

## WOULD THE SINGLE TAX CURE UNEMPLOYMENT?

*Notes of an Address by CHARLES E. CROMPTON delivered in Debate at the Lowther Hall, Carlisle, 28th February.*

We are met together to consider *ONE QUESTION* and one question only.

Would Single Tax cure unemployment?

We all know what unemployment means.

### MEANING OF SINGLE TAX.

What does Single Tax mean? It is the most revolutionary proposal ever suggested. Also the most simple.

### THE PROPOSAL.

The proposal is that Land should be made common property and all rates and taxes abolished. Will it cure unemployment?

### SINGLE TAX OFFICER.

Let us imagine that the Single Tax is in force, and that I am the officer in charge of it in this district.

### SAY TO USERS AND OCCUPIERS—LAND COMMON PROPERTY.

*Land is now held to be common property.*

### PAYMENT FOR HOLDING.

*You are required to make a yearly payment to the State for the privilege of occupying or holding the piece of land upon which your house, shop or factory is built.*

### NO OTHER RATES OR TAXES.

*There will be no other rates or taxes.*

### UNUSED LAND.

After dealing with all used land I turn my attention to unused or vacant land. There are plenty of such plots to be seen in this city. They often have a notice board on them: *This valuable Piece of Land, etc.* So there can be no doubt as to their having value.

### SAY TO OWNER.

To the owner of such a plot I would say—

### LAND COMMON PROPERTY.

*Land is now held to be common property.*

### PAYMENT FOR HOLDING.

*You are required to make a yearly payment to the State for the privilege of holding it.*

He will say—

### NO REVENUE.

*I cannot pay. The land is bringing in no revenue.*

I reply: "If it were built upon it would bring in a revenue."

### SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

You know there is a shortage of houses in the district, and one of the difficulties used to be the exorbitant price asked for building land.

### HIGH PRICE OF LAND.

I point out to him that under a Single Tax system there are no rates or taxes levied upon houses, and that builders are ready to build, and say:—

### REVENUE OBTAINED BY BUILDING.

"You had better get some houses built upon your land as soon as possible, and then your land will bring you in some revenue."

### CALL FOR LABOUR.

*To help to do this he would have to call upon Labour.*

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

### LAND ON OUTSKIRTS.

Having dealt with all vacant land I turn my attention to the outskirts.

### CLAY LAND.

I come across a piece of land containing clay suitable for making bricks.

### VALUE IF USED.

I draw the owner's attention to its value if used for this purpose. I point out to him—

### LAND COMMON PROPERTY.

*Land is now held to be common property, and say—*

### PAYMENT FOR HOLDING.

*You are required to make a yearly payment to the State for the privilege of holding it. He will reply—*

### NO REVENUE.

*I cannot pay. The land is bringing in no revenue.*

I reply: If this valuable clay were made into bricks a handsome revenue could be obtained from it.

### BOOM IN BUILDING DUE TO SINGLE TAX.

I would point out to him that there was something like a boom in the building trade coming, due to two causes.

### RATES OFF HOUSES.

Abolition of rates and taxes on buildings.

### CHEAP BUILDING LAND.

Land owners offering land at reasonable prices.

### REVENUE OBTAINED BY BRINGING LAND INTO USE.

In his own interest I fancy he would soon open up his brickfields, and to do this he would have to call upon Labour to help.

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

### TIMBER LAND USED AS GAME PRESERVE.

Next I come to a fine piece of wooded country, an ideal place for raising game, in charge, I discover, of a decent fellow, who tells me he is the game keeper, and that no one is allowed in the sacred precincts without the owner's permission.

### LAND COMMON PROPERTY.

I approach the owner, and point out to him that *Land is now held to be common property, and say—*

### PAYMENT FOR HOLDING.

*You are required to make a yearly payment to the State for the privilege of holding it. Again the usual reply—*

### NO REVENUE.

*I cannot pay. The land is bringing in no revenue.*

I point out to him the utility of this land for producing timber, so necessary for houses and other buildings.

### BOOM IN BUILDING.

Again I refer to the boom in building, due to three causes—

### RATES OFF HOUSES.

Abolition of rates and taxes on buildings.

### CHEAP BUILDING LAND.

Landowners offering land at reasonable prices.

### PLENTIFUL BRICKS.

Plentiful supply of bricks.

All due to the Single Tax on Land Values.

It would be impossible to make an exception in his case, and the only suggestion I can offer is that he cuts down his trees and supplies the building trade with the timber they so urgently need.

## REVENUE BY BRINGING LAND INTO USE.

I sympathize with him in his protest that the beauty of the countryside will be destroyed, and point out to him that he can plant more trees, as he should have done long ago.

## AFFORESTATION AT LAST.

This would be the beginning of a proper system of *Afforestation*, so much needed.

## CALL FOR LABOUR.

*To do all this he would have to call on Labour to help.*

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

## COAL AND IRON MINES.

Next I take a little excursion into West Cumberland. I see various mines dotted about the countryside—some coal, some iron, etc.

## COAL AND IRON LAND.

In some parts there are no mines and no prospecting. I am told the *Lord of the Manor* will not allow it, although there is every reason to believe that coal and iron exist in great quantities.

## LAND COMMON PROPERTY.

Again I have to point out to the various owners that *Land is now held to be common property*, and that—

## PAYMENT FOR HOLDING.

*They are required to make a yearly payment to the State for the privilege of holding it.*

Again comes the same answer—

## NO REVENUE.

*We cannot pay. The land is bringing in no revenue.*

## REVENUE OBTAINED BY PUTTING LAND TO USE.

Again I have to point the large revenue that could be obtained if the land were put to proper use, and urge them to allow prospecting and get their valuable land opened up.

## CALL FOR LABOUR.

*To do this they would have to call on Labour to help.*

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

## HUNDREDS OF OTHER EXAMPLES POSSIBLE.

One could go on enumerating example after example, such as stone quarries, slate quarries, lime works, sand, pottery and china clay, etc., etc.

## RAW MATERIALS BY LABOUR FROM LAND.

All these things can only be got by labour from land, and once it became unprofitable to misuse such free gifts of nature landholders would be tumbling over one another to get their properties put to the fullest use.

## CALL FOR LABOUR.

*To do that they would have to call on Labour to help.*

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

## SO FAR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

So far we have only been dealing with primary industries, that is, the collecting or producing *Raw Materials from Land*.

## HOPE WE AGREE.

I hope that we are all agreed that we have found a possibility of greatly increased employment in these primary industries.

## ONLY THE BEGINNING OF INDUSTRY.

But this is only the beginning of Industry, although it is the basis of it.

## PEOPLE MUST BE FED, CLOTHED AND HOUSED WHILST ENGAGED IN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

A large number of people are engaged in digging and baking clay, in sawing timber and planting trees, in bringing coal and iron to the surface, hewing stone in quarries, and the production of slates and lime and sand.

But while doing these things they will require—

*Food to eat.*

*Clothes to wear.*

*Houses to live in.*

## EFFECTIVE DEMAND IN SECONDARY INDUSTRIES.

This will make an effective demand in the *Secondary Industries which provide these things*.

## FARMERS' INCREASED TRADE.

There will be a demand on the farmers much greater than ever before.

## CALL FOR LABOUR.

The farmers will *call upon Labour to help them*.

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

## CLOTHES AND FACTORIES.

Clothes, boots and shoes and such like will be in effective demand.

## CALL FOR LABOUR.

The manufacturers of these things will *call upon Labour to help them*.

## Would that Tend to Reduce Unemployment?

## GOOD TRADE PERMANENT.

With *Labour* fully occupied the demand for houses will also be effective, and a state of affairs which we usually call *Good Trade* will become permanently established.

*The Tide of Unemployment could be stemmed to-morrow once it was certain that the People were determined to have their Rights.*