

WHAT CAN I DO TO SPREAD THE LIGHT?

Of late we have received many letters which might well be summed up in the above sentence. We rejoice at the fact as a sign of past, as well as of good augur for our future progress. Every earnest man whose own eyes have been opened to the simplicity, beauty, and truth of our fundamental doctrines, can and should do something to spread the light. Without knowing his circumstances and conditions, it is impossible for us to prescribe to each what is the best method of work at his command or within his means. Work that may be easy and attractive to some may be impossible to others. Each must decide for himself; the great thing is that he should do something, and, despite all difficulties, persist in his work when once commenced.

To aid our readers to come to a decision, we shall now briefly summarise the chief means by which the individual, according to his means, powers, and opportunities, may make himself useful to the cause, and to his fellow men, by helping to spread the light.

Subscribe to existing Associations.

The readiest and to many the easiest means is to subscribe as liberally as possible to the already active associations, whose activities are necessarily limited by the funds at their command. Knowing intimately the inner workings of all of these in Great Britain, we have no hesitation in strongly recommending this course of action. We also feel that many existing subscribers could easily materially increase their subscriptions, thus relieving the office-holders of many hours of harassing worry, and making much urgent and necessary work possible that to-day has reluctantly to be abandoned for want of the necessary funds.

Circulate League Literature.

There is no better means of spreading the light than circulating land reform literature, books, pamphlets, leaflets, and copies of the official organ of the Associated League's, *Land Values*. Lend your own copies to friends; few of whom will then begrudge a penny for a paper devoted to a question in which they are commencing to be interested. Then canvass for orders for some of the more important books. Many quiet, unassuming friends have often secured orders for as many as twelve of our 5/6 sets of Henry George's books within a single three months. Others have done yeoman service by securing orders for same for their local club or public library. Everything helps, and no earnest work in this direction is ever wasted. If you can afford it, lay in a small stock of your own, even if only a dozen of the 6d. "Protection or Free Trade"—a question on which to-day everybody is seeking information.

Start a Reading Circle.

By this means, too, much useful work has of late been accomplished. Get your friends to agree to meet and bring other friends with them, say once a week, or even once a month. Probably the best method is to arrange to read a chapter out of one of the standard works on our question, and then to discuss same. "The Story of my Dictatorship" and "Social Problems" are specially suitable for such work, as each chapter in same deals with one phase of our great question.

Organize Meetings.

This seems a big order; but if a favourable opportunity be waited on, is much more easy than it appears. Most men belong to some Club, Institute, Class, or Association. Well, make use of them. Suggest at the annual meeting or a committee meeting that a lecture or a paper on the Land Question, or the Labour Question, or the Fiscal Question, would be welcome. If your proposal be accepted, then see to it yourself that a man qualified to deal with it on our lines is made available; that one or other of our leaflets is

distributed; and that a well assorted supply of our literature is on sale. If you are within reasonable distance, both men and literature can be supplied from one or other of our Leagues. If you are too far off or have a good local man, a supply of literature can be requisitioned, "**on sale or return**," from the League offices, and thus your risk be limited to the cost of carriage.

Write to Your Local Paper.

To this useful and telling work every properly-equipped land and taxation reformer can and should contribute. Some phase or other of our question is constantly cropping up and being discussed in the correspondence columns of the daily and weekly newspapers. Send in your views as moderately and convincingly as possible; if you think it necessary or advisable, use a *nom-de-plume*. Moreover, whenever possible refer to some book or pamphlet bearing on the question, and state where it can be obtained. The value of this work cannot be over-estimated. Only last month we had a demand for literature mentioned in a letter written nearly four years ago!

There are, of course, countless other means by which good work can be done. Those who seek will find. The field is vast and the labourers few. The struggle is, in truth, only now commencing. Happy are we who are permitted to take part in it, as do all who in any way assist to spread the light. Individually, we may be able to accomplish but little; but we know and rejoice in the knowledge that our united efforts will sooner or later, accomplish much. For the Golden Age, the time when Justice shall prevail, lies, not behind, but before us, and our work is helping to hasten its coming.

L. H. B.

THE LAW ON THE SUBJECT.—Sir Frederick Pollock, in his "Land Laws" (chap 1, p. 12), says:—"It is commonly supposed that land belongs to its owner in the same sense as money, or a watch; this has not been the theory of the English law since the Norman Conquest, nor has it been so in its fullest significance at any time. No absolute ownership of land is recognised by our law-books except in the Crown. All lands are supposed to be held immediately or mediately of the Crown, though no rent or services may be payable, and no grant from the Crown on record."

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