

## LAND VALUES

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### "OUR POLICY"

**"We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community—the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."—Henry George.**

## CHAOS—AND THE WAY OUT

*Civilisation so based cannot continue.  
The eternal laws of the universe forbid it.  
Ruins of dead Empires testify, and the witness that is in every heart answers that it cannot be. ("Progress and Poverty.")*

**T**HESE are the days of fulfilment of the prophecy. Revolution bred of famine first struck the sword from the hand of the Romanoff, the Hapsburg Emperor flees before its blast, and so, too, the pride of the Hohenzollern is broken. The Empires are in dissolution, for with them the pinch of hunger was more acute. But other European states are trembling on the verge and will have to meet the shock. The slave-owning classes made war, the slaves have revolted, and from Vladivostock to Calais the world is in chaos or awaits its coming. Soon there may arrive a condition of anarchy when, if the Asiatic chose, he could implant his rule on Europe and uproot the remnants of its civilisation. Well may Lord Milner, the super-bureaucrat, fear lest Germany be driven to Bolshevism. So falls the social structure based on land monopoly.

It is at this juncture that the Government goes to a General Election, and if its action serves no other purpose it at least enables us to discern the not far-distant fate of Britain. If it were a Government seeking support for a policy designed to preserve the country from the consequences of war the election would inspire hope. As it is, the Government is seeking no other aim than to secure power for five years whilst the minds of the people are paralysed by the stupendous events of these days of cataclysm. They see the menace of revolution in the impending demobilisation of 6,000,000 men from the Army, and 3,000,000 men and women from the munition works. They have a policy, but it is not disclosed to the electors. It is the old policy, and its name—Coercion. It has failed in application by Czar, and Kaiser, and Emperor, but it is held still to be serviceable for the British and Irish people.

But to what direction with greater hope can those look who see in the swift doing of economic justice, the root and branch destruction of land monopoly, the only way of escape from the peril that the denial of equal rights has created? To the Liberal Party? To the Labour Party? They are in the hands of the bosses who, like the Bourbons, never learn. At Manchester the Conference of the National Liberal Federation passed a sweeping resolution for the Taxation of Land Values. Afterwards Mr. Asquith spoke, and with supreme contempt made no reference to the issue.

The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party Conference have passed resolutions for immediate and drastic land value taxation. But the framing of the Labour Party's electoral programme was put into the hand of that bourgeois bureaucrat, Mr. Sydney Webb, who, in the interests of bureaucracy, disregards the mandates—and the bosses are silent. The rank-and-file accept the principle, demand its application, but the official manipulators of the democratic vote are not out to free the workers, but to keep them regimented so that they may have the goods to deliver in exchange for place and pay. So it has been all through the war, but before long the result of sitting on the safety valve will be fully demonstrated.

"Look not to Parliament, look to yourselves," urged Richard Cobden. The mandate holds good to-day, for from such a Parliament as is to be re-elected nothing but evil can be anticipated. But if Parliament will not serve, the days are at hand when the potency of first principles will be exemplified as never before. With the crash of Empires, with the fall of the mighty, men's minds are being set free from the bonds of conventional thought. They will dare to think, they will dare to act. In such days the wise course will be to eschew half-measures, to present the cause of human liberty, and the method of realisation, without qualification or limitation. Let Parliaments be forgotten for a while. The politicians will hasten to the taxation of land values when there rises from the millions the demand for Land and Liberty. To secure that demand a simple formula will best serve. It might run :

All men have an equal right to life, and therefore of inherent right the land is common to all, and there is due to the community from every land-holder the annual value of the site he holds.

Let us secure the widest acceptance for the fundamental principle. With its acceptance the rest will follow. But enough of seeking recognition from political leaders. It is time wasted, and the sands run out. Let the simple creed be preached to the people. Let Liberty, through economic Justice, be presented as the alternative to slavery enforced by monopoly, and then Parliament and the leaders will bend or be broken.

R. L. O.

#### HANLEY ELECTION.

Hanley bids fair to again be a cockpit at the coming election, for Mr. R. L. Outhwaite is going to raise the issue, "The Land or Revolution," and fight on the formula set out in our leading article. There are at present three other candidates in the field—Official Labour and Liberal, and Mr. Seddon, the President of the British Workers' League, who will be supported by the Tories. Mr. Outhwaite is standing as an independent, and has a large and enthusiastic Committee. Mr. Outhwaite will welcome the support of stalwarts, and reports that prospects are most encouraging.

#### A GENERAL ELECTION FUND : £5,000 WANTED

Inspired by a report of the Ilkley Conference, a colleague and life-long supporter of the movement writes :

" My dear Paul,

" I was more than pleased to have the good news of the Conference, which, as you know, much to my regret, I could not attend. The coming General Election offers us a great opportunity to advance the cause in concrete form. The United Committee should appeal for a Special Fund to issue a manifesto to the Electors, to hold meetings, and to publish literature for speakers at meetings. This appeal should be made at once. Is £5,000 sufficient to begin with? I shall myself undertake to raise £1,000 on the understanding that the remaining four thousand is raised. Is this too much to seek from those with means within our ranks, who believe in the justice and expediency of our policy? I do not think so, and I trust you may find many others like-minded with myself. There is no use trifling with success. The times are ripe for change: we should put forth our best effort for the cause, and thereby show that we do not intend to lag behind in the very dawn of this new era. We must, if we be true missionaries of our emancipating gospel, leave nothing undone that can be done to place our principles before the people."

This most welcome, timely, and quite unexpected measure of goodwill received as we go to press, must speak for itself. It gives encouragement and direction to members who held conversations on the subject at Ilkley last month, and to many others not present but as keenly alive to the pressing need for financial support. This cheering note from our thorough-going colleague comes at the right moment. It is no secret that in recent years the Committee have been in receipt of a special and generous yearly contribution to the funds. This has now been considerably reduced, and if the present status of the Committee is to be maintained and the propaganda to proceed at the same speed, then additional financial strength must be forthcoming. It is for those interested to consider what shall be done—whether the Committee are to carry on, or retire to less formidable ground. Apart from the urgent call for funds at this epoch-making crisis, we must look ahead and bring the requirements of the Committee for the year 1919 within our plan of campaign. Meanwhile, along with the Hon. Treasurer, I take this, the earliest opportunity to put on record appreciation of this generous offer, and place it before our subscribers and co-workers, confident that it will meet with a ready and favourable response.

J. P.