

"And, now, good Master Hardhead,
Your answer quickly give:
If all the land De Canter's is,
How can Tom Tumbler live?
Thou follower of Malthus,
The issue do not shirk,
Since he has naught to work upon,
How can Tom Tumbler work?"

"Were there but two men in the world
(This truth on you I'll stamp),
While all the world belongs to one,
The other is a tramp.
And until private ownership
In land has been destroyed,
Wherever two men congregate
One MAY be unemployed."

—From the PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE, *Adelaide*, 21st September.

"DEAD, YET SPEAKETH"

The Rev. Dr. Clifford, the "Grand Old Man" of Non-conformity, had been for many years a member of the English League. He died suddenly on the morning of 20th November, at the age of 87, just after he had made a speech at a Baptist Union meeting in Kingsway. On that very morning I had received a letter from him—one of the last letters, if not the very last, he ever wrote. I had shown him a copy of a paper I had written for the Conference on Christian Politics, Economics and Citizenship ("C.O.P.E.C."). He returned the copy and wrote (19th November):—

"Dear Mr. Verinder,—I am deeply indebted to you for the sight you have afforded me of your contribution to 'Copec.' It is an admirable piece of work, and will form a most valuable contribution to the cause of justice, freedom and brotherhood.

"But what a huge task Liberalism has in front of it, and how sluggishly our people face it! How difficult it is to make the voter understand that all questions of housing, of child life, of shortness of food, of raw material, of employment, etc., carry us by a direct route to the necessity of ending the land monopoly by drastic taxation and rating of land values for the benefit of the whole of the people. I hope your paper will get a wide circulation and a diligent reading. I return the M.S. with many thanks. . . . JOHN CLIFFORD."

F. V.

A USEFUL REMINDER

Lord Lansdowne has put forward his proposals, and I venture at the first opportunity to challenge them. What is his plan? His plan is that you should use public credit and public money to buy such land as the landlords see fit to part with. That is not good enough. There is no compulsion. The landlord is to pick and choose, not the country that finds the money. . . . Don't let us break that wand (the credit of the country); don't let us smash it in merely raising up huge sums of money in order to enrich a class which, whatever may be said about it in its past, at any rate is not a class that deserves that England should sink herself deep under burdens in order that you should enrich.—*Mr. Lloyd George, at Sydenham, 5th July, 1913.*

"A colonization without a territorial charter, in which the land has to be bought literally by the square yard, and every purchase puts up the price of land against yourself, is a monstrosity unknown to history."—*Mr. Israel Zangwill at the American Jewish Congress, New York, 13th October, 1923.*

DECLARATION BY THE ENGLISH LEAGUE

The Executive of the English League has issued a Circular Letter in the following terms to members and friends of the League and to the Press:—

The Government, put into office by a minority of the voters only a year ago, on a promise of "tranquillity" and a pledge not to alter our fiscal system, has suddenly decided to appeal to the country on an issue which is certain to raise violent controversy; and seeks to add the burden of "Protection" to the manifold other evils from which this Nation is suffering.

At a time when Peace and Goodwill among the Nations of the world is of all things the most urgently needed, the Government proposes to declare a Tariff war, not only against our former enemies, but against our late Allies, and against those who were neutral in the Great War. At a time when unemployment on a colossal scale is causing untold misery to those who are out of work, and depressing the wages of those who are in employment, the Government proposes, on pretence of abolishing unemployment, to hamper the production and exchange of goods by a horde of new taxes, which will increase the price of the necessities of life and of industry, and directly promote and facilitate the creation of Monopolies, Combines and Trusts; which will breed in this country, as it has done in every Protectionist country, political corruption on a scale hitherto unknown to us; and make the lobbies of the House of Commons the hunting grounds of those who are clamouring for the special privileges which a Protective Tariff always creates.

It is useless for Mr. Baldwin to pretend that the measures proposed are only temporary expedients for "this period of emergency," or that only some industries will be "protected." A Protective Tariff always breeds powerful and wealthy vested interests, which resist to the uttermost any attempt to abolish it.

Both in what it contains and in what it omits, the Government scheme for the revision of our fiscal system is a direct challenge to the principles which this League has always advocated. For forty years we have advocated real and complete Free Trade, and the break-up of land monopoly by the taxation and rating of land values. The two reforms are complementary. Their adoption would free production all along the line, by opening up the source from which all food and raw materials of industry are drawn, and by freeing the machinery and processes of industry, and the exchange of the products of industry, from the burdens of taxation, whether imposed "for revenue only," or for the purposes of the swindle known as "Protection."

But, necessary as it is to take up the challenge thrown out to us, the rejection of the Tariff proposals is not enough. We must do our utmost to secure a Parliamentary majority for a positive policy that will really help the workers, who are seeking jobs or homes or better wages without finding them. It is impossible to deal with unemployment or the housing question without dealing with the land—"the field of all labour and the source of all wealth," the site upon which all houses must be built, and from which all building materials, and indeed all the raw material of industry, must be drawn. The Government is appealing to the agricultural constituencies by the offer of a bribe of £1 an acre on arable land. What the producers of food and other useful things most urgently need is access to land on fair terms, and exemption from taxation and rating on their industry and improvements. This can be secured by means of the Taxation and Rating of Land Values.

We ask our members and friends to make the best use they can, during the Election, of such literature as we can supply; to give their personal service unstintingly to the cause until the polling is over, and to help us to the best of their means with funds for the Election. Our need for financial help is very urgent.