

Sir R. B. Nevill Gunter's estate in South Kensington and neighbourhood was offered for sale at Winchester House yesterday by Messrs. May and Rowden.

The property was first offered as a whole, being freehold ground-rents of £17,222 a year, the reversions accruing in from 1918 to 2007, and certain rack rents in possession, amounting to £1,876 a year.

For the estate as a whole there was an opening bid of £350,000, followed by other offers up to £549,500, at which the property was withdrawn, the auctioneer stating that the price was £550,000.—*The Times*, June 12th.

A 1,200-acre farm at Runnamote, Co. Roscommon, the property of Lieut.-Colonel Chichester, has been seized by the Department of Agriculture. The landlord recently prosecuted his tenants, who held a portion of these lands, for breaking them up.—*Observer* (London), June 17th.

Once the Shipping Controller himself sent for Mr. Tillett (of the Dockers' Union) and complained that in some of the docks the men were not doing their duty, shipping was held up, and the dock traffic congested.

"We had a ready reply to that," said Mr. Tillett, "for in one of those very docks that he complained about were two Government officials. One went along and ordered some hundreds of tons of cargo into a ship, and as soon as his back was turned another came along and ordered it out. (Laughter.) Then they both returned and ordered it back again."

Another time a young officer peered down the hold of a vessel, and on seeing a tunnel of a boat (the shaft which drives the propeller) said, "Take it away. It takes up too much room." (Loud laughter.)—*Common Sense*, June 2nd.

May I add (as no announcement has appeared) that my employment by the Army Council in connection with the growth of oats ceased on March 24th last, as the bonus on which I was working ended when the Food Controller's fixed price was scrapped in favour of minimum prices. I write as an individual, and as one who is going to be a looker-on at the game of agriculture after a lifetime spent in organising to the limits of my capacity. I am unable to follow agriculture into politics.—*H. Trustram Eve*, in the *Daily News*, May 26th.

TOLSTOY ON THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

I cannot play upon any stringed instrument; but I can tell you how of a little village to make a great and glorious city.—THEMISTOCLES.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree. And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat.—ISAIAH.

"At about 9.30 o'clock in the morning I found myself at the door of the little white house where lives and works the most remarkable man in the world to-day—Leo Tolstoy. I was met by Nicholas Gusev, Tolstoy's secretary, an amiable young gentleman, who took me into his room.

"Presently he entered. . . .

"He asked me about my impressions of Russia, and particularly about the popularity of Henry George's works in America. 'Nearly 50 years ago,' he went on slowly, 'the great question that occupied all minds in Russia was the emancipation of the serfs. The burning question now is the ownership of land. The peasants never recognised the private ownership of land. They say that the land belongs to God. I am afraid that people will regard what I say as stupid, but I must say it: The leaders of the revolutionary movement, as well as the Government officials, are not doing the only thing that would pacify the people at once. And the only thing that would pacify the people now is the introduction of the system of Henry George.

"As I have pointed out in my introductory note to the Russian version of SOCIAL PROBLEMS, Henry George's great idea, outlined so clearly and so thoroughly more than 30 years ago, remains to this day entirely unknown to the great majority of the people. This is quite natural. Henry George's idea, which changes the entire system in the life of nations in favour of the oppressed, voiceless majority and to the detriment of the ruling minority, is so undeniably convincing, and, above all, so simple, that it is impossible not to understand it, and understanding it, it is impossible not to make an effort to introduce it into practice, and therefore the only means against this idea is to pervert it and to pass it in silence. And this has been true of the Henry George theory for more than 30 years. It has been both perverted and passed in silence, so that it has become difficult to induce people to read his work attentively and to think about it. Society does with ideas that disturb its peace—and Henry George is one of these—exactly what the bee does with the worms which it considers dangerous but which it is powerless to destroy. It covers their nests with wax, so that the worms, even though not destroyed, cannot multiply and do more harm. Just so the European nations act with regard to ideas that are dangerous to their order of things, or, rather, to the disorder to which they have grown accustomed. Among these are also the ideas of Henry George. "But light shines even in the darkness, and the darkness cannot cover it." A truthful, fruitful idea cannot be destroyed. However you may try to smother it, it will still live; it will be more alive than all the vague, empty, pedantic ideas and words with which people are trying to smother it, and sooner or later the truth will burn through the veil that is covering it and it will shine forth before the whole world. Thus it will be also with Henry George's idea.

"And it seems to me that just now is the proper time to introduce this idea—now, and in Russia. This is just the proper time for it, because in Russia a revolution is going on, the serious basis of which is the rejection by the whole people, by the real people, of the ownership of land. In Russia, where nine-tenths of the population are tillers of the soil and where this theory is merely a conscious expression of that which has always been regarded as right by the entire Russian people—in Russia, I say, especially during this period of reconstruction of social conditions, this idea should now find its application, and thus the revolution, so wrongly and criminally directed, would be crowned by a great act of righteousness. This is my answer to your question about the future of Russia. Unless this idea is introduced into the life of our people, Russia's future can never be bright.'"—*Being extracts from a letter written by Herman Bernstein from St. Petersburg (Petrograd), July 20th, 1908, and published in The New York Times of August 9th, 1908.*

HENRY GEORGE ON LIBERTY AND JUSTICE

What in me is dark

Illumine, what is low raise and support;
That to the height of this great argument
I may assert eternal Providence

And justify the ways of God to men.—MILTON.

Hitherto, it is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being.

When the object is to raise the permanent condition of a people, small means do not merely produce small effects; they produce no effect at all.—JOHN STUART MILL.

The poverty which in the midst of abundance pinches and embrates men, and all the manifold evils which flow