

ADDITIONAL BRITISH NEWS NOTES.

The National Conference convened by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values was a great success. Nearly 500 delegates from Liberal Associations, Trades Unions, and other bodies were in attendance. Mr. Josiah Wedgewood M. P., presided. Mr. Jos. Fels on his way to London from the United States arrived half an hour too late to take part in the proceedings.

Speeches were made by the chairman and by E. G. Hemmerde, M. P., Alderman Raffan, R. L. Outhwaite and others.

In the same month there were conferences at Wrexham, Dumfries, Scotland, and Cardiff, Wales. At Cardiff over 700 delegates were in attendance.

In calling the Cardiff meeting to order Mr. H. G. C. Allgood reported that circulars convening the Conference had been sent out to 300 governing bodies, trades organizations and political associations in Wales, and in addition to the miners lodges. Although differences of opinion had developed he had not received an unfavorable reply to the circular, in even one instance.

A communication from Lord St. David, a member of the House of Lords, was read in which the writer declared himself in favor of the taxation of Land Values. Our old friend, Edward McHugh, was in evidence at this meeting and it was he who seconded the nomination of Alderman Raffan for the chairmanship of the conference. The Chairman's speech was a pronounced declaration in favor of going further than the government seemed willing. There would be no need for the Chancellor, he said, to go on an expedition robbing hen roosts. All he had to do was to take some part of the national estate which belonged to the people. If a choice had to be made he thought the people would refuse to say that the crust of the widow and the orphan should be taxed while the great landowners who ruled the country through the House of Lords got off scott free.

"I hope the Welsh David who desires to destroy the power of this monster," he declared, amid loud applause, "will go out with his little sling, and when he comes to the brook select the right pebble—the

taxation of land values. With that sling the mighty twentieth century Goliath would go down before him."

Mr. McHugh also spoke. He pointed out that land had no value in itself. It only became of value when a man appeared on it. If all the people disappeared from London the land there would have no value, yet recently a square inch of land in London was sold for £32, 10s—£32, 10s for as much land as would cover the tip of an umbrella. The owner did not give the land this value. People living in London gave it this value. In Cardiff they had in the Queen's Hotel a place which used to be let at a ground rent of £30 a year, but as soon as the lease expired the ground rent was put up to £600. He did not blame the landlord for putting up the ground rent if he could get it; his contention was that some of the £600 should go to the relief of Imperial and local expenditure.

A letter from Robert Donald, editor of the *Daily Chronicle*, to Mr. Jos. Fels, which we are permitted to see, gives strong indication of his interest in the work. Mr. Donald says: "We have been growing strong with the land agitation since you left, and have awakened a good deal of interest in it."

It may be said that the *Chronicle* has been running a series of admirable articles, including cartoons, which have attracted much attention.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

BACKWARD IRELAND—AWAKENING SENTIMENT IN WEST AUSTRALIA—THE EXAMPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES HELPING THE AGITATION HERE.

As a brother Single Taxer and expatriated Irishman I was much interested in Mr. John J. Murphy's impressions of Ireland as outlined in *Land Values*. About eighteen months ago I had the pleasure of revisiting my native land and found that Dublin is still the Dublin of our boyhood. The principles of Single Tax seem to have made no headway with our countrymen at home; the true solution of the land question seems for the time being to be lost in the