

us, and the outer walls of our churches will be smeared with the slime of drunkenness and prostitution. Nehemiah cried out to the oppressor in his day, when he saw the poor despoiled of their inheritances and their belongings—"Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive-yards, and their houses." The owners of the people's vineyards—the land—to-day take from the people enormous revenues, and lock them out from all access to the unused land, save on terms of the utmost extortion. The people so dealt with, crowd each other into towns and cities in a swinish scramble to procure a job and a hovel to live in. Forced into such unnatural and unhealthy lives, and idleness through lack of employment coming upon them, vice and crime are speedily begotten. To prevent all this it is necessary to open up the land of the country; and the first step to this end is the destruction of the present landowners' privileges, and assert the equal right of all men to the use and possession of the land. This may seem a severe remedy, but nothing else will suffice; as John Ruskin says—"This healing is only possible by means of justice; no love, no faith, no hope will do it—men will be unwisely fond, vainly faithful, unless primarily they are just: and the mistake of the best man through generation after generation has been that great one of thinking to help the poor by almsgiving, and by preaching of patience and hope, and by every other means, emollient or consolatory, except the one thing which God orders for them—Justice." What has the church to say to the Government, to the Parliament, and to the nation, on this land question, this bottom wrong of private property in our natural God-given inheritance—that is the cause of divorcing the bulk of the people from the healthy, happy, moral lives they might, and ought to be leading were justice done?

THE COLONISATION OF HIGHLAND CROFTERS.

The fifth report of the Her Majesty's Commissioners for dealing with the colonisation in Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland has been presented to Parliament, and is signed by Sir George Trevelyan and his colleagues upon the Commission. The report speaks of the success of the scheme and contrasts their present position with that when in the Hebrides, and yet it shows that in the Killarney Settlement the crofters have been unable to pay the first instalment of the money advanced to them, which was due in November, 1892. The condition of affairs in the Saltcoats Settlement is not satisfactory either, and the various families are considerably in debt. Forty-eight families have vacated their farms and turned to other work. Says the *Oban Times*, 21st July:—"Sir Charles Tupper, agent general for Canada, conducted a personal inquiry into the situation, and advises that the crofters should not be pressed to meet their financial obligations, and predicts that in a year or two hence they will be in a much better position. The hope of improvement and profitable success is accordingly held out, but how long is the present state of affairs going to last? The colonisation scheme, says Sir Charles, can, in no sense, be described as a failure. Twelve months ago Sir George Trevelyan declared that money allotted for emigration, under the circumstances in which the Saltcoats Settlement was conducted, could not have been worse spent. Sir Charles Tupper regards the Killarney Settlement as a success; but, unfortunately, there appears to be only too much reason for his recommendation that the crofters should not be pressed for repayment of their loans. Another year has passed and the settlers are still struggling in the same slough of despond. The condition of the crofters in Canada is said to compare favourably with their position in the Hebrides, but would the results of the settlement scheme, as so far witnessed in Killarney and Saltcoats, justify its extension on similar lines? A solution of the crofter question has not, we fear, been found in this Canadian experiment; nor will it be found in any scheme of emigration. The problem must be solved at home." The *Oban Times* is right. Our Scottish Highlands must not be denuded altogether of

its population. There is plenty of land in the north suitable for the wants of all. What of Winans' Deer Forest, of Druidaig Shootings, five miles from Balmacarra, on the west coast of Ross-shire, which extend to 6,000 acres; what of Inverlael and Glenbeg Shootings, in Ross-shire, of 20,000 acres; of Glenaron, in Mull, with about 2,000 acres; what of the thousands of other acres, lying idle, throughout Scotland? Yes, this problem can be solved at home, and the way to solve it is to migrate the people back upon the land. To do this it is necessary to destroy the power of the landowners to keep cultivable land out of use, and to prevent them allocating such land for purposes of deer forests and large sheep farms. Deer forests exist because they yield the owners a bigger return. But the crofters' and the country's needs must be the first consideration. It is better to see, say, 10,000 families on the land, paying little or no rent, but producing £60 or £70 worth of wealth per family, per annum, than one of the Winans tribe in occupation, paying the landowners a rent, and the land lying out of cultivation. A Tax on the values of land, whether held as deer forests or from the crofters, out of mere caprice, would quickly lessen the evil. Just so soon as the nation makes up its mind that the revenues of land belong to the people and resolves to take them in the interests of all, just so soon will "the greatest burden on the land"—the landowners—shift their moorings. They must emigrate. Their privileges as rent collectors can be scientifically attacked by the simple canons of taxation, and when these are invaded their interests as landowners will vanish, and then, and only then, will justice be done to the crofters—and the land. We cannot buy the landlords, nor turn them out, but we can gently tax them out. That is their method of dealing with the people. It is a thoroughly efficient one and has served them well. They cannot complain if we turn their own machinery to our account.

Single Tax Items.

Mr. Bernard Eulenstein, the leader of the Single Tax movement in Berlin, has secured the right for the translation of "The Story of my Dictatorship," a review of which appears in another column. Mr. Eulenstein sends fraternal greeting to all Glasgow Single Taxers.

BETTERMENT IN THE ISLE OF MAN.—A correspondent writes:—"Under the title of the 'City Improvements Bill,' a Bill passed the House of Keys here recently. It has, however, been since rejected by the Council (or Second Chamber of the Island), which, like other second chambers, is true to its traditions as a Conservative force."

CREWE AWAKENING.—An interviewer of the *Spy* has interviewed Mr. C. H. Pedley, Mayor of Crewe. In the interview the Mayor declared himself in full sympathy with the "betterment" principle. It is, to quote his own words, his "pet subject." He says:—"The question has still to be debated before the whole Council. There has been a good deal of prejudice to fight against, but I am strongly convinced of the justice of the principle of betterment, and I hope, by carrying my report, to give it a chance of becoming law."

The Glasgow Police Commissioners have, by 39 to 14 votes, appointed a committee of 15 to consider the whole question of how the future "unearned increment" of the city may be dealt with.

Some years ago a certain public-house in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, was leased for £75 a year. The lessee subsequently purchased the freehold for £1,400. It has now been bought by a firm of brewers for £15,000, who also agree to pay a ground rent of £250 a year.

The Corporation of Glasgow have had to pay £40,000 for the land occupied by their car stations. The money has been borrowed at probably 4 per cent., which means that the cars have to earn £1,600 per annum for ground superiors before there is a penny to spare for working expenses. "The landlord sleeps, but thrives."

Says the *Clydebank Press*:—"The Commissioners' feu opposite Hillview Terrace cost them some five years ago some 5s 2½d per square yard. Now ground in the immediate vicinity is selling at 16s 4½d per ditto. Trade depression has dealt severely with Clydebank during the recent spell. People have left the place by the thousand in search of work; houses have been emptied, debt has been contracted, and charity has been at work among the poor; but the rise in ground rent goes on, like the poet's brook, "for ever." Improvements go on at the expense of the rates; the groundowner pockets the nett result, and the tax-gatherer passes him by and drops on the wage-earner every time. Mayhap the wage-earner will wake up some day and realise the one-sidedness of the arrangement."

ABERFOYLE.—A FARM SEVEN MILES LONG.—The extensive pastoral farm of Ledard, on the Duke of Montrose's estate, has been let to Mr. William B. Scott, Ashley Bank, Langholm. The farm is about 17,000 acres in extent, and is about seven miles long.

BERWICK.—ALLOTMENTS.—The allotment scheme has been carried out at Whitsome. The lots vary in size from half-acre to six acres. The field lies to the south of the village, on the farm of Lectside. The rent, we believe, is £2 15s per acre, and the tenants run their own fences.

LET GLASGOW FLOURISH.—Said Bailie Primrose, of Glasgow, at the Congress on Public Health held at King's College, London, last week:—"Above all, they believed that salvation in the future lay in Municipal bodies in towns being vested with large and drastic powers for the control of land. (Applause.) Landowners must be taught that they had responsibilities which they must discharge; and while the Corporation would proceed in no arbitrary or tyrannical spirit, they would lay it down that the conditions of a healthy animal existence must be guaranteed to every inhabitant of Glasgow." (Applause.)

Referring to Mr. Seymour Keay's action in raising the question in the Scotch Grand Committee on the Local Government Bill of taxing the "unearned increment," the *Mail* says:—"The main principle involved in the amendment is one of great importance, possessing very wide interest, and it is only to be regretted that the Government were unable to secure for it a much fuller discussion and a more favourable reception. The arguments advanced for its behalf are exactly those which are impressing themselves more and more upon the minds of social reformers who see our growing towns and villages hemmed in by rings of land, the value of which is artificially increased through the labour of the community, to the benefit of the landlords and to the detriment of the very people who have created that value. . . . If (Mr. Keay argued) his amendment were accepted the result would be that landlords would not be allowed to sit quietly, possessing their souls in patience while towns and villages were growing, and withhold their land purposely until the time should arrive when they could get an exorbitant price. The Lord Advocate put forward the legal view of the subject clearly enough, but unfortunately the legal view begs the real question at issue. What is the prospective value? The creation of the community. Then why should an individual be allowed to confiscate what the community has created, or why should this product of the community be allowed to stand in the way of public needs?"

Engineering has had a correspondence on "Capital and Labour," in the course of which land values have come in for a fair share of attention. The following "tit-bits" are culled from the letters of the various correspondents:—"The agricultural rent paid means £2 per head per year in the hire of male and female toilers that reap down the fields of Dives."—"In Glasgow some years ago a portion of the land was sold by the then Town Council for £1200 to the ancestors of the present owners. The ground has now become valuable—worth £50,000 per annum. . . . I do not propose to take this betterment product from those who have hitherto succeeded in wheedling it out of the hands of