

and while we, too, contemplate a perfection in government that has "not entered into the mind of man," yet we are not wild theorists nor idle dreamers, but hard, level-headed, practical business men. We know not only the ills we have, but the error that causes them and just how that error can be corrected.

I will say to you that the most serious of our social and political ills are really but symptoms of economic disease; that every economic problem that vexes us can be largely solved by the destruction of private property in land; and that property in land can be easily and safely yet surely and wholly destroyed by only taxing the owners of land and exempting everyone and everything else.

I cannot now discuss the many aspects of this wide and fundamental reform, but in closing I want to congratulate the British land taxationists upon having begun the fight and bid them fight on; and then will ask everyone of you who have so patiently stood and listened to me to resolve now here at this meeting that you will learn just what Henry George proposed, what Single Taxers are so persistently urging, what I and these other gentlemen have come here to speak of and then each one decide for himself whether or not this is a righteous war; and I think that if you do this every man of you will be sooner or later enlisted in it.

"COUSIN ALECK."

Asking A Soldier To Pay His Own War Expenses.

(Address of Hon. Geo. Wallace, of Jamaica N. Y. at North Hackney, England, reported by the London *Daily Chronicle*.)

This speech caused Mr. Wallace to be complimented by three members of the cabinet, and resulted in his election to membership in the National Liberal Club.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.)

The Hon. George Wallace, of New York, was one of the speakers at a recent Budget meeting in North Hackney.

Mr. Wallace, whose father was born in the Scottish Highlands, said that in 1901 he was on a visit to some near relatives there, and after the usual greetings he asked about Aleck, the youngest boy, and was told that he had gone to the war with a Highland regiment. "Of course, I was proud of Aleck," said Mr. Wallace, "when I learned that he was keeping up the old reputation of the family and was willing to fight for his Queen and his native land.

"Inquiring where Aleck's land lay I was told that he had none—(laughter)—and that he had been even born on land that did not belong to his parents. I asked what land Aleck would have if he got back alive, and was told he wouldn't have any. I was not so charmed with Aleck's fighting qualities as at first.

(Laughter.) Then I asked as to the owners of the land in the district. Had they gone to the war with Aleck to fight for their native land? (Laughter, and cries of Oh, no.) I see you have the answer. (Laughter.)

"Now let a stranger from across the water give you a suggestion. When you have the next war ask your Government to make a conscription, and allow none but landholders in the first regiments that go to the front. (Laughter.) They would certainly make the best soldiers fighting for their King and their native land. (Great applause.) You should put all who have land worth a quarter of a million or more in the firing line. (Cheers.) Let the smaller owners come up as the reserves. (Laughter.) Those physically unable could join in liberally in the expenses; but Volunteers like cousin Aleck should not be allowed until all the landholders had the first chance. (Laughter, and cries of 'We shouldn't have any war at all if that were done.') Well, I suspect you are right. If the Peace Conference at The Hague had provided that all nations should put only landholders in their armies it would never need to convene again. (Cheers.) Peace would become universal. You would not have to spend any more money on Dreadnoughts or other preparations for war. (Cheers.)

"But to return to Aleck. He got home alive, but a physical wreck from enteric fever and the like. It was a year or more before he could do a good day's work. When he was again able to work for wages, what was my surprise to learn that his Government proposed to put a 10 per cent. tax on Aleck's food and clothing! They wanted him to pay his own expenses in going to the war! (Great laughter.) When I heard of this I was angry. I thought Aleck was to get shabby treatment after all his fighting. (Cheers.) To me there seemed to be nothing decent in it, even if they did call it Tariff Reform. (Great laughter.) But there was some delay in the matter, and before they got the tax laid on the voters rose in their might and turned the Government out of power. (Cheers.) Then I felt better about cousin Aleck. (Laughter.)

"Your present Government have prepared what you call a Budget, proposing to let the landowners in on the war expenses. (Laughter and cheers.) As these gentlemen did not get on the firing line in the war, Mr. Lloyd George—(cheers)—and his associates propose to give them the right of line in paying the expenses. (Cheers.) I do not wonder that you cheer such a righteous proposition.

"I see Lord Londonderry has been talking about the maintenance of religion.

"In America we have a saying that a man will vote as he prays. Now I have in mind a religious workman sitting down with his wife and children to a frugal meal. He reverently says, 'grace before meat.' I am curious as to the wording of his prayer, and imagine him asking the good Lord to bless what they are about to eat and also add 10 per cent. to the cost of it. (Great laughter and cheers.) Possibly his friends might want the man examined by a doctor." (Laughter and Cheers.)