

land for public purposes, is identical with all land-nationalization-by-purchase schemes, although he repudiates the land-nationalizers. We may ask all those who would take still more from the over-burdened taxpayer in order to buy land, how this accords with the principle that the resources of the earth are God's gift and that the land belongs to God.

When the Archbishop shrinks from possible identification with the Henry George cause, like Naaman at the waters of Jordan, it appears to be because he desires the "safeguarding of tradition and of family connection with agricultural land", and "the many social functions discharged by the rural landlord". This function of rural county magnates in an earlier age has been vividly described by a Conservative historian, Arthur Bryant, in "English Saga 1840-1940", in which he says:

"The real rulers of England were still the greater squires. In the course of a century and a half of monopoly and splendid unblushing corruption, they had inch by inch pared the powers both of the Crown and of the smaller squirearchy. In the latter eighteenth century, in their hunger for ever more land, they had even destroyed the English peasantry

"One sees them in the tell-tale pages of Mr. Creevey; with their rentals multiplied out of all measure by improved agriculture and urban expansion but already divorced by their staggering wealth from that close contact with reality and their humbler fellow-citizens which had enabled their forebears to obtain power."

These quotations give point to my article, "County versus Country" (LAND AND FREEDOM, Sept.-Oct., 1940), and are a corrective to Dr. Temple's too generous estimate of the place of the rural landlord in the scheme of things.

It is certainly unusual for an Archbishop to descend into the economic arena with specific proposals. "The best suggestion known to me here," says Dr. Temple, "is that a general valuation of all land should be made as soon as possible, and no sale at a higher price than this, nor rent at more than a fair percentage of this, be permissible, unless it can be shown that an increase in value has been caused by the action of the landlord." This is put forth to thwart unreasonable expectations, such as that of "turning to private profit the additional value which land may acquire through the enterprise of others or through communal activity." Here is a recognition of the fact that land values are due to communal activity and also that under private ownership there are expectations and speculations in the rise of land values, confirming Henry George's chapter on "The Effect of the Expectation Raised by Material Progress," in "Progress and Poverty", Book IV. "Hence", says George, "from the fact of speculation in land, we may infer all the phenomena which mark these recurring seasons of industrial depression."

The obvious solution is ignored by Dr. Temple save for a hint about Verinder and Henry George, and in its place is set up something that reeks of the discredited Lloyd George increment legislation of 1909-10. We may take leave of the Archbishop with the most revealing quotation of all from p. 59: "But there should be no mere confiscation. The new order must not be introduced with callous indifference to reasonable expectations encouraged by the old order".

Callous indifference forsooth! Is the new order to be introduced with callous indifference to the misery, poverty and continuous robbery caused by the private monopoly of land in town and country? What about the reasonable expectations of the common people everywhere that fundamental justice shall be done and the earth made free to all on just terms?

Certainly the expectations of land monopolists have been stimulated by all the talk of new orders and reconstructions. Speculation in bombed sites is known to be rife. So much so that the Government has had to take action by setting up a Committee of five to consider as a matter of urgency the means of preventing speculation in land in bombed areas.

British followers of Henry George have not been unfaithful or unfruitful in their work. But it seems as though God had hardened the hearts of priests and rulers until, plague following upon plague, they shall at last allow the people to have an entrance into the promised land.

Land Speculation Impedes Defense

By GAULT MacGOWAN

[Reprinted from *The New York Sun*]

THE United States Government's program of building a string of air bases in the West Indies is receiving setbacks as a result of the operations of land speculators in areas adjacent to suitable sites, according to information received here (London).

It is understood that speculators operate in the guise of tattoo artists, photographers, tobacconists, dance hall operators and the usual camp followers. They flock to the neighborhood of military depots and proposed bases and buy options on acreage from the simple farmers.

The swap of destroyers for authorizations to build bases on British territory was made with the understanding that the United States would acquire the necessary land, paying suitable compensation to the local owners. While the most likely land formerly was most reasonably priced, it is understood that intelligent owners immediately boosted their prices sky high, while the land sharks besieged the unintelligent peasants, buying valuable options for a few dollars apiece. One large landowner is understood to be asking \$5,000,000 for certain territories devoted to tropical produce.