

(Lab., Inverness); Vint Laughland (Lab., Liverpool, Wavertree); B. A. Levinson (Lib., Acton); J. W. Molden (Lib., West Islington); Mrs. A. R. Moody (Lib., Hanley); Dr. H. B. Morgan (Lab., Camberwell, N.W.); W. Sherwood (Lab., Darlington); James Scott (Lib., West Renfrew); J. Prail Stevenson (Lib., Wood Green); F. C. Thornborough (Lib., Clay Cross).

OUR SUPPORTERS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Pledges from 198 M.P.'s

The United Committee sent a letter to all Labour and all Liberal candidates at the General Election, submitting four questions as follow:—

1. Are you in favour of the immediate repeal of the protective tariffs now in force, and of extending the principle of Free Trade to the abolition of customs duties on tea, sugar and other foodstuffs, and the relief of industry from rates and taxes on improvements, the necessary revenue to be secured by the taxation of Land Values?

2. Will you press for immediate legislation to bring the land valuation up to date and to impose a budget tax on the market value of all land with the corresponding reduction or abolition of the taxes now levied on improvements, on consumption and in restraint of trade?

3. Will you promote and support legislation for the levying of local rates on the market value of land and the exemption of houses and other buildings and improvements from assessment?

4. Will you oppose any measures, by whatever party brought forward, for buying out landlords with public money—that is, at the cost of the taxpayer?

Favourable replies were received from 307 Labour and from 176 Liberal candidates. Assurances of support for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values were accorded in the fullest measure and with emphatic "Yes" in practically every case. Here and there, further particulars were desired in regard to the fourth question, and some candidates took the trouble to point out that a pledge given in opposition to schemes for buying out landlords did not apply to such purchases of land as must be made for municipal improvements in the way of new roads, parks, schools, etc. That is of course understood, but the price of such land should not exceed the value at which it is assessed for taxes or rates levied on land value.

Last year, the *questionnaire* issued by the United Committee was submitted a second time to those candidates who were returned to Parliament and had not replied during the Election campaign. The same action has been taken this year and further replies are anticipated which, if received, will be reported in our next issue.

In the second communication, Question 4 was amended to read as two questions, viz.:—

4. Do you agree that the price of land that must be acquired for municipal improvements should not exceed the value at which it is assessed for taxation or rates levied on land value?

5. Will you oppose any policy of buying out landlords as a means to establish peasant ownership or promote other schemes of land settlement with public money at the cost of the taxpayer?

We put on record the names of those M.P.'s in the new House of Commons who have so far declared themselves to be supporters of the Taxation and Rating of Land Values either in direct communications to the United Committee or (where the *questionnaire* had not been returned) in clear pronouncements in Election Addresses received at the offices of the Committee; in the latter case, the names are marked with an asterisk (*). It should be remarked that the following M.P.'s have in these ways

given *personal pledges* of support, either in 1923 or in 1922, in addition to such commitments as are involved in the manifestoes and resolutions of the party to which the candidate belongs.

LABOUR PARTY—138 M.P.'s

W. M. Adamson, Percy Alden, C. G. Ammon, W. H. Ayles, G. Banton, G. Barker, A. Barnes, Miss Margaret Bondfield, C. W. Bowerman, F. H. Broad, Wm. Bromfield, J. Brown, G. Buchanan, J. Buckle, H. G. Charleton, A. G. Church, O. Clark, R. Clinnie, W. Cluse, J. R. Clynes, J. Compton, V. Crittall, E. Davies, R. J. Davies, J. E. Davison, T. S. Dickson, T. Gavan Duffy, C. Dukes, C. Duncan, Charles Edwards, *W. H. Egan, B. Gardner, *H. Gosling, D. M. Graham, Wm. Graham, T. Greenall, D. R. Grenfell, T. Griffiths, T. Groves, T. W. Grundy, J. Guest, L. Haden Guest, F. Hall, G. H. Hall, G. D. Hardie, Vernon Hartshorn, A. W. Haycock, A. Hayday, J. H. Hayes, E. G. Hemmerde, A. Henderson, jun., T. Henderson, W. Henderson, P. C. Hoffman, J. H. Hudson, D. Irving, R. F. Jackson, Wm. Jenkins, Miss D. Jewson, T. Johnston, Jack Jones, Morgan Jones, F. W. Jowett, Barnet Kenyon, G. Lansbury, Miss Susan Lawrence, J. J. Lawson, W. Leach, Frank Lee, F. W. Lindley, T. Lowth, Wm. Lunn, J. Ramsay MacDonald, V. L. McEntee, S. March, Wm. H. Martin, J. Maxton, G. Middleton, J. S. Mills, F. Montague, E. D. Morel, D. Watts Morgan, R. C. Morrison, R. Murray, R. Nicholl, J. O'Grady, G. H. Oliver, W. Paling, E. T. Palmer, *Harker Parker, J. A. Parkinson, S. F. Perry, Hon. A. Ponsonby, J. Potts, W. R. Raynes, R. Richards, R. Richardson, J. Ritson, J. Robertson, F. H. Rose, John Scurr, J. Sexton, G. H. Sherwood, C. H. Sitch, B. Smith, *W. R. Smith (1922), H. Snell, P. Snowden, R. Spence, G. A. Spencer, Ben Spoor, T. W. Stamford, Campbell Stephen, Jas. Stewart, J. Sullivan, W. Thorne, Ben Tillett, J. Toole, W. J. Tout, C. P. Trevelyan, Ben Turner, M. Turner Samuels, F. B. Varley, S. P. Viant, S. Walsh, G. H. Warne, W. McL. Watson, Josiah C. Wedgwood, *J. Westwood, J. Wheatley, W. Whiteley, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. H. Wilson, R. J. Wilson, W. Wright, A. Young, R. Young.

LIBERAL PARTY—60 M.P.'s

T. R. Ackroyd, R. Wilberforce Allen, R. Alstead, *Sir R. W. Aske, H. H. Asquith, L. Hore-Belisha, F. Briant, Dr. W. A. Chapple, P. Collins, A. S. Comyns-Carr, D. W. Darbishire, J. Duckworth, J. F. Dunn, C. F. Entwistle, R. Fletcher, L. B. Franklin, (Major) G. Lloyd George, Sir Ellis Griffith, Sir Robert Hamilton, E. A. Harney, *John H. Harris, P. A. Harris, T. E. Harvey, A. E. Hillary, J. H. Hodge, J. M. Hogge, Harcourt Johnstone, J. E. Emlyn Jones, T. Keens, Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, Barnet Kenyon, F. Laverack, H. Madan, Sir C. Mansel, *C. F. G. Masterman, R. R. Pilkington, W. M. R. Pringle, P. Wilson Raffan, C. Ramage, T. Atholl Robertson, C. M. C. Rudkin, Sir Archibald Sinclair, J. Hope Simpson, H. H. Spencer, J. Sunlight, Lady Terrington, P. Gilchrist Thompson, Trevelyan Thomson, *G. R. Thorne (1922), Sir Henry Webb, Arnold Williams, R. S. Williams. Others known to be in favour include: E. Brown, Major J. Burnie, J. Falconer, F. C. Linfield, A. Mackenzie Livingstone, Vivian Phillips, Sir Charles Starmer, H. Graham White,

THE ATTITUDE OF OTHER M.P.'s AND SOME RESERVATIONS

Of the 138 Labour M.P.'s in the list given above, eleven gave no reply to the question of buying out landlords. Twenty-nine offered sundry reservations, generally to the effect that it was a matter for consideration when proposals came forward, and nine favoured "land nationalization," but whether by purchase or not was not stated. The other questions were in every case answered in the affirmative.

Of the 60 Liberals, six did not wish to be committed

to opposing land purchase, and one gave no reply to the question.

* * *

Among the M.P.'s who have not answered the questions and who have not mentioned either Taxation or Rating of Land Values in their 1923 General Election addresses are the following: R. N. Barclay (Liberal), Captain Wedgwood Benn (Liberal), Sir Edward Grigg (Liberal), S. Pattinson (Liberal), H. R. Rathbone (Liberal), W. E. Robinson (Liberal), General J. E. B. Seely (Liberal), E. D. Simon (Liberal), Sir John Simon (Liberal), George Ward (Liberal).

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Miss MARGARET BONDFIELD (Labour), M.P. for Northampton, wrote: "I support the proposals in the Labour Party Manifesto, but I do not feel disposed to reply in detail to your questions." Neither Taxation nor Rating of Land Values was mentioned in Miss Bondfield's Address to the Electors.

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Mr. W. S. ROYCE (Labour), M.P. for Holland-with-Boston, gave no reply to the questions (1 and 2) on the Taxation of Land Values and the repeal of the Protectionist duties. He expressed himself in favour of Rating of Land Values "so far as that applies to urban land." He answered with a direct negative to the question of opposing measures for buying out landlords.

We recall the fact that Mr. W. S. Royce was the one Labour M.P. who voted last session for the Agricultural Rates Act, which in effect gives increased rents to landlords (or saves them from reduced rents) and throws more taxation upon farm buildings and improvements.

* * *

Sir R. NEWBOULD KAY (Liberal), M.P. for Elland, wrote: "I cannot say what measure of land taxation (*sic*) I shall support. I have not given the matter sufficient consideration."

The Liberal M.P. who has not given Taxation of Land Values "sufficient consideration" is no curiosity, unfortunately. Mr. R. N. BARCLAY (Exchange, Manchester), who was heckled by one of our correspondents, was found to be in the same state of indecision. And there are nearly 100 Liberal M.P.'s in the present House of Commons of whom we know little or nothing as supporters of the policy.

* * *

We shall be glad to hear from any of our correspondents who put the questions to candidates, reporting what reply, if any, they received.

PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE.

By Henry George.

One Penny per copy. 2d. post free.

We have received from Mrs. Edward McHugh 1,000 copies of "Protection or Free Trade" (complete edition), being a remainder from Tom L. Johnson's historic reprint of the book, after it had been published in the "Congressional Record" under the "leave to print" privilege, Tom L. Johnson and five other Congressmen having each on a separate day introduced his section of the book as a "part of his remarks" in the tariff debate (1890).

Here is an exceptional opportunity to gain adherents for REAL FREE TRADE.

Orders for 100 at a time, 6s. carriage paid.

The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, 11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

NOTES AND NEWS

Once again a good New Year to our subscribers. This issue tells in a striking manner of the progress made at home and across the seas. Here, the Election just fought and won for the cause of democracy the world over must stimulate everyone to be up and doing.

* * *

In June, 1924, LAND & LIBERTY reaches its 30th year of publication. The word that we receive from near and far is "Carry on." That is our intention, but let it be with your good help. Celebrate the occasion by adding at least one new regular reader to the list of subscribers. The LAND & LIBERTY Sustention Fund for 1924 is now open, and contributions from all attached to the paper are cordially invited.

* * *

The NEW STATESMAN, which is not conspicuously friendly to the Liberal cause, calculates that the Conservatives may lose 150 seats, and that of these the Liberals would gain two-thirds. That is a mere calculation, but it reflects the direction in which the mind of the country is obviously turning.—WESTMINSTER GAZETTE, 1st December.

The part of the "two-thirds gain" that materialised at the polls appears to have gone to the Labour, and not to the Liberal Party. Missing his way in the WESTMINSTER GAZETTE, the editor of the NEW STATESMAN ten days later in the DAILY NEWS advocated a Liberal-Labour Coalition Government as by far the best solution and warned Mr. Ramsay MacDonald against accepting office should the Liberals spontaneously offer him general support.

It is amazing how many writers on politics are found bereft of political instinct when the sea of politics shows signs of unusual weather conditions.

* * *

The STORY OF MY DICTATORSHIP has been translated into Spanish by Professor E. T. Westrup, Rayon 113, Monterrey, Mexico. The pamphlet has an enthusiastic review in the TRIBUNA GEORGISTA, the fortnightly Single Tax journal published at O'Higgins 42, Bahia Blanca, Argentina, and is being printed in that journal as a serial.

* * *

Some of the choicest building sites about Leeds will be ripe for development with the construction of the new ring road. Happy the fortunate owners of land contiguous to that road. As the north side of Leeds tends to become more and more the favoured residential side of the city, the owners of the land on the ring road, particularly between Otley Road and Weetwood, and between Adel and Moortown, must stand to benefit substantially as the years roll on. . . . There are fortunes to be reaped sooner or later in the land which the Corporation roads are now developing. It must be so having regard to the fact that land which for agricultural purposes is only worth from 3d. to 6d. per yard, at once appreciates as building land to between 2s. 6d. and 5s. a yard.—YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, 17th December.

So much for schemes of "giving work to the unemployed." Windfalls for land speculators.

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We are glad to hear that Col. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., has just finished a book of ESSAYS AND ADVENTURES OF A LABOUR M.P., which is to be published early this year. As might be expected, the honourable and gallant Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme has combined a good deal of sound Single Tax doctrine with the story of his adventures. The mixture should make very good reading.

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The site of St. Olave's Church, Duke Street, London Bridge, has been disposed of for, approximately, £10,000.—WESTMINSTER GAZETTE, 21st December.