

certain year the crop of nuts on which they were dependent failed, and when the nuts that had been hoarded were nearly at an end and there was risk of famine, it happened that a derelict ship, laden with nuts, was stranded on the shore of that part of the island where the rich monkeys dwelt. They therefore held an Assembly to decide what should be done; and an old monkey, experienced in the art of governing his fellow-creatures, proposed to divide the ship's nuts into two equal portions, one portion to be kept by the rich monkeys, and the other to be given to the poor monkeys; and this division seemed fair to the rich monkeys, notwithstanding that they were few and the poor monkeys were many. Then the old monkey went on to propose that before the division was made, a quantity of at least ten thousand nuts should be set aside, to be distributed by the rich monkeys between the hundred strongest of the poor monkeys. At this there were murmurs, and a young monkey belonging to a rich family asked why the ten thousand nuts should be wasted. "They will not be wasted," replied the old monkey, trying to suppress a grin, "because the situation is this. Even with half the ship's nuts, the poor monkeys will hardly be able to survive to the next crop. Hunger will give rise to unrest, and the poor monkeys will probably try to get the rest of the nuts, which may make things difficult for us, because we are few and they are many. But this allotment of ten thousand nuts will bring the hundred strongest of them to our side, because we can easily show them that the others are trying to get their nuts, and then in defending their nuts they will defend ours also." His plan, therefore, seemed good to the Assembly, and even the young monkey who had objected to it as waste, supported it as a wise and statesmanlike proposal:—

Such wise and statesmanlike proposals are, of course, not limited to monkeys. It is not unusual to find great landlords attempting to increase the number of small landlords so as to strengthen the defences of landlordism. They, as might be expected, are wiser than the monkeys, who, if they had had more intelligence, would have got payment for the nuts, and have reaped a double advantage from the transaction.

#### "Saving the Situation."

Under this heading, in the DAILY SKETCH of 24th November, "The Man in the Street" writes thus:—

At Kensington, on Thursday Sir Arthur Yapp, owner of the glistening smile, and Director of Food Economy, spake as follows:—

#### The smallholder and the amateur gardener have saved the situation for us this year.

The smallholder and the amateur gardener, mind you—not the county magnate, the "scientific agriculturist," or the "profiteering" British farmer and his ride-to-market sons; but just Tom, Dick, and Harry, Ethelbert, Erbert and Orace, with a backyard or an allotment, a what-you-may-call-it shovel, Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and the assistance of the missus and nippers! These have saved the food situation for 1917, and they will do it next year and, if needs be, the year after that.

If this be so, if the smallholder has made good in this way, what about the urgent need for the Corn Production Act? This is a question which the DAILY SKETCH might put to the owner of the glistening smile for the benefit of its readers, and for the further enlightenment of the general taxpayer. Meanwhile, the spade-worker will continue to lessen the labours and the worry of the Director of Food Economy, while his colleague, the President of the Board of Agriculture, keeps the pass at the other end of the business for the profiteering farmer and the landlord. But, of course, this is, after all, as the Prime

Minister knows, a mere family affair. It is quite a simple proposition. The smallholder produces his share of the food, and as a taxpayer pays his brother, the farmer, something to keep his end up; the step-brother, who owns the land, shares this graft with the farmer, and no one really suffers in the long run. It is all in the family!

## PRACTICAL POLITICS

Supporters of the movement for the taxation of land values are first of all democrats. It is because they are democrats that they belong to the movement. They believe in restoring to the people what really belongs to the people. They believe that if the wishes of the people are carried out in deeds, as they ought to be, then land values will be taxed and taxed heavily. They must therefore concern themselves with two things.

Firstly, the education of the people to a full appreciation of all that is involved in the reform. Propaganda must be maintained in every corner of the British Isles. It must be made clear to every citizen and prospective citizen that the measures for which LAND VALUES stands are based on justice, and that their efforts will be far-reaching on all those problems of poverty, housing and unemployment with which this country will be faced when peace does come.

Secondly, all those in the movement must consider the means by which the reforms can be carried into actual practice. We must face the political conditions of the present and use them to our best advantage. We must work through the Press. We must work through Parliament, and through the representative house in Parliament. We must work through or with some of the political parties, existent or potential, in order to secure in the next House of Commons an overwhelming majority of those pledged to our reform.

Therefore, as Land Taxers, we come to be directly interested in many other problems. We cannot consider our movement in a watertight compartment by itself. We are vitally interested in the muzzling of the House of Lords; in the developments of parties in the House of Commons and in the country, and particularly in the reorganisation of the Labour Party; we are above all interested in the endeavour to make the House of Commons more representative of the Country. This it is which should make every supporter of the movement watch eagerly all attempts on the part of the reactionaries or the bureaucrats to shelve or mutilate the Representation of the People Bill. It will be a great day for the movement when that Act is placed on the Statute Book. Properly taken advantage of it will secure that at the next General Election a real majority is returned in favour of the immediate completion of the valuation and the prompt enforcement of a considerable tax on land values.

We must not therefore think that our duties are at an end when we have disseminated the general principles on which the movement is based. We must take an equal interest in the means by which those principles can be translated into practice. In taxation of land values is a practical proposal and we must neglect no means which will assist in speedily carrying it into effect. The first of these means is the immediate passage of the Representation of the People Bill into law.

F. SCOPES.

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