

lords will very soon make an approach to their tenants, and we shall see a rent ramp very early in operation in the wheat-growing districts of the country.

Mr PRICE (Labour): In Amendments which we moved previously we suggested that there was a danger, unless there was a safeguard, that landlords would take advantage of the operation of the Measure and increase their rent charges. We were told that there was no need for such a safeguard and that the landlords would not dream of doing anything like that, but the Minister gets up this afternoon and encourages them. He says, "You will be quite justified," and he no doubt expects them to do so.

## SIR HERBERT SAMUEL ON LIBERAL POLICY AND TARIFFS

Speaking at an Oxford Union Debate, 3rd June, Sir Herbert Samuel, in a vigorous attack on Protection (*News-Chronicle* report), said:—

The forces which make for tariffs are powerful. There are strong financial inducements; manufacturers have the greatest incentive to raise prices in order that they may grow rich in the name of patriotism and in the cause of the Empire.

The effects of the present tariffs are concealed from the ordinary observer, who does not closely follow economic movements. . . . Protectionists ignore the fact that the general level of prices throughout the world has fallen, and that but for tariffs prices in this country would have fallen.

Tariffs, therefore, have increased the cost of living in this country.

The whole policy of tariffs is misconceived from the beginning. It will not achieve the result aimed at, and a short experience will speedily show the necessity of returning to Free Trade and Liberal ideas.

A resolution "that this House looks to a revival of Liberal ideas as the best means of restoring the welfare of Great Britain, of the British Empire and of the world," was defeated by 184 to 172.

The vote is regarded as indicative of the reaction that has now set in against tariffs.

## JOSEPH HYDER

We regret to announce the death on 2nd June, of Joseph Hyder, Secretary of the Land Nationalization Federation. He had continued working up to near the close of his life. Of his 68 years, 44 had been spent as Secretary of the Land Nationalization Federation.

G. C. writes: "Joseph Hyder was an energetic and conscientious worker, and had delivered thousands of addresses upon the injustice of private property in land and upon the economic evils which originate from it. A large proportion of these addresses were delivered in rural districts with the aid of the familiar 'Yellow Van.' This gave the title to Richard Whiteing's interesting novel, though, when the author gained his experience by travelling with the van, the lecturer was not Joseph Hyder but M. T. Simm, of the Lancashire Branch of the Society. Mrs Hyder often accompanied and assisted her husband in these tours. In recent times the Society suffered, like many others, from a decline in income, but Mr Hyder continued his labour at his post vigorously in spite of unfavourable circumstances."

In public speaking, Mr Hyder was ever at his best, and his claim for compensation to landowners was in striking contrast to his fierce denunciation of the tyranny of landlordism. That, of course, was the policy of his Society, and it is what separated him and his organization from the Single Taxers. The Land Nationalization Society wanted State ownership and control of land by purchase. The Single Taxers stand for the liberation of the land from monopoly, State monopoly included. In the Single Tax scheme the rent of land is to be taken in relief of existing taxation. In Mr Hyder's line of approach, the rent was to be earmarked for the landowners. Between the two schools of thought there could be no compromise, and there was none.

## NOTES AND NEWS

One of the best short descriptions of the Budget which I have seen is that given in the course of a statement by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values.—*Oldham Evening Chronicle*, 26th April.

There is no economic difficulty in making the post-war payments if the debtor countries are allowed to make them. Great Britain has built up an enormous credit position by the transfer of her excess of exports, visible and invisible, to countries now her debtors. The thing can be done, then. But in that case, the other parties were willing to receive our goods and services. Tariffs, not international payments, are the chief obstacle to improvement, and in placing annulment of the debts first, authorities at home are "hunting the wrong hare." Not only that, but by themselves introducing their own tariff, they have drawn a red herring across the trail which makes hunting the right hare infinitely more difficult.—"NAUTA SINE STELLA," Egypt, in *The Economist*, 28th May.

A further examination at the London Bankruptcy Court, 13th April, of a former M.P. revealed the fact that in 1923 he and another person bought for £43,000 some cottage property from the Duke of Westminster and re-sold it at a profit of £70,000, his share of which was £24,000.

At the annual gathering of the Hotels and Restaurants Association, London, Lord Derby spoke of the many handicaps upon hotel-keepers in the small towns, as well as in London.

"A man tries to improve his hotel," he said. "He puts in more bathrooms, increases the accommodation, tries to make his hotel more comfortable in order to attract business—and at once his assessment is increased and he has to pay additional taxes. That is unfair and ought to be remedied."—*News-Chronicle*, 7th May.

*The Times*, 4th May: For 154 acres at Great Baddow, known as Great Sir Hughe's Farm, there were inquiries which resulted in a sale before the auction. Fruit is to be grown there. The probability of a better market for British produce is weighing with would-be buyers of land. It is of course understood that the tariffs on produce have nothing whatever to do with this increase in the value of land. It is probably due to "foresight."

The following letter, written by a Canadian farmer in reply to a request for payment of instalments due on his land, was read by Mr P. A. Cooper, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Co., at the annual meeting in London to-day: "Dear Sir,—I got your letter about what I owe you. Now be patient. I ain't forgot you. Please wait. When I have the money I pay you. If this was Judgment Day and you was no more prepared to meet your Maker than I am to meet your account, you sure would have to go to hell. Trusting you will agree to do this, I am, yours truly, —."—*The Star*, 23th April.

Mr Cameron Corbett, M.P. (now Lord Rowallan), on the Undeveloped Land Duty: "I am convinced that it will do more to assist the acquisition of new open spaces than to endanger those which exist.—Letter in the "*Times*," 17th August, 1909, reprinted in "*Land & Liberty*," then named "*Land Values*," September, 1909.

It seems to me that there is a lack of earnestness in the Government to make matters easier for the middleman, who is standing the brunt of the present strain, or the Finance Act of 1931 would be put in force, whereby Land Values would be taxed. This would relieve the situation, as it would bring in a big sum to the Exchequer, and from those who can afford it, without suffering extremes of fleecing. But, we have too many landlords in the Government for such a measure to have a fair chance. Times are extreme, and a measure like this must be insisted upon; this Taxation of Land Values.—Editorial in the *Ayrshire Post*, 21st May.