

Church. The result of these meetings was to get about half-a-dozen young men to promise to study *Progress and Poverty*, thus giving us cause for gratification.

Mr A. H. Weller had a letter published in the local paper under the heading of "The Church and Social Problems," and although no one replied through the Press, the letter has been the subject of much private discussion, and favourable comments.

On 27th February we had a joint meeting with the local Labour party, Councillor H. Eastwood, of Bolton, being our speaker. On 11th March, Mr Ashley Mitchell, of Huddersfield, will be our speaker at a joint meeting with the local Liberal party.

These joint meetings are a new departure, and we think they should be of great interest.

BRISTOL LEAGUE: J. A. HURLEY, Hon. Secretary, 14 Queen's Road, Knowle, Bristol, 4.

The usual meetings in connection with the League have this month been held at Totterdown, Knowle, and Westbury. The monthly Economic Class, under the guidance of the President Mr E. J. Brierley at the Ruskin Hall, Brislington, at which new contacts are being made.

Negotiations are in hand for the inauguration of a series of Economics lectures to be given in the Folk House, College Green. Will members and friends kindly watch for future announcements.

The President has many speaking fixtures to various organizations during the coming month.

PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE: A. H. Stoakes, Hon. Secretary, 110 Baffins Road, Portsmouth.

The monthly public meeting of the Portsmouth League for the Taxation of Land Values, held in the Wesley Central Hall on Wednesday, 19th February, was addressed by Mr A. W. Madsen on "The Russian Experiment: its Lessons for Social Reformers." Mr Madsen's address was greatly appreciated, the audience being greatly impressed by the scope of the first-hand information furnished and by the references to the Russian land tenure as an economic factor. Many questions were asked and answered. The lecture was of great educational value to those interested in the subject of land reform. An abbreviated report of the meeting appeared in the local *Evening News*.

The next meeting of the League, to be held in the Wesley Central Hall on Wednesday, 18th March, will be addressed by the Secretary on the subject of "Rating Reform."

Some correspondence has appeared in the local Press following a letter to the Editor requesting information as to the reason for high rents, to which a member of the League contributed.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

The Ross-shire by-election provided an opportunity for an educational campaign on the part of the League. In stormy weather from the 7th January to 10th February, one meeting after another followed in quick succession and were addressed by a band of excellent speakers from the south, such as Capt. Arthur McDougal, Robert Gray of Edinburgh League, and Ernest Baker from Yorkshire. Also Dr Stoner from Brighton, and Mrs MacDonald, Liberal Candidate at the General Election contesting West Perthshire against the Duchess of Atholl. Sir Murdoch Mackenzie Wood addressed meetings on behalf of Dr Russell Thomas, who had only ten days for the other three candidates full month of canvassing and speaking. Yet in that short time he made a good impression by the courageous way in which he entered the fight. Of the four candidates he was *par excellence* the best, being out for liberty and freedom to produce and exchange. He had the whole machinery of Government against him, and to an observer the display of wealth on polling day was prodigious, 250 cars against the few of Dr Thomas. According to a friend's calculation, who brought in 40 voters with his car, the Government fleet of cars ought to have brought in 10,000 voters.

Captain Arthur MacDougal addressed a series of meetings at Tain, Fearn, Cromarty and Fort Rose, from 3rd to 7th February, and received quite an ovation from the farmers at the Auction Mart, Dingwall. His subject was mainly "Agricultural Depression and Remedy." The secretary received glowing reports of the impressions made from all parts of Ross-shire. A few more campaigns expounding the gospel of freedom in the Highlands and the reactionary policy of Boards and tariffs will take wing.

NORTH WALES

Mr A. Williams Price writes:—

Taking advantage of a little free time, and occasional fine days, I have again tramped around some of the slum areas with my tracts and leaflets. It is pitiful to note the straits to which the home-builders were reduced by Land Monopoly: We find sites for homes carved laboriously out of steeply sloping rock, sites puddled in swamps, sites on and in water-bearing strata, sites grotesquely shapen in the ravines and gullies of spoil-banks, sites that for years were sodden in the sulphurous fumes of

smouldering pit-tips—while thousands of acres lay (and still lie) nearby, unused, underused, or misused—land that once was owned and tilled by an independent peasantry!

"But times are alter'd; trade's unfailing train;
Usurp the land, and dispossess the swain:
Along the land where scattered hamlets rose,
Unwieldy wealth and cumbrous pomp repose."

Should any reader of this Journal visit North Wales and wish to inspect slums such as I have described, let him follow the park wall, or other estate boundary, and he will duly arrive in the slums.

To the *Cefn Chronicle*, 22nd February, Mr Price wrote:—

"The question of a new school in Ruabon provided another interesting local demonstration of the land influence. The land offered is valued at £3,000, plus £365 for minerals, say £3,365, this valuation is to be checked by the District Valuer; what relation it bears to the Rateable Value remains to be seen. The Taxation and Rating of Land Values would put an end to such delays and hindrances in the provision of educational facilities—even as it would abolish the blight of unemployment."

This letter also appeared in the *Wrexham Leader*.

CHARLES HECHT

We regret to learn of the death by heart attack on 13th January of Charles Hecht of Lakewood, New Jersey. He was in his 80th year. Born in Germany, he came to the States in 1860 and in 1899 settled in Lakewood, where he took a leading part in all matters of civic welfare. But it is as a devoted adherent of the Henry George teaching that his name is most to be remembered. He belonged to that great band of workers who fought with Henry George the mayoral campaign in 1886 and again in 1897; and so through the years he was ever active in making opinion for the land values principle and policy. At his Hotel (the Manhattan) he kept a regular supply of explanatory literature which he never failed to commend to his guests. To impress the citizens of his town and the passers-by he erected on a vacant lot in front of his hotel the large notice board which taught the lesson in these words:—

STOP! READ!! THINK!!! AS IT IS!!—If I employ labour and improve this lot, the tax assessor will punish me with a high tax. If I leave the lot as it is, I do not employ labour, and the Assessor encourages me by a lower tax.

AS IT SHOULD BE!!!—Tax all land at its true value. Do not tax any improvements.

THE RESULT WOULD BE—Land would be sold at a much lower price. The growth of Lakewood assured. More and better houses built. Labour reduce rents and the high cost of living. More labour employed. Higher wages paid. A much lower tax. The only just tax.

Charles Hecht was deeply interested in the work of the United Committee and in the welfare of *Land & Liberty*. With Mrs Hecht he was present at the International Conference in Oxford, 1923. Repeatedly he testified his concern to help in the propaganda in Great Britain and he would make special donations so that our Journal could be sent month by month over a year or more to a well-selected list of public men. To Mrs Hecht, to her son and two daughters and the other members of the family, we extend our sincere sympathies.

ANNUAL HENRY GEORGE COMMEMORATION

Universally on 2nd September

To the Editor, "*Land & Liberty*"

DEAR SIR,—The Single Tax League of this city discussed Mr P. J. Markham's suggestion in his letter in your December issue for a Henry George Day to be celebrated on Henry George's birthday throughout the world. It was unanimously agreed to co-operate in this matter and to write the International Union of the fact.

It is hoped of course that many others will respond likewise.

Truly yours, GEORGE T. TIDEMAN,
Com. and Mem. Ex. Bd., The Single Tax League.