

LAND VALUES.

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"OUR POLICY."

"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.

THE TORY BOGEY "SOCIALISM"!

THE thoughtful, progressive section of the British people have deliberately set their faces toward freedom: toward freedom to produce wealth, as well as freedom to exchange wealth after it has been produced. This necessarily involves a campaign against the entrenched host of privilege and plunder, who to-day claim to control the use of its national sources. The leaders on both sides are fully alive to this fact. On the one hand they are anxious to force, on the other to avoid the coming struggle. If the masses of our people were sufficiently enlightened as to the direct cause of their enslavement and impoverishment, of their life-long, weary, hopeless struggle for a mere living, so to rally as one man round any one political party pledged to its removal, the fight would be short and decisive, and speedy victory would be assured. Unfortunately, however, the majority of them are not yet so enlightened. To use a simile of dear old Winstanley, the Digger of the Commonwealth, they are still as men in a mist seeking for freedom, for emancipation from the troubles that afflict them, but know not where it is, nor what it is, nor how it may be assured. Hence so many of them are so easily frightened, are so easily diverted from the one true

path, and fall such easy victims to plausible proposals, to the blandishments of interested people who would take advantage of their ignorance to lead them back to worship at the old altars decorated with new tinsel and disguised under new names.

But a few months ago, Tariff Reform, alias Protection, alias Indirect Taxation, was heralded with a mighty flourish of trumpets as the one true road to social salvation. It would have served to have kept the industrious masses of our people in their accustomed chains for a few more generations. Hence it was supported by all the power and influence established privilege can always command, and with all the zeal that the hope of untold plunder naturally awakens in the breasts of the predatory classes and their parasites. The most popular and accomplished demagogue of our time was recruited to its service; and he passionately appealed to our people to sacrifice at its shrine. His unscrupulous eloquence, however, was exhausted in vain. The people saw through its disguise. They rejected it with contempt. The first outpost skirmish was won. For the first time in almost a generation the Progressive forces found themselves in a majority in the House of Commons, defiantly confronting their enemies.

Established privilege and plunder, however, does not tamely surrender at the first blow. Temporarily disabled from offensive warfare, its upholders have wisely concentrated their efforts on the defensive. They know full well that the economic ignorance of the masses of the people is their best ally. If they cannot be cajoled, they may be frightened into obedience. Influential though weak-kneed supporters of the Progressive forces may be estranged by loudly denouncing the necessary line of advance as an infringement of the sacred rights of property. And so, imitating the historical tactics of Louis Napoleon, of ——— memory, the red bogey of Socialism is being dragged across the political stage.

What is Socialism? In truth, Socialism is one of those vague, mystic, abstract terms, the use of which is amongst the greatest hinderances to clear thinking. To some few the word seems as sacred, consoling and inspiring as "the blessed word Mesopotamia;" to others it is synonymous with everything appertaining to the traditional enemy of the human race. By some it is used to connote every proposal that may serve, or seem to serve, to alleviate or to remedy the dire social ills that afflict our present civilisation, to connote every school of social change or reform. By others it is used to denote a special school of political or social thought, viz., the school that boldly demands that the claims or interests of the individual and of the minority shall be entirely subordinated to the claims or interests of the majority, as expressed by those wielding the power of Government. As we abundantly demonstrated in our October

number, this school of political thought finds in the Institution of Private Property the direct cause of all remediable social ills. They realise, as we do, that it is only by removing causes that we can hope to remove effects. Hence they logically demand that the Institution of Property should, not be limited, as we propose, to things produced by human labour, but entirely abolished. Hence they propose that all the instruments of industry shall belong only and all the processes of industry shall be managed only by the Government of the community, to whom shall be allotted also the function of distributing its proceeds.

We do not belong to this school of thought, but we are not here concerned with its refutation. In the interests of both fair play and clear thinking, however, we do most energetically protest against the increasing Tory method of lumping together all proposed social changes, labelling them "Socialism," in red letters, and denouncing them all, collectively and individually, as Socialistic, and, therefore, unworthy of a free and enlightened people. We hope that such tactics will deceive only those who want to be deceived. Still, it is not "playing the game": the "game" that is necessary if Constitutional Government—government by discussion—is to continue. Correct thought is the necessary precursor of correct action, individual and collective. And neither correct thinking nor clear thinking is promoted by lumping together things in

their nature different, aye, often antagonistic, and labelling them under one generic term. Such actions often produce results very different from those anticipated by those who indulge in them.

This confusion of thought may temporarily serve the present purpose of some who call themselves "Socialists": it is certainly promoted and encouraged by the utterances of some who pose as their leaders and who claim to speak in their name. It may temporarily serve the purpose of the Tory Party, of the upholders of established privilege and legalised plunder, who by its means may hope to stem the steady advance toward the recognition and the enforcement of the equal claims of all to life, and all that this involves. But it cannot serve the higher interests of humanity, of that gradual peaceful evolution of a Social State based upon Social Justice, which has ever been the hope and inspiration of the seers and prophets of our race. L. H. B.

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE.

By A. W.

THE CAUSE OF THE COLLAPSE.—"There are slight but distinct signs of the reaction against Liberal and Labour policy which was visible at the last November elections and which is due mainly to dislike of high rates and dread of their being higher. Returns from the rest of the country, so far as they have yet come in, show that this tendency is both strong and widespread. . . ."—"Manchester Guardian," November 2nd.

PRIVILEGED PLUNDER.—Miss Gladys Vanderbilt came of age on Saturday, when she was consequently entitled to her inheritance of 12,000,000 dols.

"A London lady, Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald, has, it is understood, leased to a building syndicate land owned by her at the corner of Broadway and Forty-Third Street, New York, on which huge business offices and a theatre are to be erected. The lease is for forty-two years, and the sum paid is 4,000,000 dols."—"Tribune," November 4th.

GREENHOUSES AND A "GREEN" PEOPLE.—Says the "Manchester Guardian" of October 24th, "Amateur gardeners of Bacup met in force on Tuesday night to protest against an attempt on the part of the overseers to collect a rate for greenhouses. A petition was drawn up pointing to the great hardships inflicted on working men who, at considerable cost of time and labour, have put up greenhouses that they might devote their spare time to the cultivation of flowers. The petition was very extensively signed, and the question is being put to the front in all the contests in connection with the municipal elections. If our people were not a "green" people there would be no rates on greenhouses or on any other houses.

THE BLACK MAN UNDERSTANDS IT.—Reuter's Telegram, Nairobi, November 11th:—"Mr. Winston Churchill to-day returned from a motoring excursion to Fort Hall, whence he rode to Embu. At Fort Hall he had an interview with the chiefs of Kiambu, who were accompanied by 4,000 Wakikuyu. Mr. Churchill expressed his pleasure at seeing them and at their prosperity, and impressed on them the advantages of earning wages and improving their stock. He also promised the retention of sufficient land for them and their children."

The "ignorant" black man understands far better than the white man how essential the land is to life and to

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