

DISTRIBUTING THE LEAFLETS

CARDIFF.—I am pleased to report that the further batch of leaflets arrived yesterday. We had an Executive Committee meeting last night and most of the leaflets were taken up by those present. If you care to send another batch of 5,000 each I daresay I can get them placed to advantage.

EDINBURGH.—We have been distributing at the Tory candidate's meetings and now, I am told, he is losing his temper. We are making the issue and compelling him to fight on ground of our choosing.

BRISTOL.—Thank you for your letter and for the leaflets to hand. We had a Committee last evening and I was able to get two of the members to undertake distribution. If you care to send more I am sure we can get them circulated.

GRIMSBY.—I have just seen the Labour Party's election agent and he has given me instructions to send to you for 5,000 each of "Idle Land and Idle Men" and "How to Raise Wages." There would be no objection to your sending a few of any other sort if you can spare them.

DURHAM.—I thank you for your Election communications. I am a convinced advocate of the Taxation of Land Values and assure you that I will do what I can. Any printed matter that you can supply me with will be used to the best advantage.

EDINBURGH.—We received the parcel of leaflets on the 23rd, distributing them at three and sometimes four meetings every day and delivering many at houses on the south side, where Tories are strong. I went to a Labour overflow meeting and gave out large quantities. I will devote every spare hour to distributing until the eve of the poll. We must keep up the agitation constantly all the year round.

SHEFFIELD.—Thanks for the two large parcels of leaflets. I will do my best to place them all in our seven Parliamentary divisions to most advantage to the cause of the Land Values League. I shall put them in trustworthy hands so that little or none are wasted and so that all candidates get questioned and speakers get well posted. I regard this propaganda work as so good and so important that it ought not to be neglected.

SUNDERLAND.—Leaflets received and will be judiciously distributed. It gives me great pleasure to help bring about a so-much-needed reform as the Taxation of Land Values would surely accomplish.

CLYDEBANK.—Your note with leaflets. That's right. Send them on and ask afterwards. It saves valuable time.

ABERDEEN.—If you send me 1,000 each of the leaflets I will endeavour to distribute them for you. Will let you know later how the candidates stand here.

SUNDERLAND.—I was glad to receive 2,500 of the five leaflets, being 500 of each. I delivered them all at meetings I attended.

LEEDS.—Just a line to acknowledge the leaflets you despatched to me. I am also enclosing copies of two of the Candidates' Election Addresses. Mr. Frank Geary, the Liberal, is well known in English League circles. Mr. H. C. Charleton, the Labour candidate who was successful, has always pronounced in favour of the Taxation of Land Values. . . .

THE VICTOR OF BURSLEM



ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P.

Mr. MacLaren's many friends in the movement will warmly compliment and congratulate him on his fine triumph at the General Election, which restores him to Parliament once more. He was first elected M.P. for Burslem in 1922, and after his defeat last year by the narrow margin of 63 he stood by the constituency, holding frequent meetings and doing everything possible to perfect his organisation. His opponent of last year, Alderman Robinson, retired when Parliament was prorogued and a new opponent was found in Mr. William Allen, who stood as a Liberal with Tory support. Mr. Allen began his campaign by coming out as a declared opponent of the Taxation of Land Values, an opportunity that Mr. MacLaren was quick to grasp and put to great advantage. He was able to do what he most desired—to deal fully and convincingly with the land question in relation to the condition of labour and international questions as well. The result has justified all the strenuous and intensive campaign work that Mr. MacLaren and his friends have conducted in the Potteries these past four years. His victory is the more significant as Burslem is one of the gains won for the Labour Party in an election in which they lost altogether 63 seats.

A correspondent who took part in the campaign writes:—

"I need not tell you the result of the election at Burslem, but you may be interested to know what a fine Single Tax fight was put up. Not only did MacLaren talk Land Values, but his local workers have imbibed the principles to such an extent that they not only approve when they hear them, but also use the arguments in their speeches and discussions. I spent a busy ten days in the neighbourhood, and was also able to address some meetings in the Newcastle Division for Wedgwood and one for Austin Brook in Stone. The latter also made a

straight fight on our question and made excellent progress in a hostile country. Wedgwood was in good form and I greatly enjoyed his replies to a local landowner, who questioned him at one of the meetings. To have three Single Tax candidates fighting in that part of Staffordshire is surely a record. I never saw such election meetings as "Mac" gets in the Burslem Division."

In January last Mr. MacLaren founded the weekly paper, the *LABOUR CHRONICLE*, of which he is Editor. It has attained an influential local circulation and is held to have contributed immensely to the growth of opinion in the Potteries in favour of the Taxation of Land Values, as well as to the Parliamentary success of its advocates in that part of the country.

THE BATTLE OF THE SLUMS Horrors of No Man's Land

(*"Daily News" Special Correspondent*)

Something like a pitched battle is in progress here over housing.

On one side of the line the local authorities are entrenched. On the other side is a strong body of enthusiasts led by Major Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Liberal member.

Between the two forces, in No Man's Land, making the best of what little shelter they can find, are the unfortunate victims of the dispute.

To-day, however, there was a sort of armistice. Hostilities ceased at noon, when a remarkable party was formed, at the suggestion of Major Hore-Belisha, to explore No Man's Land. The party consisted of representatives of the War Office and Admiralty, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, the local Medical Officer of Health, and the Housing Inspector.

Major Hore-Belisha led the party.

We found the same old No Man's Land, *the same squalid, dilapidated, insanitary houses that one sees all over the country, the same broken-hearted women struggling to make a home out of one room* (italics not ours), and the same children trying to find a place where they could play.

Big leaks in the roof (one man told me that he had to put a bath on the bed to catch rain in wet weather), 22 people sharing one lavatory, ceilings falling down, floors rotten, damp walls, whole families sleeping, feeding and washing in one room—the same old story.

Many of the houses have been condemned and closing orders have been issued. But the tenants remain, chiefly because no one cares for the job of turning them out. They would have nowhere else to go—except the workhouse.

"Council houses," said one woman to me, "are no good to us. They're too big and too dear. We can't pay 12s. 6d. Two or three rooms would be Heaven after this."

Council houses at 12s. 6d. may meet the needs of the skilled worker earning about £4 a week, but they are of little interest to the labourer who has to keep a family on about 30s. These are the people who are now living in the slums of Devonport.

In the Plymouth area it is estimated that about 4,000 new houses are needed. Fewer than 1,000 have been built. In Devonport alone 500 are needed.

All that happens is a war of words between the various forces concerned.

Probably, after to-day's armistice, hostilities will be resumed. And the tenants of No Man's Land, unable to escape, will creep deeper into their dilapidated dug-outs.—*DAILY NEWS*, 19th October.

And this after five years of "Housing Reform"—on the principle, too, that housing sites can be had at 1½d. a week! Major Hore-Belisha is the only Liberal returned at the election south of the Thames and Severn.

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN ON FREE TRADE AND LAND VALUES

What Next Year's Budget Might Have Done

During the General Election Mr. Philip Snowden made frequent reference to the proposals he had in view for a tax on land values to be included in next year's Budget.

In his Address to the Electors of Colne Valley he stated:—

"In my Budget speech I gave a definite assurance that if I were in office next year I would deal with the question of the Taxation of Land Values. If we had not been interrupted by a General Election I should have introduced a Bill in the Autumn session for the restoration of the powers of the Land Valuation Department which were taken away by the last Tory Government. Considerable progress has been made in working out a scheme for the Taxation of Land Values, and if I am Chancellor of the Exchequer next spring I shall certainly bring forward this very important reform. The Liberals talk about the Taxation of Land Values. *The Labour Government can and will tax land values*, and by so doing will secure for the community what is rightfully its property, and which at the same time will open up the land of the country for beneficial and productive use."

In speech after speech Mr. Snowden showed that he had fully made up his mind to raise the land question and place Land Value Taxation in the forefront of politics in this country:

EDINBURGH, 16th October

"The votes of Liberals who supported the taxation of land values were to be given to a party which described that proposal as spoliation and robbery; and so in regard to every other item in the Liberal programme. That was the main issue at this election, and that was the main point that electors should bear in mind who were disposed to support a Liberal candidate at this election."

COLNE VALLEY, 21st October

"Mr. Lloyd George yesterday made a speech that was the most extraordinary travesty of political history I think I have ever heard, even from a politician of Mr. Lloyd George's notorious audacity. He made a statement that the Liberal Party had never taken its hand away from any work to which it had put it, that the Liberal Party had never put a thing in its programme but it had carried that proposal to a fruitful issue.

"People who make reckless and unfortunate statements like that usually contradict themselves. He was no exception to the rule when he dealt with the land question. Mr. Lloyd George is the last politician in this country who ought to say anything about the land question. The very mention of the land question from Mr. Lloyd George naturally turns one's thoughts to a record of broken promises and pledges in that respect which would be a discredit to any politician.

"Mr. Lloyd George had had the audacity also in his speech to advocate the taxation of land values. The taxation of land values was in the Liberal Newcastle programme of thirty years ago, and the Liberals had been in power with a big majority for a number of years since then. Where is taxation of land values? So far as the Liberal Party is concerned to-day it is nowhere but in Mr. Lloyd George's speeches. Mr. Lloyd George himself made a poor, feeble, ineffective attempt to deal with that question in his Budget of fifteen years ago.