

"If Sir Stafford would go about and devote some of his time and his able gifts, persuading the country to put the measure which is on the Statute Book with the signature of the King attached, into force at once, instead of talking nonsense about Buckingham Palace and nationalizing everything, he would do a thousand times more good."

"This measure, which is held up, enacts that a penny in the pound tax be put upon certain land values, and if he suggested, say, twopence more be added, he would find in it the first step towards a solution of our financial and economic difficulties, the first effective solution of the unemployed problem. Unfortunately, there are people big and small in the Labour and Trade Union movement who are interested in land and are scared off, because they know no better, but Sir Stafford Cripps should not talk nonsense of Buckingham Palace or advocate measures that may appear to please certain of his followers but are impossible of fulfilment."

#### HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

An energetic and enthusiastic member of the League in Ross-shire is engaged in a campaign to convert the farmers from a policy of tariffs, which will ultimately benefit the landlords, solely, to the only solution of agricultural and industrial troubles, viz., economic freedom in production. There are also members in Sutherlandshire who, by the distribution of literature and other means, are spreading the gospel of Henry George throughout the straths and glens of that wide country.

#### NORTH WALES: A. Williams Price, Wrexham, writes:—

I have been around parts of Rhos and Ponciau with our tracts. The taxation of Land Values, the "enclosure" of the people's land, etc., are new subjects to many of the younger voters, and these are they who have the power to change the present evil system. There is much work to be done.

In a letter to the *Wrexham Leader* of 26th January, Mr Williams Price referred to local economic history as follows:—

"The Caernarvon County Council, once upon a time, considered a report dealing with 'local' enclosures; they found that Lord Harlech obtained Criccieth Castle together with 31 acres of land, for £175; that Lord Penrhyn obtained over 6,000 acres for five shillings per acre, etc., etc., but they were quite unable to find out how or when Lord Penrhyn claimed Llandegai Mountain. Professor Fawcett, in his 'Manual' quotes an instance which shows, how well and truly the peasantry were fleeced, even when the 'enclosures' were carried out by due process of the law; in 1862, out of 6,900 acres the total allowance for allotments, etc., was six acres." In the case of Rhosyllen, Mr Williams Price states: "A. N. Palmer records that in 1857 Crown lands in the township of Esclusham (2,091 acres) and in the parish of Ruabon (2,774 acres) were sold to a local magnate for the sum of £208 11s. 10d. At this rate they should be able to supply building sites at the counters of Woolworth's. It is necessary to bear in mind that all the rates on all the land are borne by the public. The unemployed person, paying his 'bus fare to or from the Labour Exchange, thereby also pays his mite towards the De-rating Fund of 1928."—*Wrexham Leader*, Friday, 26th January, 1934.

### FORM OF BEQUEST

*I bequeath (free of duty) to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Limited, the sum of £*

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## GEORGE B. WADDELL

Mr G. B. Waddell, who was Hon Treasurer of the Scottish League when the monthly magazine was first mooted, and who was largely concerned with the initiation of the guarantee fund, was laid to rest on Thursday, 25th January. The Minister concluded the graveside service with the words: "His works do follow him." To Bailie Burt, John Paul and me he was well known. It is fitting that I should write his obituary notice, as I was beside him in politics from early times and in other adventures as well. As Hon Treasurer Mr Waddell was succeeded for some years by Mr David Cassels, Senr and for a longer period by Mr Alex Mackendrick, now in London. G. B.—as he was known—was, I remember, one of the first members of the United Committee. In his youth he was induced to join our organization by pioneers, like Bailie Burt and Mr David McLardy, who thought that he would be an asset to the movement as he certainly was. John Paul said of him that he occupied a unique place in the movement. Years back I wrote of his winning personality. In the halcyon days of Liberalism in the West of Scotland he occupied prominent positions in the Liberal organization. He was a member of the first Glasgow Parish Council elected in 1894, and he was for three years a member of Lanarkshire County Council. In 1898 he was one of the witnesses before the Royal Commission on Local Taxation.

In recent years he was not in enjoyment of good health and his latest illness was of a lingering nature. He is survived by his wife and two daughters—his only son having been killed in the war. To his family the sincere sympathy of all his associates is extended in the great loss which they have sustained.

WILLIAM REID.

From a Catholic Priest in Ireland: I am very glad to have the new and enlarged edition of what is a very wonderful book—*The Condition of Labour*. I studied the original in 1891. But the present Introduction and additions are very important, and above all, Bishop Nulty's Pastoral Address, of which I have always been wishing to see a reprint. I thank you, too, for having inserted that very useful quotation from Cardinal Manning's letter to Earl Grey. [We have received many letters expressing appreciation of the new edition in similar terms.—EDITOR, *Land & Liberty*.]

The Labour members of Glasgow Corporation are making strenuous efforts to secure reductions in the price of ground wanted for municipal building schemes. They regard as profiteering the prices demanded in the past and paid by the Corporation, while the municipal policy was ruled by the Moderate party. They have decided to work for big reductions.

There is talk of asking the Government for power to compel the sale of ground at its agricultural value, or to impose such a tax on land values as would make it unprofitable for proprietors to "hold up" possible building sites for very high prices. That aspect of the matter, however, has not been formally considered and decided upon by the Housing Committee, although it is probable that a decision will be made this month.—*Glasgow Evening Citizen*, 2nd January.

In a letter to the *Daily Herald*, 17th January, Mr E. Belfour writes: As a result of meat and bacon subsidies and quotas, costing the State millions per annum, the landowners will be able to exact higher rents should the farmers receive higher prices.

Is it sane to continue throwing subsidies into a bucket that is well tapped by the landowners?

In a previous letter to the same paper (13th December) Mr Belfour contested the statement of a leading Labour politician that the country is run in the interest of bankers. It is run for the unfailing benefit of the landowner. "It is a commonplace of our economists that under our present absurd system it is the landowner who 'scoops the pool' of any sort of improvement or betterment whether in town or country in the form of increased rent. Surely these 'public' values, as Professor Marshall calls them, should be made to contribute to public needs."