

demand for commodities, by settling people genuinely upon the soil, that trade must increase and the condition of the general worker be improved."

In addition to the increase of the all-round Land Tax, Mr. Vaughan introduced "an increment tax similar to that which is now the law of Great Britain," a tax of 20 per cent. upon the increment value. "Such a tax," he argued, "will secure an honest assessment, and it will give to the State merely one-fifth of the added value which the services of the State have conferred upon the land held by the individual." He further pointed out that the land speculator does not have to pay income tax on the increased value given to his land, nor on the profit he derived when selling his land, and, therefore, it is only fair that he should pay some tax. Mr. Vaughan concluded his speech with the following eloquent peroration:—

"This year promises to eclipse all records, and if nature smiles for another month the harvest should reach—I say it with some hesitation—nearly 30 million bushels. Bad seasons are as inevitable as the revolution of the earth, but the genius of the people will rise superior to the vicissitudes of nature; of that I have no doubt. Our policy—the policy upon which the Budget is framed—is that those who labour and toil, whether on the farm or in the factory, and by their energy produce the national wealth, shall in the future share more adequately in the proceeds of their own labour than they have done in the past. (Cheers.) Is it in vain to hope that some of the consideration hitherto bestowed upon the production of wealth will be devoted to solving the greater and far more menacing problem of its equitable distribution? (Hear, hear.) That time will be expedited by the adoption of a wise and just financial policy. Then we will reach the happy period—

When wealth no more will rest in mounted heaps,
But smit with freer light shall slowly melt,
And fatten lower hands,
And right shall spread,
And man be liker man,
Through all the seasons of the golden year."

We would again cordially congratulate Mr. Vaughan upon his speech and the policy it inaugurated. South Australia is to be

congratulated on the fact that men holding and avowing such views are entrusted with the highest public positions at the disposal of its citizens.

L. H. B.

UNITED STATES.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, JUNR., RETURNED TO CONGRESS.

MR. GEORGE CHANGED a Republican majority of over 8000 into a Democratic majority of over 2,300.

Mr. Thomas Scanlon, Secretary of the Tariff Reform Committee of the New York Reform Club (in the United States, of course, Tariff Reform means the movement for the reduction and abolition of tariffs), writing from New York City about the elections for Congressional seats that has just taken place, says:—

Of course, you have heard all about our great democratic victory which means an early reduction of the tariff. . . . But you will be particularly glad to know that we have elected Henry George, Jr., to Congress. Yes, and elected him not by a mere partisan vote but openly as an avowed and aggressive Free Trader and Single Taxer. Indeed when one considers that the district for which he was elected is one of the most conservative in New York, and that his opponent, an estimable man and one who stood high in the councils of his party, and had six years' Congressional experience to his credit, had carried the seat by 9,000 majority on the last occasion, the victory is enough to set one thinking. George put the Single Tax and Free Trade in the forefront of his canvass. "Do you adhere to the principles of your father?" asked a voter when "heckling" George. "Certainly I do," replied George. "Do you believe in Free Trade?" "I do." "Do you believe in Single Tax?" "With my last breath." The above is an indication of the perfect frankness with which George avowed his "unpopular" doctrines. The fact is that these doctrines are much more popular than our diplomatic reformers suspect. At all events the plain fact is that George won his seat upon these very issues, and this startling instance—startling even to all of us, including George himself—suggests the inquiry whether the bolder policy is not the more successful, and whether our own timidity is not a greater obstruction to us than the public indifference.

The great influence that helped George and helped the democratic movement generally is the high cost of living. You remember the pregnant sentence of John Bright, telling about the repeal of the Corn Laws, "Famine itself against which we had warred, joined us." So it was here. Not all the argument in the world could have been more effective than the widespread, visible hardship of the consumer, which he feels is due to the tariff, and which has shaken his faith in the whole doctrine of Protection, since he had long been taught to believe that there could be no hard times under Protection.

The papers all spoke kindly of George and recommended his election, even some who, like the NEW YORK TIMES, have no sympathy with Single Tax. He is sure to do a lot of useful work in Congress and we are very glad to have such a representative there to keep his eye upon what goes on and to keep us informed as to same.

BOOK REVIEW.

LAND REFORM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE.*

Mr. J. Dundas White, in his new pamphlet, has provided us with a most useful little handbook on the land question. Needless to say, the "Land Reform" he discusses is the reform of land tenure by the taxation and rating of Land Values. In his treatment of the subject, he deals lucidly and comprehensively with all the issues involved. He emphasises the importance of enabling the people to make the best use of the national resources of their country, and explains the only means by which this can be effected.

In his chapter on the incidence of rating, Mr. White throws out several valuable suggestions. Who is to be liable for the tax or rate on Land Values, the occupier or the owner? Are existing contracts to be respected? Mr. White argues for a period of transition with a time limit of twenty-one years on long leases and feus, after which each person sharing the land value would pay his proportion of the tax direct.

There is a preface by Mr. Lloyd George, who pays a well-deserved tribute to Mr. J. Dundas White's ability to write on the subject.

* "Land Reform in Theory and Practice," by James Dundas White, LL.D., M.P., with a Preface by the Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P. Published, price 1d., by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values.

DEMOCRATIC DELUSIONS

Is the title of a series of articles now running through "The Open Road," and written by a member of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values. These articles are designed to let a little daylight into the minds of those who profess and call themselves reformers, but who unhappily happen to have got on the wrong track so far as the Land Question is concerned.

"THE OPEN ROAD"

is a Monthly Magazine concerned with **Education, Health, Social Questions and Religion**; It can therefore hardly fail to appeal to Land Leaguers.

Now, considering this announcement will appear for six months, and represents a goodwill gift, not from the writer of the articles but from another Land Leaguer who wishes to press forward the propaganda of "THE OPEN ROAD," you may be certain it is worth your while to send four penny stamps to . . .

THE PUBLISHER, "The Open Road,"

3, Amen Corner, London, E.C.,

for a specimen copy and other pamphlets.

Having sampled one copy you will certainly send 3/- to secure "THE OPEN ROAD" post free for 12 months.