

Churchill Promises Land

In his speech of March 27th to the British Parliament, Winston Churchill spoke of the land question after the war.

"We are told by busy wiseacres: 'How can you build houses without land?' We already said in 1941 that all land shall be taken at prices based on March 31, 1939, values. Stocks and shares and many classes of real property have gone up. Agricultural land has also risen in value. The state has power—which it will on no account surrender—to claim all land needed bona fide for public purposes at values fixed before wartime conditions. There are hard places which will be best adjusted by Parliament. In the main you may be sure that land will be forthcoming when and where needed for all houses needed for the people. Nobody needs to be deterred from planning for the future by the fact that they may not have land-legislation to enable the authorities to get any land will be presented at this session."

In 1909, in Edinburgh, Winston

Churchill said: "It is true that land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies—it is the perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly. It is quite true that unearned increments in land are not the only form of unearned and undeserved profit which individuals are able to secure; but it is the principal form of unearned increment which is derived from processes which are not merely not beneficial, but which are positively detrimental to the general public."

"Land, which is a necessity of human existence, which is the original source of all wealth, which is strictly limited in extent, which is fixed in geographical position—land, I say, differs from all other forms of property in these primary and fundamental conditions."

"Nothing is more amusing than to watch the efforts of our monopolist opponents to prove that other forms of property and increment are exactly the same and are similar in all respects to the unearned increment in land."