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with the two owners of the land that the price should be £7,040. The site covers 13 acres. We are informed by Councillor W. Lefley that this land, valuable as it is, is not even assessed for rates. Its "rateable value" is put down at nothing at all. The landowners pay no taxation, but when the site is wanted for the public benefit the real value is found to be £7,040.

The Official Arbitrator has awarded the sum of £6,440 for 14½ acres at Bangholm, Edinburgh, to be acquired by the City for a housing site. The vendors are the Governors of George Heriot's Trust. The present assessable value of the land is £119 17s. 9d. The owners get £449 per acre for land assessed (at an annual value) of only £8 7s. 4d. per acre.

At a public meeting held in the Fulham Town Hall, London, on 20th February, under the auspices of the East Fulham Labour Party, a resolution was adopted affirming: "That in view of the greatly increased burden of the rates, this meeting declares itself in favour of reform of rating and urges upon all burgesses and ratepayers, irrespective of class or party, to demand that local expenditure shall be met as far as practicable by a system of rating based upon the capital value of land, whether used or unused, or by a local income tax, or other expedient in order to relieve houses, machinery, and all improvements effected by industry from their present burdens."

Alderman W. H. Terry, the prospective Labour candidate for East Fulham, presided. The resolution was moved by Councillor T. M. Cox, who said the taxation of land values was the only possible way to relieve the over-burdened ratepayers. The meeting was also addressed by Andrew MacLaren, prospective Labour candidate for Wimbledon.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### The Failure of Land Settlement Schemes

SIR,—In your April issue under the above heading attention is drawn to the statement of the Scottish Smallholders Organization Society that "Quite properly preference is being given to ex-service men." Why is this preference quite proper? Of course every ex-service applicant for land should be found the land he requires and deserves. Your columns have often ventilated the fact that there is enough land in this country to satisfy all possible applicants, whatever may have been their occupation during the war. There is therefore no justification for any refusals, nor, in my judgment, for any preferences. A preferential right of any kind whatever cannot be made to fit in with equal rights of all men to the use of the earth. Equal rights are equal rights, even after the greatest war in history. Our genuine admiration for the heroism of some of our countrymen should not blind us to the necessities of all men in regard to access to land. The war has not lessened the right of every human being to life and therefore to land. If this is not an equal right, if some have a greater right than others, we are entitled to ask why. To reply that men who have fought for the land thereby acquire more than their natural right, a supernatural right as it were, is to adopt the same reasoning that is used to justify the present legal owners of land, whose titles were writ with the sword and not with the pen. Neither force nor fraud, however, can abrogate eternal natural laws.

Yours, etc.,

D. J. J. OWEN.

651, Didsbury Road,  
Heaton Mersey.

19th April, 1921.

## A Solution of The Coal Problem

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The above is the reproduction of a Post Card published by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. The reverse side (with room for name and address) bears the words:—

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Think it over

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Write to us pointing out  
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The author of the card (C. E. C.) writes: "The coal situation to-day gives us the best handle we have ever had. Our solution, if we could only make it known, is perfectly simple and understandable, and should form a slogan for the whole organized labour movement. Could not all our branches circulate the cards in the streets, from door to door, at open-air and indoor meetings, and call meetings to discuss it? If we all made the effort now, if every Single Taxer concentrated all over the country on this one point, and this only, there would be some impression from such good spade work."

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