

of the question and was convinced that to tax land values only is the true solution. Farmers, he added, readily take up with the idea. The following resolutions were presented to this meeting and strongly approved:

Moved by Clayton Hurlbut Preston, and seconded by A. B. Farmer: Resolved, that the Tax Reform League congratulate the Ontario Legislature on the progressive legislation enacted by the present Administration, by which the exemption of incomes has been increased, the farm lands exemption in cities has been abolished, and cities have been allowed to expropriate land affected by public improvements in order to secure the increased value caused by public expenditure; and that the Tax Reform League express their appreciation of the good work done for the cause of tax reform by Mr. A. E. Fripp, M. L. A., (Conservative) in his able presentation of the bill allowing municipalities to reduce taxes on improvements and increase taxes on land values; by Mr. A. G. MacKay (leader of the Opposition) and by Mr. Allan Studholme for their support of Mr. Fripp's bill on the floor of the House; and that the League respectfully urge the Government to consider the widespread demand for tax reform as expressed in the petitions of more than 370 municipal councils, 200 trade and labor organizations, and 200 Ontario newspapers and many business concerns, and to enact legislation allowing municipalities to reduce taxes on buildings, improvements and business assessments and increase taxes on land values, and thus prevent this important question from becoming a party issue in Ontario politics.

Moved by Allan Studholme, M. L. A., and seconded by Dr. J. H. Farmer, LL. D.: Resolved, that the Tax Reform League congratulate the churches on the increased interest they are taking in social problems, and commend to them a special study of the relation between taxation and the problems of the slums, overcrowding, and the de-population of the rural districts.

Moved by Alan Thompson, and seconded by Allan Studholme: Resolved, that the Tax Reform League express to Mr. Joseph Fels their gratitude for his generous financial assistance to the work of the League, and their appreciation of his great services to the cause of humanity by promoting tax reform throughout the world.

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British Conference on Land Values Taxation.

At Glasgow on the 11th a "Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values" met in Conference Hall of the Scottish Exhibition, with ex-Baillie Peter Burt in the chair. The Conference convened upon the call of the Executive Committee of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values and of the United Committees [all Britain and Ireland] for the Taxation of Land Values. [See current volume, page 784.]

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The first official resolution, formulated by the organizing committee, was moved on the 11th by

the Right Hon. Alex. Ure, Esq., K. C., M. P., the Advocate for Scotland in the British Ministry, and seconded by James Dundas White, Esq., LL.D. M. P. It was as follows:

In view of the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the valuation of the land apart from improvements being the necessary basis for the reform of local and national taxation, this Conference urges the Government to hasten the completion of that valuation, and to make it public, so that at the earliest possible moment the rating authorities of the country may be granted the power they have demanded, namely, to adopt the value of land as the standard of local rating.

"Rating" is the British term for what would in the United States be called local taxation.

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The second official resolution was moved, also on the 11th, by Charles E. Price, Esq., M. P., and seconded by Josiah C. Wedgwood, Esq., M. P. It was as follows:

That this Conference heartily endorses the memorial on "Land and Taxation Reform" presented to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 18th of May, 1911, and signed by 175 Members of Parliament, urging the Government to levy a Budget tax on all land values, part of the revenue from which to be used for education, main roads, police, and poor relief, thus lessening the burden of the cost of such services, now borne by the local rates.

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On the 12th Joseph Fels, Esq., moved, and P. Wilson Raffan, Esq., M. P., seconded, the third official resolution, which was as follows:

That this Conference affirms its deep conviction that the existing deplorable condition of the people in regard to bad housing, low wages, and unemployment in town and country is directly traceable to land monopoly, and is further aggravated by the present system of taxation and rating; emphatically declares its opinion that the only just and expedient method of removing these social evils is by the exemption of all improvements and all the processes of industry from the burden of rates and taxes and the substitution of a direct tax on the value of all land, a value which is entirely due to the presence, growth, and industry of the people.

†

The foregoing information is derived from the advance program of the Conference. No reports of action on the resolutions have been yet received. On the evening but one before the Conference, the Scottish League held a social meeting in Charing Cross Halls, Glasgow, at which Crompton L. Davies and John Paul (executive secretaries of the United Committees) and their respective brides were the guests of honor. The annual Henry George commemoration meeting was held, also under the auspices of the Scottish League and at Charing

Cross Halls, in the afternoon of Sunday the 10th. Alexander Mackendrick presided. He opened the discussion with an address on "The Moral and Philosophical Teachings of Henry George." Participating in the discussion were J. C. Wedgwood, M. P., Joseph Fels, R. L. Outhwaite, Lewis H. Berens and John Paul.

NEWS NOTES

—The National Farmers' Union met at Shawnee, Okla., on the 5th. Senator Gore was the principal speaker of the day.

—Senator Bailey formally announced on the 6th that he will not be a candidate for re-election as Senator from Texas.

—The forty-third convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association is to meet at Louisville, Kentucky, October 19-25. [See vol. xiii, p. 366.]

—At the Virginia primaries on the 7th the Democratic faction led by Senators Martin and Swanson defeated the progressives, led by Representatives Jones and Glass.

—William J. Bryan furnished mysterious news matter to the New York reporters on the 8th by spending two hours at The Outlook office with ex-President Roosevelt.

—The ex-Shah of Persia who, as lately reported, has been endeavoring to get back on the throne, is now reported to have met crushing defeat southeast of Teheran. [See current volume, page 877.]

—Mt. Etna in the island of Sicily is again in eruption, throwing up volumes of ashes, and creating earthquakes. The people of the villages on the mountain slopes are fleeing from their homes. [See vol. xiii, pp. 299, 350.]

—Stella M. Franklin and Editha C. Phelps, equal suffragists and co-operators with organized working-women, were given a reception on the 8th at the office of "Life and Labor," Chicago, upon their return from a tour of investigation into social conditions in England.

—At the Denver celebration of Henry George's 72d birthday at the Savoy Hotel, George Creel delivered the principal address. The other speakers were Clarence Morehouse, James T. Smith, Jabez Norman, George Eisler, J. R. Hermann and J. B. McGauran.

—State Senator Arthur Pue Gorman (Democrat), son of the late United States Senator Gorman, and Phillip Lee Goldsborough (Republican), collector of internal revenue for the Baltimore district, were nominated for Governor by their respective party conventions on the 7th.

—A conference of the American Association for Labor Legislation is to be held in Chicago, at the Auditorium Hotel, the last of this week, with the following program: Friday, 2:15 p. m., Standardization for Accident Prevention; 8:15 p. m., Administration by Commissions, in connection with which Louis D. Brandeis will speak on the Constitutionality of Commission Orders. Saturday, 9:30 a.

m., Uniform Reporting of Industrial Injuries; 2:15 p. m., Round Table Conference. [See current volume, page 83.]

—The first Chinese warship that ever entered American waters, the cruiser Hai Chi, steamed slowly up the Hudson on the 11th, flying astern a long yellow pennant with a dragon on it in deep blue. The officers, who are without queues, mostly speak excellent English.

—In commemoration of Henry George's 72nd birthday at Portland, Oregon, a meeting was held in the East Side Baptist Church on the 2nd, at which H. D. Wagon presided and the other speakers were F. E. Coulter, E. S. J. McAllister, A. M. Hines, Rev. Albert Ehr Gott and A. D. Cridge.

—The revolution started in Ecuador last month by General Flavio Alfaro in an effort to obtain control of the government after having been defeated at the elections by Emilio Estrada, is at an end, and General Alfaro, defeated, has sailed for Panama. [See current volume, page 854.]

—An attempt of the political and saloon ring in Seattle to set in motion machinery for recalling Mayor Dilling, came to a disastrous end on the 8th. Barely enough signatures to the petition were obtained, and upon publication of the significance of the movement more than 500 signers withdrew. [See current volume, pages 134, 151, 156.]

—Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Spain have agreed to simultaneously recognize the Republic of Portugal, according to a dispatch from London on the 11th. These governments consider the new regime now sufficiently established to warrant formal national recognition, which is to be accorded without delay. [See current volume, page 900.]

—The cholera plague gains ground in southern Europe. It has spread across the Turkish frontier into Servia, and has made its appearance in virulent form in Spain. The number of deaths in Italy has passed the 30,000 mark. In superstitious terror the inhabitants of some Italian towns have mobbed officials and burned hospitals. [See current volume, page 934.]

—The first flying postal service was inaugurated in England on the 9th under the auspices of the British postoffice. The service was between the Hendon aerodrome and Windsor Castle, a distance less than 20 miles. The experiment was undertaken to demonstrate the practicability of this form of mail service when war or strikes should render unavailable the usual train service.

—A \$500,000 corporation was launched by the Socialists of Chicago on the 12th, the purpose of which is to be the publication of every Socialist periodical of the city that supports the Socialist party, including four daily, nine weekly and seven monthly newspapers and magazines. A charter has been secured and the company will be known as Labor's Co-operative Press Association.

—China is suffering from terrible floods in the great Yangste Kiang valley, stretching over a territory 700 miles in extent. Seventy thousand starving survivors are said to surround Nanking where they are dying at the rate of 300 a day. The Chinese