

Since his death some signs of a revived interest in our cause have appeared. A few years ago a book was published by a protestant clergyman of Zurich, Mr. Kutter, under the title, "Sie Müssen," which created great and well-deserved interest. In this book the author showed himself thoroughly imbued with Henry George's teachings, of whom he speaks with the highest praise. In Basle our movement has found a convinced and able leader in Mr. Bernhard Jäggi, a friend of the late Mr. Gschwind, and member of the legislative body of the Canton of Basle-City. An offshoot of the agitation of the land reformers in Swiss national politics is the attempt to nationalize, or at least to regulate the exploitation of the water-powers for the supply of electricity. It is to be expected that something will be done in this direction ere long.

The history of our movement in Switzerland, though poor in results, may yet serve as a lesson to many Single Taxers. We are often told that other reforms are more necessary, that direct legislation must come first, that municipal ownership and free trade must precede the Single Tax. We have here direct legislation to the fullest extent; we have had, until a few years ago, practically as much free trade as England has to-day; in all our big cities we have municipal ownership of the trams, the gas and water-works and the electrical supply; we have nationalized our railroads with the exception of a single line of some hundred miles, which also will be nationalized ere long. Yet all this has profited our movement absolutely nothing, and the people not much more. Children go hungry and underclothed to school, a large number of unemployed and poor have to be supported by public means, people are crowded in slums, while the advantages of municipal ownership tend to raise rents and swell the landlords' profits. And our system of direct legislation has benefitted only the politician. Statistics show that by far most of the polls taken are about political questions and the like, in which the political office hunters have axes to grind. To social reform direct legislation has often proved a hindrance, and I do not believe that our movement is to fare better under this institution. It can scarcely be said that it has tended to enlighten the people. There are people here who think that horse-flesh eating will solve all social difficulties, but there are very few who venture to hope the same from the Single Tax. I think we may have something to hope for from the co-operative movement which is rapidly increasing in Switzerland, and whose leaders are, just as those in England, looking with favor and lending support to our movement whenever it comes up. The growth of co-operation is the more useful as it shows that what the Socialists claim for the nationalization of the means of pro-

duction can be achieved more safely by voluntary effort, whilst on the other hand the help it offers the people is in the end frustrated by land monopoly. The practical results of co-operation in Europe have already converted many of the orthodox Marxian Socialists to more liberal views.

But, after all, there is no step to the Single Tax except to work for Single Tax and nothing else. GUSTAVE BUSCHER.

#### AUSTRALIA—SYDNEY.

The Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council have now agreed on the final form of the Local Government Extension Bill shall take and its enactment *this year* is therefore now assured.

It applies to all *existing* Municipalities (with the exception of the City of Sydney). It makes a rate of *1d in the £* on unimproved land values *mandatory*; and allows Municipal Councils to rate on unimproved land values up to *2d in the £*. *No exemptions of any description.*

It means a great advance in Municipal Government in this State, and is next to our Shires Act, the greatest triumph Henry George's New South Wales followers have yet achieved.

J. R. FIRTH

#### SCOTLAND.

BOLD WORDS OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND.

I am in the constituency represented in Parliament by the Solicitor General for Scotland (Mr. Ure) who is at present addressing the little villages around on the Taxation of Land Values. The small local papers report his speeches in full, and the result is that every collier and mine worker in Linlithgowshire is studying our question at the moment. We hope to keep them interested.

Here is the way the Solicitor General for Scotland talked at Bo'ness (Linlithgowshire):

"And when I venture to lay down the proposition that rates, like taxes, should as far as possible be so imposed as not to check or hinder industrial enterprise—that hence it is an excellent move, if possible, to drop buildings and improvements out of the rating standard, I am told that this is the doctrine of a confiscator, of a humble disciple of Henry George. When I observed—as I have for the past three weeks—this is the only criticism of my fundamental doctrine, I rejoiced and was exceeding glad, for now I know that the battle is won. The citadel is safe, and nothing remains to be done save some skirmishing at the outposts."

Yet Mr. Ure in his address at Fauldhouse confessed that he had never read a line of Henry George; He said:

Let me add two sentences in conclusion

which I feel sure will do much to alleviate the distress of some of my opponents—perhaps even some of my supporters. I have not followed, I have been in no way influenced, by the example of New Zealand. I propose to reject the New Zealand plan as unsound. Although I must in fairness add that if I thought it sound and applicable to Scotland, I would not look askance at it merely because it chanced to be the offspring of a free British colony. Nor have I followed—this must surely be the greatest relief of all—in the footsteps of Henry George. I am no disciple of his. I have not read one word of his writings, but—what is much more to the purpose—I have heard and read attentively every word of the evidence given before the Select Committee. My sins and errors, therefore—if sins and errors lie at my door—are all done against the light shed by that illuminating body of testimony.”

JOHN WILSON.

#### ENGLAND.

CONTINUED EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS—SOCIALISTS AND LAND NATIONALIZATIONISTS ALIKE COMING TO PERCEIVE THAT OUR WAY IS THE ONLY ONE.

Time passes very rapidly, justice and freedom come very slowly, but we cannot doubt that they come very surely, for as Gerald Massey says

“ \* \* \* Truth shall conquer at the last, for round and round we run,

And ever the Right comes uppermost, and ever is justice done.”

On February 12th the British Parliament reassembled and in the King's speech we were given what is to be the policy of the Government during this session of Parliament.

After promising a measure of Licensing Reform and some references to Military matters, the following short but very significant paragraph appears:

Bills will be introduced dealing with the Holding and Valuation of Land in Scotland.

And in the last paragraph of the speech we have the promise of similar Bills for England and Wales.

To some people these promises will appear as somewhat trivial and unimportant matters, having no relation to the great and pressing social problems of the day. To Single Taxers, however, the promise of these proposed Re-valuation Bills is a cheering sign of the times. This will be the first forward step to the emancipation of the people from the tyranny and oppression of landlordism. Legislation of this character will show that we have had good grounds for the hopeful view of things which we have taken since the reigns of Government fell into the hands of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

No man who has heard the Prime Minister speak can doubt his sincerity and it would surely be a sign of weak judgment to question the ability of a man who has shown himself every inch a statesman.

If the Government did not really mean to give us legislation along our lines they would not be likely to take the first necessary steps—the valuation of land apart from improvements. Personally I am hoping that the next news letter to the REVIEW will contain a report of the passing of Valuation Bills for Scotland and also for England and Wales. Scotland of course leads the way, as she well deserves to after so many years of strenuous and well directed agitation.

It is now almost a quarter of a century since Henry George with his wonderful enthusiasm and eloquence raised the question of human rights to life and liberty in Scotland and it is gratifying to note that some of the men who took up the Cross of the New Crusade at that time and who were amongst Mr. George's most intimate friends and faithful co-workers, are still in the forefront of the agitation and working with the same old-time enthusiasm and devotion.

To these men it must be a matter of great satisfaction to find the Solicitor-General for Scotland (Alex. Ure, K. C. M. P.) so far convinced of the justice and practicability of their demands as to take his stand on the platform of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values. Speaking under their auspices on March 7th in the City Hall, Glasgow, the Solicitor-General had an enthusiastic audience of about 8,000 persons cheering a most lucid and telling speech in favor of making Land Values the basis of local taxation. This marks a demand far in excess of anything a Single Taxer could have hoped for a few short months ago.

On Monday the 18th inst., the Executive Committee of the Conference of Rating Authorities of the United Kingdom met at the Westminster Hotel and passed the following resolution:

“That this meeting, representative of over 500 rating authorities of the United Kingdom, desires to express its great satisfaction that in the King's Speech intention is declared of promoting measures dealing with valuation of lands, and urges that bills dealing with the separate valuation of land for England and Scotland be immediately introduced. This meeting further pledges itself to support such measure.”

On February 16th a conference on Public Land Ownership was held in Glasgow under the auspices of the Land Nationalization Society and the Glasgow Trades Council when the Chairman of the Land Nationalization Society declared the first practical step towards public ownership of land to be “the assessment of land at its true selling value for purposes of taxation.” If we can count upon the Land Nationalization Society to support our scheme for taxing land