

LAND VALUES.

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CONTENTS.

APRIL, 1903.

General News.
The Gospel of Thrift.
The Colonial Secretary on Land Values.
The Democratic Ideal.
The Bill for the Taxation of Land Values for England.
Prosperous and Christian America.
News of the Movement.
English News and Notes. | Scottish Notes and News.
A Message to Labour.
The Liberal Leader on the Taxation of Land Values.
Mrs. and Mrs. M'Lardy in Australia.
The Housing Question in 1903.
Housing Debate in the House of Commons.

"OUR POICY."

"We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community—the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacred to the individual all that belongs to the individual."—Henry George.

A MESSAGE TO LABOUR!

"The workman is learning that before he can get anything like justice he must transfer his faith from 'gentlemen' candidates to Labour candidates."—Will Crooks, M.P.

In these most suggestive words the hero of the recent most brilliant Progressive victory, at Woolwich, summarised the lesson his recent struggle had brought home to him. Though we stand for a principle, the principle of Justice, and welcome to our ranks those who are willing to accept all that obedience to this principle involves, whether they call themselves Liberals, Conservatives, or Labour Men; yet we hold these words to be true, and full of meaning, as well as of hope, for the future of our country. In the past the masses of the workers of this country have been treated as pawns on the great chess-board of political life. When requiring their aid, the players, Conservative and Liberal, have temporarily pandered to their prejudices, their superstitions, their passions, and their ignorance. But on the whole they were given to understand that their true interests were bound up in the interests of their country, which were quite safe in the hands of the "great men" of either party. Hence

that, after they had voted for one or other of the candidates who presented themselves for their consideration, they could safely leave the game of politics to be played by their betters, whilst they concerned themselves solely with the more material needs of every-day life.

Recent events, however, have awakened them, even if only temporarily, from their pleasing and soporific illusion. They are now, at all events for a time, realising that what Mr. Crooks terms "gentlemen candidates" have aspirations and interests, individual and class, differing from and in great part antagonistic to their own. During recent years the "gentlemen" of England, under specious but transparent pretences, have not scrupled to make use of the political power entrusted to them by the workers, who form the majority in almost every electorate, to strengthen their own class privileges, to increase their own unearned income at the expense of the general taxpayer; to decrease the earning power of the workers by increased taxation on the necessities of life; to tamper with the education of their children in the interests of their trusted allies, the "gentlemen" parsons of the Church of England, to which the majority of the workers do not belong; to undermine the fortress of Trade Unionism, which it had taken the workers almost one hundred years to build up for their own protection; whilst studiously ignoring the unemployed problem, and shirking the old-age pensions they had allowed their supporters to promise when last asking for political power. On the other hand, the "gentlemen" occupying the Opposition Benches have offered the faintest possible opposition to all these doings. Can we wonder, then, that the working classes, to which we, too, claim to belong, should be looking round for representatives more in sympathy with their needs and aspirations, more in sympathy with the just demands of Labour, or that they should instinctively look for these in men of their own class?

For our own part, we have long ago chosen our side, and chosen the work by which we deem we can best serve it. Our mission is to proclaim what Justice demands, what it involves. To our minds the cause of Justice is the cause of Freedom, the cause of Humanity, the cause of Conciliation, the cause of Labour. And Justice cannot be done, Freedom cannot be enjoyed, Humanity cannot progress, Civilisation cannot advance, nor can Labour be enfranchised and uplifted so long as some alone control the use of the primary necessity of life and industry, so long as some alone control the use of the land and are allowed to appropriate its rental values. Hence it is that whether the Liberal, the Conservative, or a Labour Party predominate, we shall still continue to proclaim to our fellow-citizens all that is involved in the demand for the taxation of land values.

L. H. B.