

land system as an essential condition of these. To use a gardening phrase: our social and economic condition is root-bound by the feudal system. It has no room to develop, but its roots are breaking out. Well, let's burst it!"

MORE CRITICISM

Mr. Snowden by his tactics has delayed the "bursting" process. As a matter of fact the career of the Government since it assumed office has been in antagonism to the philosophy Mr. Snowden preached in the Memorial Hall, London, on May 24th, 1919, when he said: "Every social reform increased the economic rent of land. Therefore, unless they were going "to waste their efforts by tinkering with social questions, as in the past, they must concentrate upon this fundamental question: to secure the land for the people."

That the Labor Government since it obtained office have wasted their efforts is pretty evident. It has gone on administratively and otherwise, increasing economic rent and providing landowners with millions of pounds. The question arises: will it now "forthwith," to use Mr. Snowden's word, really press forward the valuation measure, or will it, anxious for office, give other proposals of a petty character precedence?

MR. SNOWDEN'S BROADCAST TALK

In his broadcast speech, Mr. Snowden is reported to have stated:—

"I propose this year to take the first steps to secure to the community some portion of the enhanced value of the land which is created by the community itself.

If our ancestors had had the foresight and the wisdom to impose a duty on land values a hundred years ago, what vast wealth that has fallen haphazard into the hands of private citizens would have been available for beneficent State purposes! The justice of the claim of the community to share in land values has long been to me a cherished conviction. That conviction is shared by two parties of the land. I am not, indeed, proposing to levy a duty on land values in this Budget. I am not even prejudging what the form of the impost should be. Both the State and the local authorities have claims to be weighed. That is a question which must come afterwards. First of all, we need a valuation. It is only when site value of land has been ascertained—a lengthy process—that money can be raised.

But we shall introduce a Valuation Bill for the ascertainment of the site value of land, and as soon as legislation can be passed we shall press on actively with the task of valuation so that this long overdue reform may be inaugurated with the least possible delay."

A DELUSION

Mr. Snowden is suffering from a delusion, if he fancies Land Value disciples want a Valuation Bill merely "for the ascertainment of the site value of land."

That may be the view of Mr. Snowden, and, if so, it is one which will please Whig Liberals and agricultural landowners.

What is wanted is not a valuation merely of "sites," but of all land, irrespective of improvements, a valuation on these lines of all rural as well as urban land.

Henry George disciples know that a tax on agricultural—as well as site—land values will operate to break up big estates, thereby causing a big distribution of ground and so provide for more users. To exempt agricultural land values would tend to keep in existence high rents, withholding of land from use, and promote land speculation. In and around cities and towns there is land claimed as agricultural, rented at about thirty shillings an acre; but when wanted for building purposes the selling price has ranged from £200 to £1,200 an acre in some cases in the neighborhood of Glasgow.

The Land Value M. P.s will offer strenuous opposition to any measure that is merely for the "ascertainment of site values."

NEW FORCES ON LABOR SIDE

If the Valuation Bill satisfies Henry Georgites, the Government will have a new force on its side in the constituencies—men with years of experience of propaganda work. Landlord interests in the Commons are likely to obstruct the passage of the measure very fiercely. With the assistance of the Liberals, it ought to pass the Commons, and may be rejected in the House of Lords. It will then be up to the Government, if it lasts till then, to tack on the measure to the next Budget.

J. O'D. DERRICK.

Activities In New York

OUR friends of the Commonwealth Land party in this city have not been inactive. Gathering their members together for field work over ten thousand circulars were distributed in one day in subways and at the city ferries. This large page circular written by George Lloyd showed how \$800,000,000 of land values are allowed to escape while the officials of the city are seeking new sources of revenue!

Both George Lloyd and M. Van Veen have addressed a number of meetings in the last two months. Mr. Van Veen appeared before the 23rd Assembly District League of Woman Voters and spoke for two hours. Other meetings addressed by this indefatigable worker were the Hamilton Community Council and the Socialist Club of Brooklyn, where George Lloyd also spoke.

OUR machines long ago solved the problem of production. Why should not our statesmen and captains of industry use their genius and experience for the solution of the pressing problem of distribution?

—CLARENCE DARROW, in *Plain Talk*.