

he was defending was to be lost. (The analogy is apt — was not it a “Trojan horse” that undermined the Liberal Party?)

Among the things related by Mr. Mitchell are his extensive travels mostly in connection with his business of selling wool. The Yorkshireman from Huddersfield was a recurring and welcome visitor in North America, Europe and elsewhere.

Freeholders- Hand-in-Glove ?

WHATEVER else I may think of Mr. Harold Wilson, I have to admire his taste for beauty and tranquillity. This is abundantly evident in his frequent escapes from affairs of state to his cottage in St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly.

Knowing the islands so well and for so long — I actually went to school in St. Mary's in the summer of 1922 — and making several visits since, I have naturally acquired a sort of paternal, or perhaps rather fraternal, interest in the place, and when I first heard that Mr. Wilson had purchased a cottage there, two things occurred to me: he must after all be quite a human sort of chap, and what may I ask is wrong with Huyton? Well I am sure I do not know the answer to that one, but I do know that there is a lot right with the place its member has chosen as his permanent holiday home, and if it had been at all possible, I would have done precisely the same thing long before him.

For anyone who may be further interested in the Scillies — which, incidentally you may call them if you wish, or the Isles of Scilly, or even on occasion, Scilly, but never, repeat never, the Scilly Isles if you wish to remain on good terms with the Scillonians — I recommend *The Fortunate Islands*, a most instructive little book by E. L. Bowley. My copy was published by W. P. Kennedy in St. Mary's in 1945, so it may be out of print, or

What I missed in his narrative was more reference to the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade of which Mr. Mitchell was long Treasurer and is now President; and mention of his long-time colleagues, especially Arthur W. Masden. I would like to have seen some mention of Joseph Fels' visit to London and the arrangement of the first International Georgist conference in Ronda, Spain in 1913; and the for-

mation of the International Union ten years later. I believe Ashley Mitchell is the only one who has attended every one of the international conferences. But perhaps that would require him to write another book — well, why not?

Ashley Mitchell's "Memoirs" fill an important place in the history of the land-values movement and should be on every shelf that has a collection of such literature.

there may be more up to date editions.

In his book Mr. Bowley quotes some curious things about rents.

“At Lanstave-ton (Launceston) 17th April 1244, before justices itinerant and other liegemen of our lord the King then there present. Between Lawrence S. (son?) of Richard, claimant, and John de Lideford, opponent; as to 1 ploughland in Agnas (St. Agnes, Scilly). Plea of warranty of charter as called on. John acknowledged the 1 ploughland to be the right of Lawrence, as that which Lawrence had by John's gift. To have and to hold etc. etc. for ever. Rendering therefore yearly 1 pair of white gloves or 1d at Easter, and finding 2 servants with arms for ward of Ynnor (St. Mary's) Castle etc. etc. for all service, custom, suit of court and exaction. For this Lawrence gave to John 100 marks of silver.”

Regarding the settlement of another ploughland on St. Mary's, this seems to have been amicably disposed of with the exchange of 1 sore sparrow hawk! No explanation is given as to why the poor

Blankminster . . . in return for finding twelve armed men, at all times to keep the peace, and paying yearly at Michaelmas three hundred puffins, or six and eightpence.” Perhaps the above sparrow hawk would have felt a little less sore if he knew that puffins were worth only about four a penny. However, says Mr. Bowley, puffins would appear to have been valued for their feathers as much as their doubtful edible qualities; the normal value of puffins seemed to have increased, for instead of 6s 8d (or 300 puffins), in the year 1440 it was 6s 8d (or 50 puffins). This was caused, I should think, either by some form of currency debasement (I am beginning to think inflation must be the second oldest sin) or the increasing use of puffins as a form of currency resulting in a shortage of them. Anyway, I saw plenty of them when I was there, together with guillemots and other uncommon birds, and I trust they continue to flourish with all the other interesting wild life in these truly fortunate islands.

The trifling or “pepper corn” rent is used even today as a means of establishing and maintaining a piece of real estate in the absolute title of the lessor.

I have just heard that Bolton Council pays the freeholder of a piece of land adjoining his house an annual rent of one red rose in consideration of keeping a public seat upon it. The tenancy, I fancy is not perpetual, and even this bit of olde worlde charm may conceal a thorn; you know what local authorities are.

Robert Miller's Occasional Column

thing was sore. I can only conclude it must have been a little annoyed at being featured in such a mundane affair as a land deal.

“Edward I granted the Castle of Ennor in Scilly to Ranulph de