

noted books and papers. A great mission has come out of Denmark, and not only in regard to this matter of just taxation but in all that pertains to culture and life and labour it has set many glorious examples. May it be to the Danes, even in their bitter adversity, a consolation that their present masters will also learn so that when they depart they will take home the lesson and apply it for the uprooting of the internal social injustices which were their curse and damnation.

Let us hear again the Danish people singing their beautiful songs and joining in the chorus of their national hymn, of which here is an English version of the last stanza :

Robust our speech and soft
Our faith is pure and simple
And courage never fails
Our dear land Denmark shall endure
As long as beech trees mirror
Their tops in blue sea waves.

A. W. M.

THE RIGHTS OF MAN

The discussion of a Declaration of the Rights of Man promoted by the *Daily Herald* resulted in a new version of Mr H. G. Wells' original draft. The revision was made by a committee consisting of Viscount Sankey (chairman), Sir Normal Angell, the Rt Hon Margaret Bondfield, Sir Richard Gregory, Lord Horder, Sir John Orr, Mr H. G. Wells, Mr Francis Williams, Mrs Barbara Wootton, and Mr Ritchie Calder (secretary), and was published in the *Daily Herald* of 20th April.

We have not space to quote the whole declaration, but the following passages dealing with economic matters deserve mention :

"Every man is a joint inheritor of all the natural resources and of the powers, inventions, and possibilities accumulated by our forefathers" (the first draft omitted the word "natural").

"In the enjoyment of his personal property, lawfully possessed, a man is entitled to protection from public or private violence, deprivation, compulsion and intimidation."

These two passages appear to draw a distinction between land and the products of labour, the former being subject to joint rights and the latter individual rights.

"Subject to the needs of the community, a man may engage in any lawful occupation, earning such pay as the contribution that his work makes to the welfare of the community may justify."

The original draft had an important clause which has now been omitted : "He shall have the right to buy or sell without discriminatory restrictions anything which may be lawfully bought or sold, in such quantities and with such restrictions as are compatible with the common welfare." It is unfortunate that this is left out. The right to work and to have personal property is not complete without the right to exchange, and the right of free exchange is essential to the specialization and division of labour which makes industry most productive.

The revised version also says that "work for the sole object of profit-making shall not be a lawful occupation." This is a plausible doctrine, but it is meaningless without a definition of that ambiguous word "profit." The word "work" presumably means productive work, and if so, how can its sole object be "profit-making"? The intention, perhaps, was to exclude activities by which one man may exploit another, but the phrases used are not adequate to express this idea.

More yet requires to be done to frame a declaration of human rights which will be satisfactory.

A HOLDING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Perhaps one of our readers who knows the district can supply information bearing on the following interesting note we have received from a veteran correspondent in New South Wales. He writes :

"Now for a few of my early recollections of English country life. I was living at a small village called Mursley, situate some four miles from Winslow, Bucks. It is, or was, as no doubt you know, essentially an agricultural district, and I remember that every year as soon as the winter set in and there was no work on the land, the men were put off, and a number of them and their families had to 'go on the parish.' I can well remember the relieving officer coming round with the relief. He was a big man, had a big horse and a glorified baker's cart, from which he doled out two loaves and 18 pence, or 3 loaves and 2s. according to the size of the family. And that was all the poor people had to live on, as they could save nothing on the miserable wage they received. At the top of the village one road turned off to the right, the other going straight on leading to the railway station, some 3 miles distant. Abutting on these two roads was a field of just over 60 acres, which was rented by a farmer for grazing purposes, for which he paid about £5 per year. Well, the Squire (Lowndes, I think his name was) took it into his gracious heart to let the labourers of the village have it, at a price. It was cut up into 60 acre allotments, and each man had one, and there being a few over, they balloted for them, the lucky ones thus getting two. He charged them one pound per allotment, per annum, which was a serious consideration for many of them, and they saved up that pound in threepences and even pennies during the year. The following year they turned that field into a paradise. They planted half with wheat, a portion with potatoes, onions, etc., and all sorts of vegetables, winter greens, etc. They sent two or three sacks of wheat to the mill and got it back as whole meal, they had long strings of onions, two or three pits of potatoes in the field, and other stuff. When the winter came down and there was no work, they went home without a worry. They were independent of the relieving officer, simply through getting access to that little bit of their country, even though at the excessive rent charged them. If you could ascertain if that field is still in use as stated, I would be much obliged. But don't go to any trouble over it as all this happened some 70 years ago, and a lot of water has gone under the bridges since then."

Our acknowledgments are due to *The Forward*, Glasgow, for reprinting in full in its issue of 13th April the article in our March issue on Robert Smillie and the landlords. It was our tribute to the man making good the omission from most of the Press obituaries of his historic exposure of the monopolists of the coal measures of this country. Also acknowledged is the reprint in the *Kelso Chronicle* of 5th April of numerous striking "land instances" that have appeared in our columns and giving us credit for the information.

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