

throughout different parts of the United States, and to enter into controversial and other work. On the completion of his book, he intends to make a holiday visit to Great Britain.

To a man who has a little knowledge, and a little observation, and a little sympathy with his fellows, and a little poetic feeling, a voyage across the Atlantic furnishes a great many new and

STRIKING THINGS.

But, I think the thing that struck me most was the similarity of the Single Tax men I met in New York with the Single Tax men I met in Scotland. I ought not to have been surprised at this; and, indeed, I expected to find such a similarity. Yet it seemed curious! To leave this country; to sail on and on, day and night, and day and night, and day and night, with a velocity equal to that of an ordinary Scotch railway train—a velocity so great that, breaking the record as we did on the westward voyage, I can boast that I crossed the Atlantic faster than anybody ever did before. To sail on and on—now through a belt of storm and now over a region of calm, now on a warm current where the weather was summerlike, and again on a cold current where it was wintry; hour after hour under cloudy skies, hour after hour over white and angry waves, hour after hour through rippling sunny seas. And then at last to come to another country where so many things, down even to the weeds on the roadsides, are different from here. And to find there, knots of men with the identical faith of the friends I had left behind; puzzling their brains in the same way to find means to spread the same truth; with the same hope in their hearts, and the same arguments, and even the same phrases in their mouths. I had really expected to find all this. Nevertheless, it struck me very much; and, somehow, it gave me a greater appreciation of our movement and a bigger hope than ever I had before.

NORMAN M'LENNAN.

By the Way.

It is stated that the present House of Commons is made up as follows:—

41	per cent.	represent the Lawyer and Monied Interests.
34	"	" Employers of Labour.
17	"	" Landed Interests.
2	"	" Workers (direct).

Payment of Members and the Second Ballot might change these figures a little.

The recent Tory Conference adopted the following resolution:—"That lodgers paying a yearly rent of £10 and upwards should be entitled to be put on the electoral roll." There will be a few more Forfarshires if the Liberals don't hurry up and get something done.

Mr. John Inglis, president of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, says:—"The prayer of the collectivist or socialist contained but two petitions—'Give us our daily bread, and forgive us our debts.'"

Lord Salisbury, commenting on the invasion of the "rights of property" by the London County Council, says:—"The incisor tooth of predatory radicalism was only sharpened by the food which they gave it to stay its appetite." The chickens are coming home to roost. The London County Council was the gift of Lord Salisbury's government.

Discussing the House of Lords in a speech recently Lord Tweedmouth remarked that:—"Because a particular individual may at a particular time have been exalted for a particular work, his descendants ever afterwards should be considered heaven-sent and God-born legislators." Commenting on which the Glasgow Citizen says:—"Perhaps he speaks a good deal of truth. Only, if he carries his principles out, they won't end at the House of Lords. When those lawmakers are abolished, the people will begin to ask why a few gentlemen, because they are the sons of their fathers, should inherit the land of the United Kingdom to the exclusion of the masses. Why should Lord Tweedmouth own thousands of acres, when a poor wretch of a voter can hardly get sufficient soil in which to bury himself?"

The Citizen is about right. This is just the question that is, not slowly, gathering momentum. The people who are crushed into single apartments, built three and four flats deep in back lands, and those who own thousands of acres, are social contrasts that will surely disappear. The yeast of Demos is at work.

"No man ever riveted a chain of slavery round his brother's neck, but God surely welded the other round the neck of the tyrant."
—Lamartine.

"But if the people, by the exercise of constitutional means, passed an Act through Parliament making the estates of the nobles the property of the nation, with or without compensation, that would be neither brigandage nor revolution; it would be a legal, righteous, and constitutional reform. The titled robbers of England have always done their robberies in a legal manner. We propose to enforce their cessation in a legal manner. Moral right or economic reason the landlord and the capitalist have none to lean on. Only by law is their property theirs, only by law are their privileges upheld. And laws which were made by the State can by the State be altered."
—Nunquam.

QUERY.—If the landlords have neither moral right nor economic reason to lean on, what gives them the claim to compensation—and if they are to be dislodged without compensation, let it be said straight out. The day has gone by for this miserable shuffling indecision.

Mr. Stephen Williamson, M.P., says he is not a follower of Keir Hardie and he does not expect to be one. "If Mr. Keir Hardie" he said, "had any definite proposal, he had never put it into the form of a bill." Surely Mr. Williamson has forgotten Mr. Hardie's Mines' Bill, where he proposes to purchase out the present owners in the interest of—the workers of course.

Mr. Hall Caine dreams of a greater novel than we have ever yet seen, that shall be compounded of the penny newspaper and the Sermon on the Mount.

Sir Charles Dilke says:—"The Liberal Party are still hampered by men who want peerages for themselves or their sons, and he should not believe that the leaders are in earnest until the Liberal Party gave over making peers."

Forfarshire was lost to the Liberals it is generally stated either because the Liberal candidate was a member of the "carpet-bagging" fraternity or that the Tory candidate's programme was quite as attractive on social questions as the one put forward by the Liberal. However that may be, the Tories are advancing in the ways of democratic thought. Let the Liberals act, and act quickly, if they desire to continue in the van of progress.

"The Labour Party mean to work," so says Mr. Shaw Maxwell, "that though they do not win the seat, it would not be won for the Liberal Party."

Sir James Carmichael, M.P., told his constituents the other night at St. Rollox, that he thinks highly of the *Single Tax*, and reads it with care and pleasure every month. He also complimented Single-Tax men on the manner of their independent attitude within and without the ranks of the Liberal Party.

Single Tax men permeate the Liberal Party from within, and the Labour and Tory Parties from without. The Labour-Socialist candidates at Glasgow Municipal Elections, in November, had nothing more important to talk about than the taxation of land values. Mr. Keir Hardie advised them to take this stand. And now the Tories are wanting a revision of the whole system of taxation, so that the burden may be equitably adjusted.

It was simply lamentable though to witness the Labour men advocate in the same breath the Single Tax—taxation of land values up to 20s. in the £—and a tax on empty houses also.

It reminds one of Keir Hardie's innocent declaration that "he was in favour of the Single Tax, and a few other taxes."

We have received from the London Electoral Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, "Tracks for the Times, No. 2." It is brimful of up-to-date political matter, and deals in the most trenchant manner with the land question. It is well worthy the perusal of every reformer, and is simply invaluable as a guide and teacher to all speakers who are really desirous of having the truth spoken. Space forbids us in this issue dealing with the publication as we desire, but we hope to have an early opportunity of doing so.

Foreign News.

Victoria has returned at the recent General Election 15 Free Traders, 40 Tariff Reformers, and 40 Protectionists. 49 members of this total advocated the taxation of the unimproved value of land. 20 of these did so in real earnest.

A SINGLE TAX VICTORY.—"Mr. Wm. H. Irvine, M.L.A., of Melbourne (Victoria), who won the phenomenal victory of the elections, and has the distinction of being the first member of the Victorian Legislature who relied for his return upon the purest exposition of Free Trade and land value taxation. Just thirteen days before the polling day he, for the first time, saw the electorate which was to return him to Parliament with an overwhelming majority. His opponent, the Honourable R. Baker, had represented the electorate for twelve continuous years, and had, moreover, the advantage of being a Minister of the Crown. Yet in spite of all these adverse circumstances, Mr. Irvine was returned by the phenomenal majority of 258 votes. No wonder the politicians stand aghast before this wonderful victory and ask themselves how it was won. Yet in reality there is nothing to wonder at. The simple explanation is that Mr. Irvine, being well versed in the facts of the case, could show the electors that Customs House and railway taxation were the causes of their distress, and that their repeal and the taxation of the unimproved value of land was the only remedy. This he did, without concealment or evasion, taking his standpoint on the broad principle, that the land is the people's, and each man's earnings his own."
—Melbourne Beacon.

PROGRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.—"If a measure which the Government has now before Parliament becomes law, a change of a very radical nature will soon be made as regards the rating of property in this colony. The Colonial Treasurer has introduced and carried successfully through the House of Representatives a Bill which proposes that for the future the rating of land shall be upon its unimproved value. This proposal aims directly at large land owners who do not improve their holdings, and at people who purchase sections as a speculation, and hold on without doing anything to them in the shape of improvements until the improvements effected by their neighbours have the effect of giving these sections an enhanced value at no expense to themselves. The Bill absolutely releases all improvements from taxation. Supposing, for example, two sections of land adjoin each other of equal extent and quality, and that upon one of them no improvements are made, while upon the other improvements to the extent of £5,000 or £10,000 are carried out, the improving owner will not be rated on account of these improvements. His property will be rated in accordance with what the value of his land is, supposing nothing had ever been done to it by the hand of man. He may be deriving a big profit from the improvements he has carried out, but he will not be rated a single penny more than the owner of the adjoining section, who has allowed it to remain in its primitive condition, and is deriving no profit from it whatever. It is quite possible, that the Upper House will strangle the Bill when it gets there."
—Age.

"Are you in favour of Taxing Land Values?"