

London, Glasgow and Manchester. Mr. Burt presided at the first of these which was held in Glasgow on October, 1899. At this conference there were delegates from 84 Town Councils, 3 County Councils and 87 Parish Councils. This conference was prompted by the Scottish League, and the Glasgow Town Council assisted in its promotion. By this means 116 Rating Bodies were brought into touch.

Following this a conference of Rating Bodies was held in London on 21st October, 1902. At this conference a committee was appointed and a second conference was held in London on 9th of December, 1903, and a third in Manchester on November, 1905.

With these latter conferences Mr. Burt had not an official part as he was then out of the Glasgow Town Council. They were, however, the result of the line of action that he mapped out. He used the Glasgow municipal field for propaganda purposes, and when the occasion arose, he sought the co-operation of similar bodies throughout Great Britain. By this means the question received a great advance. The propaganda has now been carried into the parliamentary field, and the proposal has had a place allotted to it in the latest king's speech. In leading up to this Mr. Burt played a prominent part of which he ought to feel proud.

ARTHUR WITHY.

Mr. Arthur Withy, whose father was the founder of the Hartlepool shipbuilding firm known as Furness, Withy & Co., was born at West Hartlepool, in 1870, and so is old enough to have a very considerable knowledge of men and things, yet not old enough to have lost enthusiasm. He was educated first at Ashville College, Harrogate, and afterwards at Auckland Grammar School and University, his family having gone to New Zealand in 1884. He was destined for a legal career, but an inclination to journalism and his enthusiasm for the Single Tax proved too strong for him, and the bar at the Antipodes therefore lost a recruit. For two years he edited an advanced Liberal monthly on Single Tax lines; but, feeling a strong inclination to try his luck in the Mother Country, he returned to England in time to do a little work for Liberalism in the General Elections of 1892, and in September of the same year he joined the staff of the "Portsmouth Evening News and Hampshire Telegraph." In 1895 Mr. Withy stood as Liberal candidate for the Southern Division of Herefordshire—a quite forlorn hope, as the candidate only arrived in the constituency ten days before the election and had to fight a gentleman who had held the seat for 30 years; but he succeeded in polling 2,828 votes. In the following year Mr. Withy returned to New Zealand to direct the fortunes of a weekly paper of advanced Radical views, but was unsuccessful in an attempt to secure a seat in the

House of Representatives. Mr. Withy fought the contest on Single Tax lines and was awarded the high testimonial of being described by the *New Zealand Herald*, the leading Conservative paper in the colony, as "one of the worst of the cranks, faddists and assorted idiots" then turning the country upside down. In 1897 he returned to England and to the "Portsmouth Evening News." On the eve of the General Election of 1900 Mr. Withy went to Hartlepool to assist Sir Christopher Furness in the contest, and took a large part in securing the sweeping victory which resulted in a walk-over for Sir Christopher at the last General Election. After a year's work as political secretary to Sir Christopher, Mr. Withy became lecturer to the Northern Liberal Federation, embracing Northumberland, Durham, Mid-Cumberland, North Westmoreland, the Richmond Division of Yorkshire and Middleborough. The result of his five years' work was made manifest by the many victories gained throughout the Federation area at the elections of 1906. The work done, however, funds fell off, and Mr. Withy was obliged to seek fresh fields and pastures new. Happily he has found work to his mind as lecturer to the Huddersfield and Colon Valley Liberal Association; and at the municipal elections at the beginning of November last and at the by-election towards the close of the same month his work in exposing the fallacies of State Socialism and expounding the taxation of land values as the one alternative policy undoubtedly contributed largely to the success of the Liberal party. The seat was securely held at the by elections, and at the municipal elections the Liberals gained four seats—every candidate being returned, while the Socialists lost one seat and gained one, only one of their 8 candidates being successful. For some fourteen years past Mr. Withy has been a constant contributor (for the most part anonymously) to the *Westminster Review*, besides writing largely for *Land Values* and the daily and weekly Press.

The writer who does the editorial work on the *Evening World*, whoever he is, knows some things and knows them well, and tells them in forcible language. Commenting upon a recent address of Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture, in which the latter explaining why wages are higher in the United States, said that one American farm hand produces more rice than 400 Chinamen. Wages in China are from 10 to 12 cents a day. The *Evening World* editor wants to know why the American farmhand should not receive \$40 a day instead of \$1.50.

Tom Johnson would have street cars "free as air." It is a question of elements. In New York they are free only as the water in the stock permits.—*N. Y. World*.