSMAN.

BOSTON, Mass.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE POLITICAL POLICY OF SINGLE TAXERS JUSTIFIED BY EVENTS—WORK OF THE PRESS BUREAU FOUNDED BY JOS. FELS—ENGLISH PAPERS THAT SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT—THE BUDGET.

Among the different schools of social reformers on this side of the Atlantic Single Taxers seem to have most reason to congratulate themselves. We are truly optimistic, our optimism being based upon the sure foundation of solid progress actually made, evidence of which is to hand from every side. Both in and out of parliament our friends are working with enthusiasm, devotion, and good judgment quite beyond praise, with the result that "Land Values" is one of the main topics of discussion wherever politicians come together. Yet we are today what we have always been—Single Tax propagandists—ready at all times to avail ourselves of every chance of educating public opinion on the subject.

Had we cut ourselves adrift from all political organizations and stood entirely alone, we should not have achieved nearly so much success as now stands to our credit. Opinions have differed as to the best course to be adopted for the advancement of the cause, but in deciding to follow that of least resistance the League would appear

to have done the right thing. By it we have been able to insinuate ourselves into quarters quite out of reach of a Single Tax frontal attack and have thus made our question more widely understood and its virtues recognized by politicians and others who are greatly at variance on other subjects.

In posing as Single Taxers pure and simple, showing utter disregard for the opinions of those we desire to win over, we should have made our missionary work unnecessarily difficult and perhaps have caused ourselves to be looked upon as a body of well meaning fadists. As things are now the forward movement cannot be stopped. It is growing in strength daily and if this Government or the next won't touch it, the time will shortly arrive when an irresistible demand for its immediate adoption will come from the people as a whole.

We have entered into no alliances, but have accepted recruits and support wherever they may have come and where active aid has not been forthcoming we have created a strong under-current of sympathy with our aims which will sooner or later come to the surface.

Many of our best and most powerful supporters are members of the Liberal party, and such is their influence that Lord Rosebery was constrained to remark some time ago that he thought the Single Taxers had captured that historic association. The Labor or Socialist party has hitherto been amongst our most bitter opponents, but its leaders are coming one by one to see the way in which the first stride towards effective social reform must be taken. After the leaders the rank and file are slowly following, and whatever their ideal goal may be, if they are willing to co-operate with us to secure the taxation of land values we shall be glad of it, and give them in return such help as we may for the attainment of objects which will not clash with the principles for which we stand. Should they make the Taxation of Land Values one of the main planks in their platform we and they will doubtless be found supporting the same candidate, using our joint influence to avoid three cornered contests. Such co-operation may be safely undertaken, for as Mr. Bagot once tersely put it in a letter printed in the REVIEW, a

tax on land values "will raise an appetite which grows with the tax on which it is fed" and demonstrate how unnecessary are most of the remedies which Socialistic Laborites, under a misconception of the root trouble, are now advocating.

During the past few months the United Committee of the League has held a series of highly successful conferences in different parts of the country, and at all of them resolutions have been passed urging the Government to provide for the taxation of land values in the next Budget.

Many very large meetings have also been carried through, the various audiences showing marked approval of our proposals. Speakers on this subject are becoming more and more in demand, and some of them are having to do a tremendous amount of hard work; in fact nothing short of whole-souled enthusiasm would prompt them to undertake it. In two months our Publication Department turned out 50,000 pamphlets and 100,000 leaflets. Our Press Bureau, for which we are indebted to Mr. Fels, but which is controlled by Mr. John Orr, is doing splendid work in supplying articles on the various aspects of our question to no less than 140 newspapers and periodicals, so that you will perceive we are reaching a tremendous number of readers. In addition to all this, Mr. Dundas White, M. P., and Mr. R. L. Outwaite have had excellent series of articles in the *Daily News*, and the *Morning Leader* is now inserting a similar series from the pen of Mr. Wedgwood, M. P. The *Daily Chronicle* has for weeks been advocating a tax of 1d. in the £ on the capital value of all land to be included in the ensuing Budget. Its articles being now finished they have been arranged in the form of a pamphlet, a copy of which I have sent you under separate cover. Several very influential Provincial papers such as the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Yorkshire Daily Observer* are supporting us strongly, and while this is the case I am pleased to say the opposition papers have begun to oppose in real earnest, thus proving that our campaign can no longer be ignored. In the second issue of the *Anti-Socialist* Mr. Harold Cox of Free Trade renown, but now a bitter opponent of the taxation of land values says, "Although there is no

mention of any scheme for taxing land values in the King's Speech, it is possible that the Government may be contemplating some steps in this direction in connection with the forthcoming Budget." Anyhow, that is the hope of a large section of the Liberal Party and of many people outside it. The Socialists would welcome it, no doubt, as they regard it, erroneously of course, as the first step towards the general confiscation of capital (land, to them, being included in the term), but let us once secure it and Socialism and many other isms will soon be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things.

Within a few days, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will introduce his Budget and we shall then know of what sort of stuff the Government is made. Our Leagues, the United Committee, and the members of Parliament who are with us are doing their utmost to point out the importance of immediately making a start on the lines of real progress.

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Since writing the foregoing the much looked for Budget has been brought in, and although in many respects disappointing, it makes a start on our lines, a very little one to be sure, but a start all the same. It is too early for fuller comment as the merest outline only is to hand. However a tax of 1/2d. per £1 of capital value of undeveloped land is proposed, and mineral royalties and mining opportunities are also to be dealt with. The most I can say, however, at present is that the thin end of the Single Tax wedge has at last been inserted. May it soon be hammered home.

F. SKIRROW.

YORKSHIRE, Eng.

FRANCE.

FRANCE MAKING ADVANCES—TAKES OVER THE WESTERN RAILROAD—CLEMENCEAU AND OLD AGE PENSIONS—LAND VALUE TAXATION IN SIGHT.

France along about 1799, eleven decades ago, laid claim to a man who was for men. Thomas Paine, the author-hero of the American revolution, the man who gave