

**BRIEF HISTORIES OF THE LEAGUES FOR THE  
SINGLE TAX.****THE ENGLISH LEAGUE.**

In replying last year to a deputation from the Land Values Parliamentary Group of the British House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, expressed the opinion that the taxation of land values was largely needed in both town and country, and even more urgently in the country than in the towns. In 1905, when Mr. Asquith was in a position of greater freedom and less responsibility, he supported, during the last session of Mr. Balfour's Parliament, the second reading of the Land Values Assessment and Rating Bill. "This proposal," he said, "which I can remember, without going very far back, as having been regarded as the fad of economic doctrinaires, has now behind it the active and growing support of the governing bodies of almost all the great urban communities of the Kingdom." My own recollection of the movement, which probably goes much further back than Mr. Asquith's, and is founded upon a more intimate knowledge than his, entirely confirms this. About two years before he entered Parliament—to be precise, on May 7th, 1884—I was elected by the "English Land Restoration League," at its first annual meeting, as its general secretary. This League was probably the first and is certainly now the oldest "Henry George" organization in the world. At first called the "Land Reform Union" it had been founded, rather more than a year earlier, by a band of friends who met at each others' houses to read "Progress and Poverty." Some of the founders of the league—J. C. Durant, Thomas F. Walker, the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, L.C.C., Professor Symes—are still with us, and some took part, last July, in the 29th annual meeting.

One of the first enterprises of the "Land Reform Union" had been to organize a lecturing campaign throughout the country for Mr. George (1883-4). His reception was a mixed one. His mission was blessed by Mr. Ruskin, but almost universally denounced by the Press. Some of the largest halls in London were shut against him, and the Liverpool Reform Club first invited him to a public dinner, and then rescinded the resolution as soon as the report of his first meeting was published. The University of Cambridge heard him respectfully, but Oxford met him with open hostility. Yet the result of the campaign was to leave behind several Societies, two of which—one in London and one in Glasgow—have ever since been laboring to bring into practical politics the "fads" which Mr. George first made current coin.

It was at a meeting of the Guild of St. Matthew (a Society of English Churchmen for the study of Social questions, which I helped to found in 1877) that, in an East London schoolroom, and, I think, in the winter of 1881-2, I first heard of "Progress and Poverty." Almost my first task as Secretary of the League was to organize a second lecturing tour for its author. It was thus that I first met him in the autumn of 1884. I may perhaps be pardoned

for remembering his kindly reference to my "young enthusiasm;" the enthusiasm remains, though youth has long since gone. The campaign opened with a series of meetings in London—one at St. James's Hall was addressed by Miss Helen Taylor, Mr. Michael Davitt and Mr. George, with the president of the Scottish League in the chair; and it closed with a great demonstration in the heart of the City of London, the first and last meeting ever held on the open space in front of the Royal Exchange. Many of us still remember the use made by Mr. George of the inscription over the portico of the Exchange, which faced him as he spoke: "The Earth is the Lord's."

For a year or so the work went on along the lines familiar to all "agitators." We issued leaflets by the hundred thousand, addressed innumerable meetings (often small, mostly at working men's clubs, at street corners and in the public parks); worried candidates with questions, editors with letters and Parliament with petitions. Our Hon. Treasurer (the late William Saunders) got into the House of Commons, and on March 16th, 1886, succeeded in having the question of land value taxation referred to the Select Committee on Town Holdings. Thus the movement obtained a foothold in Parliament, which it has maintained and increased ever since.

The promotion of the taxation of land values from the street corner, through the municipal council chamber and the sensational general election of 1906, into the front rank of British practical politics, is a long story, which begins in 1887. At the annual meeting of the League in that year, it was resolved to form a "special committee of members of the executive and others, and to raise a special fund, with a view to pushing an agitation, already set on foot by the League, for the municipal taxation of land values which was being suggested as a substitute for the London *Octroi* on Coals (the "London Coal Dues"). With the willing co-operation of the London Municipal Reform League, this resulted in the foundation of a "United Committee"—not to be confused with the later and more famous body of the same name. Of this, the late Lord Hobhouse, Earl Compton (now Marquis of Northampton) and Lord Monkswell were successively presidents. The chief service rendered to the cause by this Committee during its brief existence was the publication of Mr. (now Lord Justice) Fletcher Moulton's pamphlet on "The Taxation of Ground Values," of which a quarter of a million copies were circulated among London electors. The almost immediate result of this was the election to the first London County Council (1889) of no less than forty members of the Committee, including seven members of the Executive, while thirty other Councillors were known to be in sympathy with its objects. The action of the London County Council, then, and afterwards, brought the question into municipal politics. A special Committee of the Council presented a valuable report on Land Valuation, and Mr. Edgar Harper (Valuer, and afterwards Statistical Officer to the Council: now head of the Government Valuation Department) prepared many valuable memoranda on the subject, and was several times deputed to give evidence in favor of the rating of land values before Parliamentary Committees and

Royal Commissions. In more recent years, Glasgow—the headquarters of the Scottish League—has taken the lead in this municipal movement, the London Council having fallen a temporary prey to reaction. Hundreds of local rating authorities are now pledged to the support of the rating of land values. A special effort will be made to bring London back into line at the next election in March, 1913. It was mainly owing to this large body of municipal support that Rating Bills were passed by large majorities in the Tory Parliament of 1900-05.

While the movement was thus gathering strength in the towns, the rural districts were not neglected. In 1891, the first "Red Van" was sent out by the League on a mission to the country villages. Next year the number of vans was increased to five, and five meetings were held each night in as many villages. The work was continued for seven years in the South, East and Midland Counties. The late Lord Salisbury thought it deserving of special and severe condemnation, and Lady Blake saw Red Revolution stalking "In the wake of the Red Van." Less prejudiced observers professed to find good results in subsequent electoral returns from the county divisions in which the meetings—over 3,000 of them—had been held. Certainly the Van meetings had the effect of arousing a keen interest in the new parish and district councils (founded by the Act of 1894), and brought a political awakening, and a more enlightened interest in the Land Question to hundreds of places which had never been visited by a Parliamentary candidate. This branch of our work had to be abandoned for lack of funds in the years of reaction which closed the century, but the first hand information, carefully collected and collated from thousands of villages, remains to throw a light on the social condition of rural England under landlordism at the close of the nineteenth century.

Thus the principles for which the "English Land Restoration League" stood were made widely known, and began to find acceptance both in town and country. But the League never succeeded in popularizing the term "Land Restoration," and it was liable to be confused in the public mind with the other movement for bringing about "Land Nationalization" by means of buying out the landlords. But it had made the public thoroughly familiar with the phrase "taxation of land values," and in 1902, recognizing the logic of facts, it embodied that phrase in its title. A little later the Scottish League followed its example, and under the new names the old Leagues, with their monthly paper *Land Values*, have continued to work and to prosper. Other Leagues have sprung up in England. The Manchester Land Values League, the Yorkshire League, the Northern League have grown into independence and influence out of what were formerly local branches of the English League. New local leagues have been formed at Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Bolton, Liverpool, Portsmouth. There is now a Land Values League for Wales.

All these leagues, together with similar leagues in Scotland and Ulster, are now constituent members of the famous "United Committee for the Taxa-

tion of Land Values," one of the best-abused organizations in the United Kingdom. The first suggestion of such a National Committee came from the English League. It was first constituted about five years ago. The recent history of the movement cannot be properly told apart from the story of the wonderful activity of the "United Committee" in co-operation with the English and other leagues. Its main outlines are known wherever men are interested in the Single Tax. In all the strenuous work which has been going on since the General Election of 1906, and with increased vigor since the Budget of 1909-10 and is still in full tide, the English League has taken its full share, and its members and officers are looking forward to even fuller opportunities of serving the great cause in the near future.—FREDERICK VERINDER, General Secretary.

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### THE UNITED COMMITTEE.

The United Committees for the Taxation of Land Values was formed in 1906 with offices at Tothill Street, London, S. W. After the Tories had been swept out of office in the "debacle" of January, 1906, the friends of the movement adopted the idea of centering their activities in London. For this reason Mr. John Paul was induced to leave Glasgow and take up the duties of secretary. In this work he was helped by Crompton Ll. Davies who devoted a great part of his spare time to the new organization. Originally formed by representatives from the English and Scottish Leagues, the representation now covers all the leagues formed to promote the propaganda in Great Britain. These Leagues have been greatly strengthened by the existence of the Committee which has added immensely to the strength of the whole organization. The Tory newspapers keep drawing attention to the work of the committee in the hope of damaging it. Occasionally ill natured references are made to it by Tory debaters in the House of Commons and papers are read before societies of so-called experts to prove that it is a dangerous organization bent on destroying the financial security of the whole Kingdom. Sometimes a halting Liberal pauses to explain that he is not in sympathy with the United Committee, but it is only a question of time till he discovers that his constituents are not in sympathy with him.

To say that every legitimate kind of opposition has been given to the committee would be understating the case. The nervous bishop and his wife who were led to believe that the waves of the Atlantic could not be considered dangerous so long as the men in the foc'sle were swearing, could not have been comforted more than our supporters are by our opponents. They are swearing beautifully and there is no reason to apprehend any danger to the movement.

The Committee has had the kind of assistance most needed from such men as Mr. Joseph Fels and Mr. Alexander Ure, K. C. M. P. (Lord Advocate). To their assistance must be added the useful work done by the Parliamentary group, of which Josiah C. Wedgwood is chairman and P. Wilson Raffan is

secretary. Other M.P.'s who have done much service are J. Dundas White, LL.D., M.P., Francis Neilson, M. P., and the two members who romped home on the "Land Values Ticket" when votes were going against the Government nominees everywhere. The first to show the way was E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., in Northwest Norfolk, and he was followed almost immediately by R. L. Outhwaite in Hanly. There are many other members of Parliament who, if not quite so persistent, are good friends of the Committee.

Many meetings have been organized by the Committee and addressed by the gentlemen already mentioned. In addition the local leagues have been helped in their work. To attempt any list of the meetings organized directly by the committee would occupy much space. It is sufficient to say that while the big towns in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales have been well looked after, the rural districts have not been neglected. Among the early efforts was a campaign in the Highlands conducted by Edward McHugh, and one of the latest successful adventures was a rural campaign in the South of England conducted by R. L. Outhwaite. In fact, that effort was interrupted to permit Mr. Outhwaite to fight the Parliamentary constituency of Hanley, in which he scored a notable victory. In this connection it is also interesting to note that E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P., ignored the advice of good natured friends who warned him of the danger of fighting a rural constituency on Land Values. The result justified the confidence of Mr. Hemmerde in making it a Land Values fight.

Apart from meetings and election work the Committee has done much service to the movement. A press bureau was organized for the purpose of supplying articles to newspapers, and by this means the principles of the Committee have been explained to a wide circle of readers all over the country. Something like 300 papers have been reached in this way and a fair proportion of these have published nearly every article or letter sent to them. This has had the effect of provoking interesting discussions in such newspapers, and much good work has been done in this way. During 1912 the output of special articles by the press bureau would number about three for every two weeks of the year.

In addition to this press work there is to be added the circulation of *Land Values*, the monthly organ of the movement which is also looked after by the United Committees. Its average circulation is now about 7,500 copies per month, and as the paper goes into political clubs and libraries its readers must be considered to be much in excess of its circulation.

Another department organized by the United Committee is the Literature Department. In the interval between the General elections of January, 1910, and December, 1910, a great deal of discussion took place on the Land Clauses of the Budget of April, 1909. This brought a big demand for literature. Books and pamphlets were sold by the thousand and leaflets were distributed by the million. Some fifty million odd leaflets were made up into 2,200,000 sets of 24 to the set. Of these 284,000 sets were distributed at miscellaneous meetings and the rest were distributed throughout various agencies in Parlia-

mentary constituencies. In many of these constituencies there was a house to house distribution. The territory covered included 105 English Boroughs, 87 English Counties, 19 Scottish Boroughs, 13 Scottish Counties, and a few constituencies in Ireland and Wales. In all 234 constituencies out of a possible 661—excluding universities—were in a short period systematically provided with literature. There was, of course, in addition a large distribution of individual leaflets over a wider field.

The Committee has been enabled to carry out much of this work largely through the assistance of Mr. Joseph Fels, who has supplied it with ideas as well as money. If Social Reformers do not learn what is meant by the Single Tax it will not be his fault. Five hundred delegates to the last Trade Union Congress were supplied with a copy of *Progress and Poverty* at his expense. This is a small sample of the work he initiates and sees carried through. The Tory leaders fear him more than their supporters fear a German invasion. If the promise of blessing to those who have been reviled is duly carried out in the case of Mr. Fels he ought to be about the happiest man on earth, with the Lord Advocate (Mr. Alex. Ure) and Lloyd George in close competition. At time of writing all of them are able to do much more than merely "sit up and take a little nourishment." The United Committee wants a lot out of them yet and it is not likely to be disappointed.

Mr. Paul has as his assistant in the secretaryship Mr. A. W. Madsen, B. Sc., and the treasurer of the League is W. R. Lester, M.A., an ex-president of the Scottish League. The latter has fought two Parliamentary elections against great odds without success. Some of these days he also will come into his own.

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### THE MIDLAND LEAGUE.

The formation of the Midland Land Values League was the result of a series of meetings which were addressed by Mr. Francis Neilson in the Midlands in the Autumn and Winter of 1908. Early in 1909 a few friends in sympathy with the movement for the taxation of land values met informally, and on February 17th a meeting was held in the Temperance Hall annex, Birmingham, when the League was formally inaugurated by the election of officers.

The first President was Mr. Joseph Dawson, to whom the League is greatly indebted for his work as Chairman of the Management Committee, and for the manner in which he has put forward our reform in his Parliamentary and Municipal contests.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 6th, a conference was held at the Midland Institute when Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, M. P., addressed a large gathering of delegates from Rating and other authorities in favor of the inclusion of the taxation of land values in the Budget. At night a demonstration was held at the Town Hall under the joint auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, the Birmingham Liberal association, and the League. Sir Thomas Barclay presided, and addresses were delivered by

the Lord Advocate —the Rt. Hon. Alexander Ure, K.C., M.P., and Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P., supporting a resolution urging a substantial tax on land values. The enthusiasm displayed by the huge audience showed how keenly they realized the importance and the beneficial effects of the reform.

The management committee were greatly encouraged by this reception and commenced an active propaganda. Every available means was utilized, including press correspondence, distribution of literature, lectures, addresses and debates with various political and non-political societies. A special feature of the work has been the open air meetings. These were arranged for some months for three nights a week.

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### THE NORTHERN LEAGUE.

This League which is now joined in its work with the Yorkshire League grew out of a Tyneside Branch of the English League of which Richard Brown, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, and James Veitch, Newcastle, were Hon. Secretaries, C. E. Schroeder being Hon. Treasurer. The Chairman of the Executive of the Branch was A. W. Dakers, B. A. and Charles Trevelyan, M.P., was President. In August, 1910, this Branch was changed into the Northern Land Values League with the same office bearers except that James Veitch who dropped from the honorary Secretaryship and became a Vice-President. William Reid was appointed General Secretary and offices were opened at 90 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The Tyneside Branch dates back to the year 1903 but there were active Single Taxers in Newcastle before him. A. W. Dakers for a long time, with the help of one or two others, kept the flag flying. He is still doing what he can, but he is busy in other directions. For many years he has been connected with the National Union of Teachers and is now President of that important Society. Richard Brown, the Honorary Secretary of the Northern League, is a younger man than Mr. Dakers. He is 31 years of age and became actively identified with the movement in 1902. His influence on the movement in Newcastle and district has been of a wholesome description. On the platform he has a quiet but effective and convincing style, and he has done much with his pen to forward the cause. To him is attributed the famous illustration of our present rating system. He says it amounts to the placing of a notice-board on land to the following effect "Anyone found using this land will be fined for doing so, and the better the use the more they will be fined." Like other Leagues the Northern League has grown out of work by men who are apt to be overlooked. Among those are Mr. A. W. Dakers, already mentioned. Others include Mr. Arthur Withy, now in New Zealand, who could be started by anyone on any question, but who could not possibly be stopped until he had explained the Taxation of Land Values. Then there was Mr. James Phillpot, who wrote a pamphlet on the "Evolution of Landlordism" and a great many newspaper articles on the question.

**THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE.**

Scotland had not much connection with the first visit of Henry George to the United Kingdom. His visits have been put on record by his son. He left home on October 15th, 1881, intending to land at Liverpool. Changing his plans he landed at Queenstown. This brought him into contact with the "distressful country" containing an alien landlord horde, who made it easier to unearth fifty policemen or soldiers than to secure one doctor or druggist. He got into prison as a suspect twice, but was not detained very long. It was due to the influence of prominent Irishmen that he spoke in Glasgow in March, 1882. Two meetings were addressed by him on March 17th and 20th, his chairmen being John Ferguson and Richard McGhee, while Edward McHugh was responsible for the arrangements. On October 4th, 1882, Mr. George returned to America. He arrived on English soil again on the 31st December, 1883, and a campaign was arranged for the important cities of Great Britain.

After speaking in London, Plymouth, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham and Liverpool, which tour occupied his time till the end of January, 1884, Mr. George reached Dundee in February, and his Scottish campaign began. Continuing North to Wick he turned West to the Isle of Skye. Afterwards he spoke in Glasgow, Greenock, Inverness, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. His first meeting under Scottish auspices in Glasgow was held in the City Hall on February 18th and another meeting was held in the same place a week later. It was at this second meeting that the Scottish Land Restoration League was formed, and 1940 members were enrolled. John Murdoch, a well known Highlander, was in the chair, and the first president to be elected was William Forsyth, proprietor of the Cobden Hotel, and the first secretary was Mr. David McLardy.

Returning home on April 13th, 1884, Mr. George came back to Scotland in October, 1885, speaking at Glasgow on the 21st of November and afterwards in other towns. Included in this itinerary were meetings in Skye where there had been trouble between the Crofters and landowners. It was now the Highlands of Scotland that Mr. George found garrisoned with the Glasgow police and bluejackets from the Ajax. They did not arrest him, however, but some of the guardians of the law attended his meetings, and applauded his sentiments.

Every student of Henry George is acquainted with his opinions of "Scotland and Scotsmen," but the Scottish movement owes some debt to the Irishmen, McHugh, McGhee and Ferguson, who brought him first to Scotland to speak to the Irish residents of Glasgow. Later they were associated with Peter Burt, David McLardy, William Forsyth, John Murdoch and other prominent Scottish land reformers in launching the Scottish movement.

Off with a bang, so to speak, the movement looked like a sensational progress, but it could not control the accidents in political life. Another storm closely related to the land question was brewing, which took the form of a demand for Home Rule for Ireland. Winning to its side the magnetic personality of the great Gladstone, it was not to be wondered at that pas-



sions were strongly aroused both for and against this proposal. The mind of the country was turned—as it seemed—almost wholly to this scheme for the next five years.

In 1890 a further visit from Henry George raised the drooping spirits of those who had heard the clarion call to battle. Some of the younger men who had associated themselves with the now practically defunct League were eager to revive the organization.

The Henry George Institute had been carrying on a series of Sunday evening meetings, and these younger members were spending their energies on that venture. They were ready to take up work in the wider field, and John Paul, William and Norman McLennan, John and William Cassels, the younger of the two brothers Longmuir, assisted by older men like Mr. Alex. Bowman, David Cassels, Sr., and Frank Mien called the Scottish Land Restoration Union into being. They were joined almost immediately by James Busby, now secretary of the Scottish League, J. O'Donnell Derrick, organizer for the United Irish League in Scotland, Thomas Cameron, Campsie, Thomas Lindsay, Lennoxton, and William Reid, now in Leeds. Soon afterwards came Bailie Peter Burt and David McLardy back to the fray, bringing with them G. B. Waddell, the genial personality who presided over the finances of the League for many years. To describe the later arrivals pouring in one after another would be difficult, but one readily remembers such men as W. D. Hamilton, at one time president, now a member of the Glasgow Town Council, W. R. Lester, another president, Bailie James Fairlie, Falkirk, another president, Alex. McKendrick, now president, and Harry S. Murray, of Galashiels. The first three presidents were Alex. Bowman, David McLardy and Peter Burt.

The first secretary of the new League was Norman McLennan, now of Annan. For a brief period he was forced to retire by illness from active service, and the duties were for the time divided between William Cassels and William Reid. Afterwards, when John Paul was asked to leave his employment and take up the editorship of the *Single Tax* (now *Land Values*) along with the secretaryship of the League, Norman McLennan and William Reid continued as joint Hon. Secretaries. John Cassels held the position of Treasurer for some time, but resigned in favor of Mr. Waddell, who held it for many years, being followed by the present Treasurer, Mr. David Cassels, Sr.

In 1899 the name of the League was changed from Scottish Land Restoration Union to Scottish Single Tax League. Mr. Paul as organizer enlisted the sympathy of many new adherents, and helped as he was by other officials the movement grew in membership and financial support. The monthly paper started in 1894 called at first *Single Tax*, now *Land Values*, did much to enlist new recruits.

The name of the League was changed again in 1904, and is now known as the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values. Mr. Paul left Glasgow in 1906 to become secretary of the United Committee in London, a position he now holds singly, but in which he had Mr. Crompton Ll. Davies as his colleague

until quite recently. Mr. Paul's place in Glasgow has since been filled by James Busby. During the course of the League's existence, Mr. Paul has at times been joined in his work by colleagues. One of these was Mr. J. O'Donnell Derrick and the other Mr. John Orr. The latter followed Mr. Paul to London and presided for some time over the press Bureau. During these years other Leagues cropped into existence in Scotland. Some of them did good work while they lasted, but the time was not ripe for the maintenance of more than one league and most of the new ventures proved mere adventures in futility.

The Scottish movement has grown in strength and has brought in many new men and many young men. The articles on the Political Economy Classes will enlighten the reader regarding some of these. Amongst others may be mentioned the brothers Muir, introduced like the brothers Cassels to the movement by their father. The youngest of the brothers Cassels, who was at school when the present League was formed, is now one of the leading exponents of the Single Tax in Glasgow. Among the present active members is Parish Councillor John Gordon who has done a great deal of practical work for the movement. The older members who are still at Glasgow are keeping up their interest in the movement, and one can meet at social gatherings and serious discussions such men as William McLennan, F. S. Mien, Thomas Cameron, John Cameron, Coatbridge, William Bell, Airdrie, Richard White, John S. Neil and others.

Of those who have fallen in the fight we may mention the Rev. J. M. Cruickshank who was carried to his resting place through a throng of people of every shade and perhaps no shade of the Christian faith. John Cassels died a comparatively young man and his death was mourned by all who knew him. Of the others that one met at the beginning of the present League's existence we have to lament the loss of William Harrison.

Whoever may be privileged to write of this movement from the inside will have but one opinion; it has been grand and inspiring. Like other live movements there have been differences that have developed. They have never been deep, and the conviction that could make such a movement can yet save civilization.

From Glasgow began the great municipal movement for the rating of land values. This led to the promotion of Bills in Parliament. From these we got a select committee of the House of Commons to carry out an inquiry. This committee reported in favor of a separate valuation of land. A bill on these lines was carried through the House of Commons and mutilated in the House of Lords. Then our friends in Parliament concentrated on an attempt to get something done by means of a budget tax on land values. The famous 1909 Budget made provision for a valuation of land which is still going on. For the first time in history the House of Lords rejected a Budget, and it was because of the land valuation clauses they did so. Many people had wondered how the House of Lords were to be fought. Being a part of the Constitution it was not easy to see how they could be induced to consent to hang themselves. The Lords were obliging enough to seal their own doom by throwing out the Budget, and they now retain only such powers as enable them to scratch

and to irritate, but not to do serious damage. Perhaps few of them realize how much the little group of enthusiasts in Scotland had to do with their downfall.

It only remains to put on record the services of one who while not an active member of the League was in thorough sympathy with it, and worked nobly for the cause outside. Such was Bailie John Ferguson. He was, like Richard McGhee, an Irish protestant. The Nationalist party claimed a good deal of his time as an advocate of Home Rule for Ireland. Being a great orator he was a great asset to that party. His business premises were in Glasgow and he entered the Glasgow Town Council. Nobody got any rest in that Council so far as land values were concerned after that. Some of his work is recorded in the article on the municipal movement, and we can only regret that he did not live to see the grip which the land values agitation has taken on the country generally.

From 1890 till 1896 the address of the League was 45 Montrose St., when a removal was made to 56 George Square. In 1899 another change was made to 13 Dundas St., where it remained till May, 1910, at which time the League entered the present offices at 67 West Nile St., Glasgow.

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### THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

The Yorkshire League developed from other organizations in that county. A branch of the English Land Restoration League was formed in Bradford in the closing days of 1896 with Lewis H. Berens as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. W. P. Byles, now Sir William Byles, was President and the Vice Presidents included C. H. Smithson, Fred Skirrow, Ignatius Singer and William Thomson, who are all in the Yorkshire movement today. They also included W. S. Critchley, Ilkley, who did good work for the branch, but who is now deceased. The very first conference on the question in Great Britain was called together by that organization. This conference met in Bradford on the 4th of January, 1898, and was the forerunner of many successful ventures on similar lines which continue to be held in the principal towns of Great Britain.

Half a dozen years later the Yorkshire Branch of the English League was formed with Charles H. Smithson as chairman and Fred Skirrow as organizing secretary. The headquarters were first in Bradford and afterwards in Keighley. In January, 1911, this branch became an independent league called the Yorkshire Land Values League with offices at Leeds.

In this office the Northern League has also had its quarters since February, 1912. For the sake of economy offices maintained by the United Committee in Newcastle and Cardiff were closed. Mr. Edward McHugh left Cardiff for a lecturing tour in Australia and Mr. William Reid left Newcastle for Leeds. At the request of friends in Cardiff Mr. Reid is to spend three months from 1st December in South Wales, and will work for the Welsh League, which is at present without an organizer. Meantime the whole Northern district including the

counties of Cumberland, Northumberland, Westmorland and Durham will as far as possible be looked after from Yorkshire. Fred Skirrow spent a week in Cumberland prior to the Conference which was held in Carlisle on November 30th. There is a very active group of Single Taxers over the Scottish border in Annan, but near to Carlisle. This group includes Norman McLennan, first Hon. Secretary of the Scottish League, and Harry Ll. Davies. The leading representative of our cause in Carlisle is Mr. C. E. Crompton, who is associated in business with Harry Ll. Davies. From time to time active groups of Single Taxers crop up in various towns and Yorkshire is no exception. At one time it looks as if Halifax would take the lead, at other times it is Keighley or Bradford. Lately the movement has got a big lift in Huddersfield, principally owing to the activity of Mr. John Archer. This gentleman has organized successfully for the Young Liberal League and other bodies and has lately turned his attention to the Land Values propaganda.

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### THE PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE.

The pioneer of the Single Tax movement in Portsmouth was Mr. Arthur Withy (now in New Zealand) who was associated with Messrs. McGuigan and Cole in the formation of a local society. Mr. McGuigan became acquainted with the Single Tax principle in Glasgow at a lecture by Mr. McGhee. The Portsmouth Single Tax Union originated in the determination arrived at by these three Single Taxers in December, 1897, to devote a penny per week, each, to the purchase of literature and to establish a small lending library for the purpose of awakening an interest in the doctrine of Henry George.

From this nucleus the embryo organization developed until in March, 1898, there were fourteen contributors by whom the Portsmouth Single Tax Union was formally established, with Mr. James H. McGuigan as first president. The periodical devoted to the movement at the time was the *Glasgow Single Tax*, which was subscribed to by the Union and copies of which were sent to the local libraries.

Approached by Mr. Verinder, the general secretary of the English League, the Portsmouth Single Tax Union became affiliated with the contemporary English Land Restoration League, and in December, 1898, a public meeting organized by the Union was addressed by Mr. Chapman Wright (the organizing agent of the English Land Restoration League) on "The Landlords to pay Old Age Pensions."

It has always been the policy of the local Single Taxers, individually, and as a Union, to influence local and Imperial governing bodies, trades unions and progressive organizations to support the movement. Thus, as a first instance—in consequence of the receipt by the Portsmouth Board of Guardians, in April, 1899, of a Parliamentary petition emanating from the Land Law Reform League, a deputation waited on the Guardians, and they were induced to sign the petition. Since that time no opportunity has been lost of bringing pres-

sure to bear on the local authorities to obtain full consideration for any proposals such as those which have from time to time been made by the Glasgow Corporation, favorable to the principles of Henry George.

General Elections have also occasioned much activity. At the 1900 Election (the first after the formation of the Union) a deputation waited on the Liberal candidates and a clause favorable to the taxation of land values was included in their election address. Pamphlets were also published in which was advocated a tax of at least 1s. in the £ on the annual value of land and the repeal of the "Breakfast Table Duties."

The candidature of Mr. Lambert in January, 1910, and that of Mr. Hemmerde in December of the same year, on the occasion of Parliamentary elections, imported a great stimulus to the movement in Portsmouth; and Mr. Lambert listened to the more or less harmonious—and perhaps a trifle vociferous—first rendering of the "Land Song."

In the departure in November, 1900, of Mr. Arthur Withy for the Midlands, the Union sustained a great loss. It is, however, a compensating circumstance that Mr. Withy is now, as then, strenuously at work in the cause.

The endeavor to enlist the sympathy of the local Trades Union branches and Trades Council in the taxation of land values, brought the Single Taxers as individual members of the Trades Unions and as a body into early conflict with labor partisans.

The Trades Unions had been permeated with Socialistic doctrines more or less intelligently held by their members, the majority of the officials were Socialists, and by the doctrinaires any rival policy was resented. This resentment became very bitter indeed when our members opposed the adoption by the Trades Union branches of a Socialist Labor candidate, and supported the two Liberal candidates who were advocates of the taxation of land values. It is gratifying, however, to note that the local Labor party has forgotten much of its earlier prejudice, and was recently associated with Single Taxers and the League of Young Liberals in a joint demonstration in support of the rating of land values; the resolution being moved in Council by a Labor Town Councillor.

Owing to the taxation of land values becoming a matter of practical politics and of immediate Parliamentary interest, it was decided to rename the "Portsmouth Single Tax Union," which became known as the "Portsmouth League for the Taxation of Land Values." It must not be assumed, however, that the Single Tax principle was, to any degree, surrendered. For literature and public speakers the League has been greatly indebted, to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. Public meetings arranged by the League have been addressed by Messrs. Chapman, Wright, Verinder, Berens, Paul, Skirrow, McHugh, Withy and Outhwaite, and quite recently by Mr. Fels. Mr. Alexander Ure, M. P., has also addressed meetings held under the joint auspices of the United Committee and the Liberal organizations.

On the occasion of Mr. Skirrow's visit, which was extended over a fortnight in October, 1908, the League opened a shop for the sale of literature,

and exhibited in the windows cartoons bearing on the land question. We have reason to believe that much sound educational work was done on this occasion.

Assisted by resident friends of the movement, notably the Rev. Father Hopkins, of Alton, Messrs. McGuire and King of the Portsmouth League have lectured in the country towns of South Hants. At the present we are holding weekly open air meeting in the principal thoroughfare of the town, and can generally get an attendance and intelligent audience.—A. H. STOKES.

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### THE WELSH LEAGUE.

A meeting was held at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Saturday, 18th June, 1910. The meeting was called at the invitation of Alderman Raffan, M.P., and Mr. W. Beddoe Rees, to meet Mr. Edward McHugh, of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, the object being to consider the formation of a Committee for Wales to carry on propaganda work in the principality in favor of the taxation of land values.

Tea was partaken of and Alderman P. Wilson Raffan, M.P., presided at the first meeting of the Committee. A resolution was carried to form a committee to carry on propaganda work. At this meeting about 60 men attended, truly representing all the Progressive forces in Wales.

Mr. McHugh opened an office in Cardiff, and did excellent work there until October, 1911. A large number of meetings were held, and about a quarter of a million leaflets were distributed.

When Mr. McHugh left for Australia a further meeting of the supporters of the movement was held on January 6th, 1912. At this meeting steps were taken to form a Welsh League in place of the old existing Committee. Alderman Raffan was appointed President, Dr. Chalke, M.A., of Porth, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Mr. W. Beddoe Rees, Hon. Secretary.

At the end of the year Mr. Rees asked to be relieved of the duties of Hon. Secretary. A request was made to the United Committee at a meeting of the League, held on November 9th, that the services of Mr. William Reid might be given to the League for a period of three months. The United Committee agreed to this temporary arrangement. Alderman Raffan and Dr. Chalke were reappointed to their official positions and the Hon. Secretaryship was transferred to Eustace A. Davies, a capable and enthusiastic supporter of the cause.

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### THE MANCHESTER LEAGUE.

The history of the organized movement in Manchester for the Single Tax covers a period of only six years, but previous to that some work was done, single-handed, by a few men who were members of the central League in London. Probably the first public speech in Manchester in favor of taxing land

values, since Henry George's visit to this town, was made at the Reform Club by Mr. L. W. Zimmerman, on April 26th, 1901. During the last six years a steady and persistent work of education has been carried on by a small band of Henry George men that has produced results that can only be measured by a public interest in the land values question that is making itself increasingly evident in the press; on social, religious, and political platforms; and at the polling booths.

In October, 1906, a meeting of local members and friends of the English League was held in the Accountants' Hall when a Manchester and District Branch was formed, with Mr. L. W. Zimmerman as President; Dr. P. McDougall as Hon. Treasurer and A. H. Weller as Hon. Secretary. From that date the work has never flagged, but has steadily grown until during the year 1910-11 no fewer than 247 meetings were addressed by the League's workers, besides much other work of an educational character. In this work the Manchester League has received valuable help from both English and American Single Taxers, and amongst local men who gave themselves whole-heartedly to the movement in its early days and to whom much of its present strength in Manchester is due, must be mentioned Messrs. John Bagot, Dr. McDougall, D. Catterall, G. Jennison, O. O'Grady, and J. Bates.

With the generous aid of the United Committee of London, an office was opened in Manchester in September, 1909, and Mr. Weller was appointed paid Secretary to the newly named Manchester League for the Taxation of Land Values. With a man devoting the whole of his time to the work, and a centre that could be conveniently reached by members and friends, the League was able to greatly extend its usefulness and influence. In April, 1911, the name of the League was again changed to its present title of Manchester Land Values League, when a removal was made to the more central offices now occupied at 1 Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester. The possession of an office made possible the fulfillment of a long cherished scheme for the formation of an Economic Class, and most encouraging results can be claimed for this undertaking. The careful study of "Progress and Poverty" under the able guidance of Mr. Bagot, Dr. McDougall, and others, has furnished the League with many new speakers and writers who are carrying the Single Tax message of hope into ever widening circles. This work has been extended by the formation of similar classes in other places and still further developments are hoped for in the future.

Other branches of work include the Newspaper Correspondence Group, the members of which systematically bombard editors of local papers with letters and in that way do a great deal of valuable propaganda work; and also series of special meetings for professional and commercial men in the League's office during the winter months.

An event of world-wide importance to the Single Tax cause was the publication in 1910 of a cheap unabridged edition of "Progress and Poverty" by Mr. John Bagot, one of the most devoted workers in the Manchester League. Mr. Bagot advertises his willingness to send this wonderful little book to any

part of the world for 12 cents, or with cloth covers 24 cents, so it is not surprising to learn that already nearly 20,000 have been sold. Another 10,000, in slightly larger type, but at the same price, is in a nearly complete stage. He is also preparing a Library Edition of "Progress and Poverty"—now out of print in the United Kingdom—and following that he will publish a large type cheap edition of that great work. Not content with such achievements, Mr. Bagot has issued a booklet entitled "A Good Living: Political Economy for Workers," a collection of essays written by expert Single Taxers the world over, and an exposition of the teaching contained in "Progress and Poverty." All these books will be issued at cost price, or less, for propaganda purposes.

There is a growing demand for the League's speakers at both municipal and parliamentary elections, but not satisfied with merely helping candidates, who sometimes seem to forget the importance of land values taxation after their election, the Manchester League has decided to fight an independent battle at the next municipal elections in November. With that object in view the Secretary will be nominated as candidate for the Manchester City Council, and will fight the election on the Single Tax issue. This will have the effect of forcing local attention to the question of rating land values as nothing else could do, as well as providing a test of the value of work done in the past.

The great labor unrest in the country is opening new avenues for our message in many directions, and the fullest advantage is being taken of such opportunities by the League's workers. Newspapers of all political opinions are willing to print letters and sometimes articles on the Single Tax, and the situation in this great industrial centre may be regarded as full of hope and encouragement.—ARTHUR H. WELLER.

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## AREA OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

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The area of Great Britain and Ireland is 77,606,046 acres, or approximately 121,259 square miles.

Of this England contains roughly 32,597,398 acres, or 50,933 square miles.

Wales contains 4,721,823 acres, or 7,378 square miles.

Scotland contains 19,466,978 acres, or 30,417 square miles.

Ireland contains 20,819,847 acres, or 32,531 square miles.

The population of the United Kingdom in 1911 was 45,216,665, or an average of 372 to the square mile. But by far the most densely populated portion of the United Kingdom is England, where the average per square mile is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times the average amount for the whole Kingdom.

England with 50,933 square miles has a population of 34,043,076, or 668 people to the square mile.

Wales with 7,378 square miles has a population of 2,032,193, or 275 to the square mile.

Scotland with 30,417 square miles has a population of 4,759,445 or 156 to the square mile.