

IMPORTANT SMALL HOLDINGS STATISTICS.

In the House of Commons on 1st March, Viscount Helmsley asked the President of the Board of Agriculture to give the total amount of land bought by county councils for purposes of the Small Holdings Acts, specifying the amount of land bought by each county and the number of small holders in each county settled on such land?

Mr. Runciman, in reply, stated that the following table supplies the information available up to the 31st December, 1911. He could not state separately the number of small holders on land acquired by purchase:

County.	Area Purchased.		Area Leased.		Total Area.		No. of Small Holders in Possession.
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	
ENGLAND.							
Bedford ..	1,632	1 20	1,232	3 27	2,865	1 7	297
Berks ..	1,704	3 14	551	0 14	2,255	3 28	66
Buckingham ..	727	1 31	2,387	0 23	3,114	2 14	128
Cambridge ..	4,399	2 23	1,630	2 8	6,030	0 31	609
Isle of Ely ..	2,498	3 26	535	3 9	3,025	2 35	553
Chester ..	2,836	0 7	441	1 31	3,277	1 38	95
Cornwall ..	2,631	0 22	175	2 24	2,806	3 6	106
Cumberland ..	85	3 38	278	0 0	363	3 38	22
Derby ..	601	3 0	0	1 15	602	0 15	9
Devon ..	3,690	1 4	953	3 23	4,644	0 27	217
Dorset ..	172	3 9	1,574	0 0	1,746	3 9	49
Durham ..	134	3 30	1,323	2 20	1,458	2 10	60
Essex ..	1,249	2 23	551	2 19	1,801	1 2	119
Gloucester ..	1,681	0 38	524	1 13	2,205	2 11	177
Hants ..	262	3 8	1,069	3 4	1,332	2 12	103
Isle of Wight ..	506	0 2	360	1 32	866	1 34	53
Hereford ..	1,236	3 29	316	3 1	1,553	2 30	75
Hertford ..	857	3 28	1,237	2 28	2,095	2 16	117
Huntingdon ..	3,006	3 2	264	3 32	3,271	2 34	303
Kent ..	785	1 9	914	1 12	1,699	2 21	102
Lancaster ..	89	3 6	363	2 8	453	1 14	59
Leicester ..	2,205	1 19	287	3 30	2,493	1 9	80
Lincoln, Parts of							
Holland ..	1,976	1 11	1,376	0 32	3,352	2 3	139
Kesteven ..	2,551	3 23	908	3 5	3,460	2 28	161
Lindsey ..	1,997	3 5	518	2 12	2,516	1 17	127
London							
Middlesex ..	19	1 18	95	1 33	114	3 11	11
Monmouth ..	2,587	3 21	442	2 16	3,030	1 37	58
Norfolk ..	4,859	3 32	3,411	0 28	8,271	0 20	711
Northampton ..	575	1 26	1,568	2 21	2,144	0 7	91
Soke of Peterboro'	452	3 29	29	2 15	482	2 4	17
Northumberland ..	2,282	0 0	911	0 0	3,193	0 0	61
Notts ..	265	3 27	525	0 33	791	0 20	49
Oxford ..	423	0 25	2,059	2 22	2,482	3 7	163
Rutland ..	—	—	296	0 39	296	0 39	28
Salop ..	1,094	1 34	528	2 9	1,623	0 3	76
Somerset ..	4,088	1 4	1,762	1 17	5,850	2 21	348
Stafford ..	1,169	2 0	739	1 0	1,908	3 0	48
Suffolk, East ..	610	1 10	208	1 11	818	2 21	53
.. West ..	1,223	3 28	334	2 26	1,558	2 14	175
Surrey ..	941	1 3	84	1 31	1,025	2 34	55
Sussex, East ..	—	—	300	3 22	300	3 22	22
.. West ..	—	—	49	0 8	49	0 8	7
Warwick ..	1,130	3 9	399	2 32	1,530	2 1	80
Westmorland ..	—	—	79	3 9	79	3 9	8
Wiltshire ..	1,218	0 10	1,706	0 18	2,924	0 28	151
Worcester ..	921	3 30	1,042	1 13	1,964	1 3	365
York, East Riding ..	1,152	3 12	1,146	1 38	2,299	1 10	84
.. North ..	548	0 27	238	1 27	786	2 14	9
.. West ..	2,660	3 6	452	1 31	3,113	0 37	36
Isles of Scilly ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	67,741	3 18	38,191	3 1	105,933	2 19	6,532
WALES.							
Anglesey ..	365	0 31	285	2 35	650	3 26	17
Brecon ..	—	—	220	3 0	220	3 0	12
Cardigan ..	160	0 0	2,986	2 5	3,146	2 5	41
Carmarthen ..	—	—	433	3 10	433	3 10	27
Carnarvon ..	2,263	0 0	47	0 0	2,310	0 0	37
Denbigh ..	1,756	2 0	1,208	1 0	2,964	3 0	70
Flint ..	652	1 14	75	0 38	727	2 12	20
Glamorgan ..	660	1 34	1,431	0 27	2,091	2 21	26
Merioneth ..	1,331	3 27	359	1 28	1,691	1 15	19
Montgomery ..	2,357	2 24	2	0 0	2,359	2 24	63
Pembroke ..	1,537	3 17	59	3 9	1,597	2 26	46
Radnor ..	44	0 9	330	0 0	374	0 9	19
Total ..	11,128	3 36	7,439	2 32	18,568	2 28	397
Total—England & Wales	78,870	3 14	45,631	1 33	124,502	1 7	6,929*

* In addition, 732 tenants of 39 Associations occupy land acquired by County Councils.

WHO IS HURT BY A TAX ON LAND VALUES.

BY F. A. W. LUCAS.

Not the working farmer. Not the man who works for his living. Only the person or company that keeps valuable land idle.

By taxing land values only and untaxing industry we shift the burden of taxation from the worker to the idler.

Why do we want to tax land values ?

Because land is provided by Nature for the whole people and not for a few.

Because land values are not created by any individual.

Because the value of land is made by the community and should belong to the community.

Because a tax on land values makes the owner of idle land use it or sell it to some one who wants to use it.

Because a tax on land values is a tax on idleness, while a tax on anything else is a tax on industry.

Because other taxes are unjust to the poor man.

The big landowners and the big mineowners who will be hit by this tax are very much concerned for the worker. They tell him this tax will mean the taking away of his little plot of land. They do not care for themselves, but their hearts bleed for the poor farmer and the poor shopkeeper. The poor farmer and the poor shopkeeper and every other worker have nothing to fear and everything to gain from taxing land values.

Everything a man eats or drinks, wears or works with, comes from the application of human labour directly or indirectly to the land. Without a tax on land values the private owner of land can keep it idle and limit the production of food and drink, clothing and tools. The miner who wants to mine, the farmer who wants to farm, cannot do so because some landowner says no. The amount of work available for miners and farmers is limited at the whim of private landowners. But not only the amount of work for these people alone. If miners are busy, engineers and blacksmiths are busy; if farmers are working, butchers and bakers, tanners and millers are required. You cannot have one section of the community busy without all other sections being busy too. We don't all want to be farmers or miners, but when those who do can easily get right on to farming or mining land, then we shall all feel the benefit.

A tax on land values opens up the land. As long as land is idle the owner gets nothing from it. If while he gets nothing from it he has to pay a tax on its value he will soon think it worth while to use his land or sell it to someone who wants to use it. In either case there is increased scope for employment. The more jobs there are, the more does the position of the workers improve.

Meanwhile, how does the small landowner—the man who is using his land—fare? In existing circumstances the more he works the more taxes he has to pay. If he is a farmer he has to pay Customs duties on the tea, sugar, cocoa, etc., he and his employees consume; he has to pay taxes through railway profits on everything he uses. The better his farmhouse and outbuildings the higher the taxes he has had to pay. By reducing these taxes and making good the revenue from a tax on the value of his land, the bare land value as distinguished from any value he as an individual has given to it and anything on it, we shall considerably reduce the amount of taxation payable by such farmer. So, too, with the shopkeeper, the clerk, the artisan.

On the other hand, big landowners and big mineowners, who do not contribute to railway profits and do not pay Customs duty in respect of idle agricultural or mining or town lands, will have to pay the tax on land values. That is why the big landowners like the present system of taxation, and that is why they are opposed to taxing land values. Use your vote and see your fellow workers and everyone you can influence use their votes for those who are pledged to tax land values without exemptions.