

by its somewhat revolutionary character, is apt to startle those who first make its acquaintance.

This is not the first of Mr Jacobs' public benefactions. During the war he ran at his sole expense, in connection with the Y.M.C.A., a Hut in the Strand for Jewish combatants. It proved a boon to numbers of men, Colonial and others, new to London. The work was ably superintended by Mrs Jacobs, whose gracious charm, reminiscent of a picture by Raphael, earned for her the title of "The Madonna of the Hut."

HENRY GEORGE AND THE LAND

(Letter to the JEWISH GUARDIAN, 15th March)

Sir,—In the course of the generous notice in the *Jewish Guardian* of the 1st inst. concerning my recent contribution towards popularizing the teachings of the social philosopher and economist, Henry George, certain expressions are used—quite unintentionally, I am sure—which may give a misleading impression of just what those teachings are.

I refer to the terms "drastic reform of the land laws"; "its somewhat revolutionary character"; "Georgeian panacea."

May I explain briefly that the Georgeian proposal is to abolish gradually (but as quickly as public opinion will permit) as much as possible of present rates and taxes which fall on human industry, and to put in their place a tax on the communal value of all land, whether fully or partially used or withheld from use altogether, *i.e.*, a tax or levy on the economic rent of land.

That this system is neither "drastic" nor "somewhat revolutionary" is shown by its smooth and successful working for many years past in large and populous parts of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, as well as more recently in Denmark.

George never claimed his plan as a "panacea." But he did claim it as the fundamental reform without which all other desirable reforms will not function effectively, and with which many of these reforms would even be rendered unnecessary.

Finally, as to the word "ingenious" in the sentence, ". . . these ideals he linked up with an eloquent and ingenious interpretation of Mosaic land legislation," etc.

May I quote Professor Dr Felix Perles, of Königsberg—a name not without honour in your columns—from an article by him in the *Jewish Review* of January, 1911:—

" . . . it was reserved for one of the most modern and far-seeing political economists, Henry George, the author of *Progress and Poverty*, to show the influence of ancient Judaism on the social education of humanity and to recognize in Moses a hero whom the world must bless as a true Deliverer."

And later:—

" . . . We now find that freedom of the land proclaimed which, on all sides to-day, by Tolstoi as well as by Henry George, is declared to be a fundamental condition of solving social questions."

If you would add to your generosity by publishing these few observations, I would be most grateful.

Yours, etc.,

LOUIS P. JACOBS.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an Invitation to become a Subscriber. Monthly 3d.; by Post 4s. per Annum.

FORCED LABOUR

By Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood,
D.S.O., M.P.

(Speech at a Conference convened by the League of Nations Union on 6th March.)

There is a certain unreality in discussing Labour forced to work by law, for there are other ways of making one man work for another. How to get Labour cheap is an old subject of discussion in Africa. The simplest way is to take away a man's land, then you do not require any laws to make him work for a master.

Here is the critical statement for the West Coast: Sir Percy Girouard wrote in 1906—"My predecessor in Northern Nigeria (Lord Lugard), referring to the difficulty of obtaining free labour after the abolition of slavery, mentions the necessity of creating a labouring class to till the lands of the ruling classes, and mentions 'the enforcement of proprietary rights in land' as the solution. I can only presume that this meant the creation of a landlord class. I am not at all certain that it would be in the natives' interest to create a landlord class."

Within two years of the sending of this despatch the Colonial Office had made the creation of a landlord class in Northern Nigeria impossible, and all the land is now held by the cultivators directly of the State at a revisable Land Value rent.

In East Africa we were too late, and the demand for cheap labour was too powerful; but the solution, both from the point of view of employer and worker, was the same. Before the Kenya Native Labour Commission of 1912-13 Lord Delamere gave the following evidence: "If the policy was to be continued that every native was to be a landholder of a sufficient area on which to establish himself, then the question of obtaining a satisfactory labour supply would never be settled." He considered that "the soundest policy would be to curtail the Reserves, and although it might take a few years before the effect on the labour supply was apparent, the results would be permanent."

While the Hilton Young Report on the same Colony, recently issued, recommends as our duty to the native a policy "which would make available for every native, for his own cultivation, sufficient land to maintain himself and his family, and to provide him with the cash required for the taxes which he has to pay."

It will be seen from these opinions (of both sides), first, that the land question is fundamental; and secondly, that where the land has been taken away from the native no Forced Labour Ordinances are necessary. The better off the native is economically, the more is Forced Labour resorted to; and the worse off he is economically, the less is Forced Labour required or enacted.

The L.S.I. Congress at Brussels last August put the matter quite clearly. They demand:—

- (1) That in all those territories of tropical and sub-tropical Africa and the Pacific, all land not already appropriated by Europeans shall be recognized as the inalienable property of the native community.
- (2) That every native family should be assured sufficient land for its support.
- (3) That no taxes or any burdens whatsoever shall be imposed upon the natives except for the administration of public services which directly benefit the natives.
- (4) That no taxes shall be permitted which a native

cannot pay without leaving home to work for a capitalist.

Forced Labour cannot endure as civilization progresses; but once you take away a native's right to land a new, a more deadly, and a more universal forced labour takes the place of law, and can never be removed.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

From *the Chicago Single Taxer*, 26th February, 1929:—

MEN WHO HAVE MADE THEIR MILLIONS IN LAND SPECULATION

NO. 1. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

We quote this from a copyrighted article in the *Daily News* of 21st January: "The first American millionaire was George Washington. . . . He did not definitely formulate any rules for money making, but he followed certain basic principles throughout his career. . . . He had the thrifty idea of not taking all his pay in cash. He knew where the best acres were located, and, believing that land prices would rise, he began putting his extra pay into good land. . . . He purchased 53,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia."

Far-sighted George! No wonder he could serve his country "without pay"! The article goes on to say that Washington's returns on farming later averaged as high as \$15,000 a year. It would be interesting to know how much of that \$15,000 was earned in "farming" and how much of it was earned for collecting rent.

In the House of Commons on 20th March, Mr G. D. Hardie, M.P. for Springburn Division of Glasgow, inquired of the Secretary of State for Scotland if he was aware that recently adjacent to Renfield Street, Glasgow, a site was sold for £75,000 which formerly changed hands at £100, and that future rents on that site would be increased as a consequence; and if he intended to take any steps to ensure that such increased values were returned to the citizens of Glasgow.

Sir John Gilmour: "I have no information about the matter referred to, and I can give no undertaking of the nature suggested in the last part of the question."

Mr Hardie: "Will the Right Hon. gentleman ask the Government, seeing that they are trying to help trade, to bring in legislation in order to take these values which have been created by the community and put them back into the community?"

No answer was given.

The Labour Question. An Abridgment of "The Condition of Labour," by HENRY GEORGE. Harry Llewelyn Davies Memorial Edition. 3d.

Addresses by Henry George: "The Crime of Poverty," "Thou Shalt not Steal," "Scotland and Scotsmen," "Thy Kingdom Come," "Moses." 1d. each.

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Land Value Taxation in Practice: New South Wales and Sydney. By J. R. FIRTH, Mayor of Strathfield, N.S.W. 1d.

A Danish View of British Farming. By JAKOB E. LANGE. 1s.

COL. WEDGWOOD'S CAMPAIGN

During the month of March, the Rt. Hon. Col. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., has addressed many meetings up and down the country, the places visited including Nottingham, Putney, Dartford, Chard, Colchester, Bishop's Stortford, Biddulph, Grimsby, Earlestown, Willesden, Bristol and Hanley. The meetings have been usually well reported in the local newspapers.

Speaking at Portsmouth on 1st March on the subject of "Unemployment and the Land Question," Col. Wedgwood said the Labour Party was fighting to win economic freedom for the worker. He wanted to find an end to the old injustice by destroying land monopoly.

The only question they ought to talk about was how to put an end to the compulsory unemployment from which they suffered to-day. Land in this country was difficult, but not impossible, to get. All useful productive work must begin by the application of labour to land. If the primary trades—agriculture, mining, quarrying and brick-making—were allowed to start the job they would do their part and then pass on the completing process of manufacture and distribution to the other trades in the community. If the primary trades could not start, then the other trades were without work. Therefore, if they wanted to make that work easier, they had got to make it easier for labour to apply itself to the land. This end could only be achieved by taxing the value of land, whether used or not.

Mr W. C. Hull, prospective Labour candidate for the Central Division of Portsmouth, who followed Col. Wedgwood, said he believed in the taxation of land values, and that it would come as soon as the next Labour Government got into office.

The "Easy Money" Folly

Speaking at Grimsby, 7th March, Col. Wedgwood, said Mr Lloyd George had just discovered an easy way to solve our unemployment problem. You borrowed, say, a hundred millions and spent the money on work that would not otherwise be done. How delightfully simple! But the hundred millions lent to him could not then be lent elsewhere. By just so much capital would the resources of industry be reduced, and expanding productive industry would have to pay more for its money, or go without.

While inexperienced Tory or Labour back-benchers might be excused for advocating such "easy money" folly, one might have expected that a Liberal ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer would have known more about economics.

Mr Jack Jones, M.P., at Manchester, 30th March: Any man or woman in that room, with ordinary intelligence and common sense, could sit on the green benches at Westminster and make as good a member as anyone there. Thomas Carlyle, in his day made a similar sort of statement. It is as true to-day as it was then.

POLITICS OF REASON

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