

LAND & LIBERTY

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TWO SHILLINGS



EDITORIAL

Churchill and the Land

THE TRIBUTES to the late Sir Winston

Churchill in the Press and over the air have done justice to a man regarded as one of the greatest figures of our time. We do not seek to compete with those who are more competent than ourselves to assess his greatness, but missing from the many notable speeches recalled in his memory are those that have a special relevance for us, and for which he will be remembered by land reformers for generations to come. We refer to Churchill's speeches on the evils of land monopoly and the justice of land-value taxation.

The enigma, that Churchill in the years that followed neither confirmed nor retracted the views he so ably expressed in those speeches, may never be resolved. It is only on record that in the House of Commons on Budget Day, May 1946, when challenged on this very issue and reminded that he once sang the "Land Song" he replied: "I shall sing it again."

In this issue we reprint extracts from Churchill's famous speeches made when he was a Liberal, and but for the slight imprint of his then day and age these speeches are as fresh, crisp and relevant as though they had come from yesterday's Hansard. Such speeches can never be forgotten.

Among the last tributes to be paid to Sir Winston was one in *The Observer* (January 31) and we cannot but note the special significance of the words in this tribute to our own thoughts, although applied in a different context. Speaking of Churchill's warnings of war in the thirties, *The Observer* said: "What he asked was simple and his voice was audible. Why could so very few understand and agree?"

"Unless we know the answer to this, we have not learned the lessons of that time and may repeat the mistakes of our fathers without even knowing we are doing so."

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