

The Snowden Budget

THE Budget introduced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Snowden, providing for a tax on land values of a penny in the pound, and making certain exemptions in the matter of agricultural land, has aroused intense excitement throughout Great Britain.

John Paul, editor of *Land and Liberty*, writes:

"Having most exceptional publicity: Nothing like it yet. Press all over the place simply 'rains' land value taxation sentiment, for and against, without a break.

We are facing the realities of a fine big attempt to put it across, and the enemy declares he is not going to take it lying down."

The United Committee of Great Britain on May 5 passed the following resolution:

"The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values heartily welcome the proposals for the Taxation of Land Values as further outlined by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on the 4th of May. They nevertheless repeat their opinion that on the grounds of principle, expediency and practicability the Taxation of Land Values should apply universally to all land, including agricultural and mineral land from which, by these proposals, its benefits are being withheld. They regard as invidious the proposal that absolves small proprietors from paying their due share of the tax levied on the public value of land; and they earnestly hope that this anomaly will be excluded from the Finance Bill when it is presented."

Mr. Snowden spoke in part as follows:

"By this measure we assert the right of the community to ownership of the land. If private individuals continue to possess a nominal claim to land they must pay a rate to the community for the enjoyment of it. They cannot be permitted to enjoy the privilege to the detriment of the community.

Land differs from all other commodities in various respects. Land was given to us by the Creator, not for the private use of the dukes but for equal use by all His children. Restriction of freedom in the use of land is a restriction on human liberty.

To restrict the use of land by arbitrary will, the owner enhances its price, raises rents, hampers industry and prevents municipal development and the increase of amenities. Every increase in population, every expansion in industry, every scientific development, every improvement in transport, every child that is born, increases the rent of land. Rent enters into the price of every article produced, into the cost of every public service.

We are now asking the landowner to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Elsewhere in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM will be found American and British press notices of the Budget.

"BUY land, but never sell it." said the old father. Write that down on your tablets. Also write down the fact that what is worth one hundred millions now will be worth two hundred millions eighty years hence, assuming that our Single Tax friends allow the outrage of land ownership to continue, and they probably will.—*N. Y. American*.

No Benefit To the Community

FORMER President Coolidge in one of his newspaper articles observed that it took three generations of thrift, industry and intelligence to accumulate the Wendell fortune. He was referring to the family which bought but never sold real estate in New York City and profited by the constant increase in realty prices. So that the fortune left by the last survivor amounts to a hundred million-dollars.

There are many persons who will not agree with Mr. Coolidge. There was no special industry in buying real estate and keeping it. There was no special intelligence beyond possibly a knowledge of the sections of the city that were likely to expand. As for thrift it was the thrift of the miser, only in this instance, real estate instead of gold was hoarded.

For three generations this Wendell family did nothing for the betterment of the community but simply acquired riches from the thrift, the intelligence and the industry of others. Had all the population of New York City been of the same type there would have been no New York City worthy of note. There would in fact have been nothing but a wilderness.

The followers of Henry George's Single Tax theories will find in the record of this family the most forceful of all arguments. Here is the most conspicuous instance on record of profiting from unearned increment, of gaining riches from the enterprise of others.

We would not suggest this method as a model for any patriotic citizen to follow. Thrift and industry of this kind is of no benefit to the community.

The Jamestown (N. Y.) Journal, March 30, 1931.

A Tribute to Sir George Fowlds

HON SIR. GEORGE FOWLDS and his son, Mr. G. M. Fowlds of Auckland, New Zealand, have retired from business. On April 8 representatives of educational, banking and social institutions met to do him honor. It will be remembered that Sir George was former Minister of Education for New Zealand.

The tributes paid to him must have gladdened his heart, despite his modesty. Forty years in business, and nearly as many in civic activities have made him what one of the speakers called him, "the best known man in New Zealand." The *Auckland Star* under the title "An Admirable Example" on April 9 printed the following editorial:

"The tribute paid yesterday by the commercial community to Sir George Fowlds is a reminder of what the city and the province owe to one who has never spared himself in the public interest. There may be said to be at least four George Fowlds. There is the business man, there is the member of Parliament and the Minister, there is the citizen indefatigable in public causes, and there is the President of the Auckland University College. Now that he has retired from business, Sir George may have