

HOW TO ESTABLISH WORLD PEACE

By John Cameron

AN AMERICAN writer recently propounded a scheme whereby future wars would be made impossible. It has not received the attention it deserves, so I wish to give it further publicity.

This plan is for all nations to trade freely with each other, just as individuals do with their fellow countrymen within their own borders, and he urges the United States to set a good example by abolishing all tariffs on imported goods, since tariffs engender national hatred.

Free exchange of goods is not, of itself, sufficient to make the nations prosperous and contented, or to kill the desire to annex new territory. Before we can trade in goods they must be produced. First, the raw materials must be extracted from the bosom of the earth, and here we encounter interference of the earth owners who demand a heavy tax (which they call rent) for mere permission to use the earth—permission, be it noted, which they can withhold if they please.

Next comes the working up of the raw materials into the finished article. Sites for mills, factories, warehouses, etc., are required, and, here again, the landowner exacts a constantly increasing tax or toll in the form of ground rent. Land in Cornhill, London, had once no value whatever, but recently a site there changed hands at the rate of six-and-a-half million pounds per acre!

Then comes the transport of the goods to the port of embarkation. The railway companies are obliged to charge stiff rates for carriage, principally because they have been fleeced by land sharks before laying their rails; for when a new railway or road is proposed, land which previously had only an agricultural value of £40 per acre immediately soars to many thousands of pounds per acre.

The nation must put itself in the landowner's place as a tax collector, beginning with a moderate tax on the true value of all land whether, mark you, the site is in use and yielding rent or kept vacant, awaiting a greatly enhanced rent or price in the future. It would then be unprofitable to keep land idle. New opportunities for the investment of capital would be opened up. Labour would be in brisk demand and the wages of all workers would rise. An era of general prosperity would be ushered in.

Hitler and Mussolini demand colonies, but they have only to open their ports and the raw materials of the world would be showered upon them. They wish room for expansion, but are their own countries fully developed? Is the land all in use? Are all their minerals worked? Are their people fully employed, sufficiently housed, fed and clothed? It is certain that our own country is only half colonized.

To make trade really free we must not only abolish export and import dues but every tax or local rate on production, manufacture and transport of goods. The people must resume possession of their natural revenue, viz., the rent or annual value of the nation's land. With the land freed, we shall have free trade and free men.

Although we abolished all other taxation, we should be no better off if we left the land monopoly untouched, for it is the nature of ground rent to increase with every improvement and take all that the traffic will stand. With free trade in production and exchange, we could safely disband our armies and navies and convert our battleships into trading vessels. The desire and the necessity for conquest would disappear. In fact, there would be no men available for warfare; for they would

all be engaged in more honourable and profitable occupations.

It is a big task I have outlined, but until it is accomplished national and international strife must continue. The reward awaiting us, if we are wise, will be great; aggression and dictatorship banished and a world at last at peace!

(The foregoing article was circulated to the press by the United Committee's Press Bureau and has appeared in a number of newspapers.)

"PROTECTIONISM IN IRELAND"

Apropos our January article, "Mr De Valera and Free Trade," a correspondent sends us the following extract from a letter received from an Irish friend in Eire—received before a copy of *Land & Liberty* had been sent to him:

"Ever since De Valera got into power taxation and the national debt have been increasing. I believe that this is the dearest country in Europe to live in. Protected by prohibitive tariffs, our manufacturers can charge pretty well what they like and supply almost any rubbish they like. Income tax is 6s. 6d. in the £.

"Agriculture is in a bad way. The 'economic war' has caused loss which it will take many years to overcome. More than 90 per cent of the farmers are heavily in debt. The soil is exhausted because the farmers are unable to buy artificial manures.

"The population is decreasing. It is estimated that in the last six years about 90,000 of our young men and women have gone to live permanently in Great Britain. The fall in our child population is alarming. I speak soberly when I say that if things continue as at present, there will not be an Irish-born Celt in Ireland in 100 years' time. Our marriage rate is the lowest in Europe, and the age at which people marry is the highest.

"Politics dominate everything. No matter how incompetent you may be you will get an important position if you have the right political complexion; and if you have not, you'll get nothing, no matter what your attainments may be.

"Before De Valera got into office he declared he could get rid of unemployment; in fact it was a very easy problem to solve. Mr Lemass said that under a De Valera Government there would be so much demand for labour that it would be necessary to bring back Irishmen from other countries. Well, to-day we have 108,000 unemployed.

"It is a dreary tale of incompetence and corruption, humiliating and depressing. It takes a stout heart to see, or even to hope, for any light ahead. For despite all the blundering and all the misery that has followed the blundering, De Valera has still the ear of the majority, and there is no evidence of any reaction."

A LETTER FROM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"I have lately made a tour through Ireland and Scotland: in those countries a small part of society are landlords, great noblemen, and gentlemen, extremely opulent, living in the highest affluence and magnificence: the bulk of the people tenants, living in the most sordid wretchedness in dirty hovels of mud and straw and clothed only in rags.

"I thought often of the happiness of New England, where every man is a freeholder, has a vote in public affairs, lives in a tidy, warm house, has plenty of good food and fuel, with whole clothes from head to foot, the manufacture perhaps of his own family. Long may