

is plenty of room in the wide spaces of the Empire for the people of Scotland, but there is no place for them in their own land. Great areas are to be made derelict and nothing but grouse and deer placed there, for the sport of the Englishman or the American or the Indian Maharajahs who will travel up to Scotland next month to shoot over the Highlands for six weeks' pleasure. The present Secretary of State is carrying on the policy of his predecessors in turning the Highlands into a pleasure ground for Americans, Englishmen and foreigners, while the Scotsman who wants to live on his own soil and bring up his family in the decency and with the few comforts that can be got there, is to be denied the right to live upon the land upon which he first saw the light of day.

Mr WRIGHT (Labour): If we turned Scotland into a garden instead of vast spaces which are scarcely of any agricultural value at all, we could absorb every single unemployed man and woman in Scotland. The great hope of the future as far as Scotland is concerned is to develop its agricultural resources to a very much greater extent.

My only regret is that the vast number of men in Scotland do not seize the land and cultivate it, and take the risk and, if necessary, go to prison. If 56,000 men would do that as they went to the War abroad to fight for another land, we might yet have the land of Scotland belonging to the people of Scotland and the land of England belonging to the people of England.

The SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Sir J. Gilmour): In regard to the Outer Isles, the bulk of the land there is already divided and settled, and the opportunity of still further dividing is very small indeed. With the best will in the world, whether the applications were made in 1912 or last week, it is clear that there might be men asking for land in that particular part who cannot be provided.

This farm at Scaristaveg is of such a size that it is outwith the compulsory application of the Acts, and it can only be taken by agreement. One of the first things that happened was that some of these men raided the land and took forcible possession. That appears to have been a thing of which the hon. Gentleman approved.

Mr MACLEAN: I did not approve of it: you forced them to it.

Sir J. GILMOUR: I understood the hon. Gentleman to say that he approved of it, for he said he wished that everybody, not only in Scotland but in England, would raid the land.

Mr WRIGHT: Yes, if they are starving, and I would be one to do it.

Sir J. GILMOUR: These men forcibly took possession of the land. Throughout the whole of these proceedings I have had no part in this action, and it is a matter outside my jurisdiction. As far as these cases are concerned, they were in the first place dealt with by the Court. The men were imprisoned, it is true. They gave certain undertakings and were released, but they broke those undertakings and repeated the offence. Action was taken against these individuals, and they were again imprisoned.

Mr JOHNSTON: Illegally.

Sir J. GILMOUR: What happened was that they were released *ad interim* by the Court of Session, and since that the judgment of imprisonment was affirmed, so that they were not improperly imprisoned.

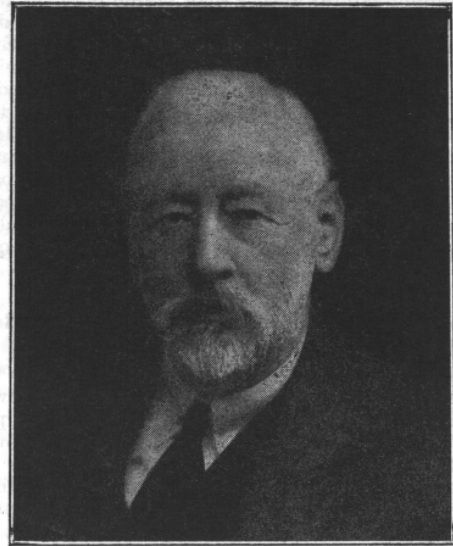
Mr MACLEAN: Here is the Court of Session decision, and it says that they were imprisoned illegally.

Read the decision of the Court of Session on 27th June, where the Judge said it was illegal.

Sir J. GILMOUR: The hon. Member must permit me after I have consulted my Law Officers and considered this case fully, to make it perfectly clear to the House that what he states is not the case.

Whatever the hon. Member may think of this matter I am sure that on due consideration the Committee as a whole will agree with me when I say that it is not by forcible means, by raiding land, by breaking the law, that either these men or any others are going to benefit in the long run.

## SIR HENRY BALLANTYNE



The movement for Land Value Taxation in the East of Scotland has had for many years among its most stalwart supporters Sir Henry Ballantyne. He has been a constant reader of *Land & Liberty*, and in business, political and municipal circles he has always stood by the cause the paper seeks to promote. As Provost of Peebles for a number of years he had many opportunities of proving the need for the Rating of Land Values.

Sir Henry never sought position in Parliament, although as a broad-minded statesman he could have represented any constituency in the South of Scotland if he had had the leisure and the inclination. One of his notable contributions to public work was as Chairman of the Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland, the Report of which was published in 1918 and is testimony to the strength of conviction in Scotland for the Land Value policy. Sir Henry's radical view of the land question has been expressed on many occasions and with emphasis, as at the Annual Conference of the Scottish Liberal Federation, Inverness, on 9th October, 1925. He said they talked about a housing question; they talked about unemployment. Let them free the land so that men could employ themselves. There was surely enough land in Scotland to give employment to all the unemployed in the country. If the Liberal leaders in 1909 had gone straight for the Taxation of Land Values he did not believe that the Liberal Party would have been in its present position. It was a very dangerous thing to preach anything in the nature of nationalization or government interference with the individual, and he was afraid that Mr Lloyd George's *Coal and Power* and land programmes were tending in that direction. If they thought by advocating policies of that kind they would get back some of their best radicals—who had been driven out very largely, he believed, because of the failure of the Liberal Party on the Taxation of Land Values—he thought they would find themselves bitterly mistaken.

Among the events in a long association with the movement, one may recall the Bazaar of the Scottish League in 1902 with its many workers, of whom Lady Ballantyne was one of the most industrious. In Sir Henry Ballantyne we are glad to greet the friend of Charles E. Price and of the late Harry S. Murray. It was an unusual pleasure to have Sir Henry among those who were present at the 21st Anniversary Dinner of the United Committee. We wish him many more years of active work.