

this side of the water by the emergence again of the land question as the burning issue of the day.



The great measures which are occupying Parliament—Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment and the Franchise Reform Bill—do not begin to stir the pulse of the people as does the hope of freeing the land from the grip of feudalism. Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment are instalments of reforms long overdue which may safely be left to take their course towards the statute book. The Franchise Reform Bill, important in itself as a democratic advance and a curb on privilege, is moreover open to an amendment granting votes for women. Unfortunately the tactics of the physical force party, or Suffragettes, have lessened the chances of such a development as successfully as if inspired with that purpose.

The doctrine of Henry George has taken a firm hold on a people wise enough to suspect the socialistic expedients which they have been offered, and a discussion of their rights to the soil of their native land rouses enthusiasm. Since my letter of May 29\* two by-elections have been fought on this issue and both seats retained by the Liberals. Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, an ardent Singletaxer and at one time president of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, was returned for North-West Norfolk and is now, with Mr. Arnold, his successful colleague, in the House of Commons giving impetus to the agitation.



Two more contests are in progress, one at Hanley in the potteries district of North Staffordshire, made familiar by Arnold Bennett's vivid stories of the Five Towns, and the other at Crewe. The vacancies were caused by the death of Mr. Enoch Edwards and Mr. Walter McLaren, both of whom underwent a great strain during the recent coal strike settlement. Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, who is contesting the Hanley seat for the Liberals, needs no introduction to Singletaxers. The Liberal candidate at Crewe is Mr. Harold Murphy, a supporter of the land reform policy. The delegates who selected him were reported as "aroused to enthusiasm by his outspoken utterances, his quiet humor and his clear and convincing exposition of the great policy of land reform, towards which Radicalism seems assuredly to be tending."

The harmony that existed between the Liberal and Labor groups in Parliament has been somewhat strained by the determination of the Liberals to contest Hanley, which was considered by the Labor Party as one of their preserves. The result will be a three-cornered fight in both the constituencies mentioned, to the great delight of the Tories. The Labor Party has even threatened to withdraw its support from Government measures in the House, but has not yet done so.

Mr. Outhwaite, whose sole purpose is to advance the cause to which he has long devoted his energies, explained that he had hitherto refused to come into conflict with the interests of the Labor Party.

\*See The Public of June 14, page 562.

†Mr. Outhwaite has been elected. See The Public of July 19, page 678.

"I took this action," he said, "because I did not want to prejudice the cause of the taxation of land values. I was doubtful whether the Liberal Party would introduce this great and drastic reform. I felt that Whig influence might be too great and that ultimately we should have to look to the Labor Party. The events of the last few weeks have completely altered my view. We know that Mr. Lloyd George is preparing the way for a great campaign on this issue, using the valuation now proceeding as an instrument of reform. If Labor members do come down in a body to Hanley they will see such support from the workers for this principle as may induce them to be more enthusiastic about it in the future."



The Land Song, the *Marseillaise* of peaceful revolution, is a feature of the political meetings and seems to have taken a spontaneous hold upon the popular imagination.

F. W. GARRISON.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

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Week ending Tuesday, July 23, 1912.

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### The Land Question in Great Britain.

An editorial in the London Standard (Tory) of the 5th, discloses with special clearness the development of the "land-for-the-people" question which recent by-elections have thrust into British politics as the next dominant issue. [See current volume, page 678.]



In the course of that editorial the Standard says that—

Mr. Lloyd George's land confiscation programme is still in the "unauthorized" stage is pretty certain. No member of the Cabinet, apart from the author, has given countenance to the scheme in public, though it is claimed that the new movement has the full sympathy of the Prime Minister. However that may be, evidence accumulates to show that the Woodford speech was no empty threat. Unionists must be prepared for an attempt to debauch the electorate surpassing in scope and wickedness all Mr. Lloyd George's previous achievements. Today we publish further extracts from the "British Weekly," which seems to be entrusted with the task of preparing public opinion for the Chancellor's plans. Mr. Hemmerde, in his character of favorite disciple, has also added a few illuminative hints, and from these and other sources it is possible to arrive at a fairly clear understanding of the main outlines of the scheme. A tax of a penny or three-halfpence in the pound on land values [about from 2 to 3 cents on \$5 of land value, improvements exempt—or, say, from 4 to 6 mills in the dollar] is to provide the sinews of war. With the millions

raised from this source, according to Mr. Hemmerde, local rates [taxation for local purposes] are to be relieved of the greater part of the burdens now resting on them. Education, main roads, poor relief, police, and asylums, are all to be paid for out of the Imperial exchequer. . . . A land tax of the kind suggested, levied on capital value and not on revenue, is nothing less than legalized confiscation. But the revenues of the landowner are also to receive further attentions from a Minister who seems bent on extinguishing the whole class that has been so misguided as to invest its capital in real property. . . . Under the new conditions the position of the landowner becomes at once impossible, and Mr. Lloyd George clearly intends to make it so. The scheme is robbery, naked and unashamed.



### British Suffragette Violence.

Violence in connection with the riotous policies of the British suffragette movement broke out in Dublin on the occasion of the visit last week of the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, to attend a home-rule demonstration. While he and Mrs. Asquith were in a carriage with John Redmond, a hatchet was thrown at them by Mary Leigh. According to one report the hatchet struck Mr. Redmond, cutting him over the eye and covering his face with blood from the wound; but another report attributes his injury to an accident in the jam of a crowd entering the hotel at which the Ministerial party was stopping. Mary Leigh, Gladys Evans, Lizzie Baker and Mary Coffey were committed for trial on the 19th on criminal charges in connection with the affair. Mrs. Leigh is reported to have been convicted for the eighth time in London last November for smashing windows and sentenced to two months in jail without the option of a fine. The magistrate warned her then that if she were again convicted she would be sent to jail for a term at hard labor. [See current volume, page 640.]



According to a dispatch of the 20th in the Chicago Sunday World, the Sunday edition of the Socialist daily, the London police are—

convinced that the "votes for women" militants have entered upon a campaign of arson and homicide. There is no question that an attempt was made to burn the home of one member of the Cabinet. The hangings of the Dublin Theater, where Premier Asquith spoke last night, were actually set on fire. That the gunpowder found in the rooms of a party of suffragette demonstrators was intended to blow up the theater, the suffragettes themselves do not deny. It is agreed that the heavy hatchet thrown by a suffragette at the Premier in Dublin yesterday narrowly missed killing or seriously injuring him. The Women's Social and Political Union issued a statement commending all these demonstrations. It is feared that this will inspire further violence. Premier Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George, Home Secretary McKenna,

Minister of the Navy Winston Churchill and other cabinet ministers have received the most ferocious threats, anonymously, of what will happen to them unless they declare for equal rights at the polls. Not only are they assured that they are in danger of being killed, but that the burning of their homes and the kidnaping of their children are planned. "There is only one thing to induce us to declare a truce," announced Miss Annie Kenny, who is acting as head of the Women's Social and Political Union during the period of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst's convalescence from her recent experience as a hunger striker in Holloway prison, "and that is the passage of a law giving us the ballot. We did declare a truce twice while the Conciliation Bill, which provided part of what we demand, was before Parliament, and then the Government calmly killed the bill by denying facilities for its passage, though it had received a large majority of votes on its first reading. We do not propose to be deceived again. And even if the Union were to agree to a truce, it has no power to restrain the many individual women who are determined to continue militant methods until we win." Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George and Minister of the Navy Winston Churchill, among the cabinet members, favor votes for women, though this has not saved them from attack by the suffragettes. Premier Asquith is strongly opposed to equal electoral rights for both sides. Returning from Dublin, Premier Asquith was attacked by suffragettes during a stop at a railroad station today, but was rescued by the police before he suffered serious annoyance. The suffragettes were arrested. At Chester, another stop, two suffragettes rushed toward him, saying: "Be warned in time!" A clergyman saved the suffragettes from an angry mob.



News dispatches of the 21st from London told of a suffragette demonstration in Finsbury Park, organized by Sylvia Pankhurst, the younger of the two daughters of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, which ended in a riotous demonstration against the holding of the meeting. Says this report:

Ten thousand persons surrounded the four platforms from which addresses were made. It was obvious from the outset that a majority of those in attendance were hostile to the cause. The insistence of the women orators in continuing their speeches in defiance of the hooting and cheering and singing eventually aroused the anger of the crowd and led to fighting. The people were thrown down in successive rushes, and many women and children were with difficulty rescued from being trampled under the feet of the mob.



### Mr. Roosevelt's Third Party.

Progressive Republicans of Michigan, in convention at Jackson on the 20th, decided to place in nomination a full ticket, including Presidential Electors and State, Congressional, and legislative candidates. The decision, almost unanimous, is reported to have been made at the direct request of Mr. Roosevelt, conveyed to the delegates by