

DERWENT LIBERAL
ASSOCIATION.

LECTURE ON THE LAND LAW

Under the auspices of the Derwent Liberal Association, Mr. B. Spence Watson (of Newcastle) delivered a lecture on the "Land Laws" in the Central Hall, Blackhill, on Monday evening last. There was a large attendance, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Priestman, J.P. On the platform were Mr. Jenkins, J.P., Mr. Siddle, Mr. F. Priestman, Mr. M. Coupland, Mr. J. Pamphrey, Mr. Moody, Mr. T. W. Welford, Mr. Eltringham, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Cars, Mr. W. Wheatley, and Mr. D. Harris.

THE CHAMAN said when that association was founded about a year ago, he thought to himself that it would be a useful machinery for the time of the election. He felt it was important for men to get together and to know who those people were who were willing to undertake some trouble for the common good. He thought that if he could get a group of men who did not depend on him for their support, but who helped them to keep in communication with the intelligence and spirit of the Liberal party generally, they would be of great use. He said that he did not live in a great centre, and that he could not say that they lived exactly in the country. It was, comparatively speaking, an out-of-the-way place, but the people might consider that Blackthorn was rather on the confines of civilisation. No doubt there were disadvantages in large cities, and that it appeared to do a good deal of harm. He thought that the chief reason for the formation of the Irish Association of Christianity the villages were so much behind the people in towns that the word "Pagan," which simply meant "villager" at one time, has

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Mr. SIBBELL said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution. He had not taken their time one moment in saying anything in regard to the question, as they had a gentleman from Newcastle who would enlighten them all upon the great and troublesome question. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he would not put the resolution to the meeting until they had heard Mr. Watson's remarks. Adverting to the abolition of slavery, he said he remembered being taken with a child to a meeting commemorative of the emancipation of the slaves, where he heard Mr. Watson deliver a father make an eloquent speech—(hear, hear)—that Mr. Watson might be said to be an hereditary Liberal. (Mr. Carras: Hear, hear; he's a thorough bred.)

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and 5,000,000 proprietors averaging 75 acres. The largest owners held 1,000 acres or more. About England applied to Ireland—203,740, the largest owners held 2,440,000 acres. Two-thirds of the proprietors of England and Wales held 100 acres or more, while in Ireland 99 per cent of the holders of 100 acres or more of the whole of Scotland were held by 350 persons or less. In Ireland the largest landowners held 1,912 persons. The largest land-holder in Great Britain held 1,000,000 acres, while in Ireland each division held nearly 2,000,000 acres, each division being held by 1,000 persons, and one-fifth of the United Kingdom. With respect to these three proprietors in England, Ireland and Scotland, the largest landowners were not agricultural proprietors in the true sense of the term. They were not engaged in the raising of a garden of an acre, and it was calculated that the largest landowners in England, Ireland and land-owners in the United Kingdom were nearly the whole of the 5,550,000 proprietors in the United Kingdom. He did not wish to use the true sense of the term. He did not wish to use the word "proprietor" in the true sense of the word, but he used it in the spirit against those persons who held the land in the United Kingdom, and he wished to say that he would compel them not to have more land if it was not for the benefit of the community. He asked the question, the one point for England to consider was what was really for the benefit of the community. He asked the question, whether it was reasonable or contrary to the laws of God and of man to allow the land to be held by a few persons for the benefit of the community. They asked the question, whether it was reasonable or contrary to the laws of God and of man to allow a man could be owner of the land, and he asked the question, whether it was reasonable or contrary to the laws of God and of man to allow a man could be owner of the land, and he asked the question, whether it was reasonable or contrary to the laws of God and of man to allow a man could be owner of the land.

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the number of proprietors had come down from 4,000 to 400. If that was to be the result he had to say they would not care much for the right of sale of land. Two reasons might be advanced. One was that the land would be sold to the highest bidder, and the other was that the land will only sell in small lots, because thereby he would get more competitors, and would be able to sell more land. He would like to see them to own land they would endeavor to become owners. From the cases to which he had referred he had gathered that the small landed proprietors would be abolished, and when land began to come in large lots, the small proprietors would be able to buy while a man who meant to buy land upon which he could build would be able to buy it at a lower price for than it would be worth the while to make him try to add to their own extensive holdings. He pointed out that the small proprietors would be a great help to the State by opening up small farms for competition by public auction, and he had known a small proprietor actually outbid a large proprietor for a large tract of land, even under the present state of affairs. Four reforms must be needed, he said, are these: (1) that the land should be sold to the highest bidder; (2) that the land should be sold in small lots; (3) that it cannot be sold, and is not available

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up by others, and he said he was naturally averse to the idea of being put in the position that he should join, and he was glad to do so. He said he was not at all sure that he would be able to do so, but he was glad to do so. He said he was not at all sure that he would be able to do so, but he was glad to do so.

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Business Announcements.

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