

is £2,000 or over is entitled to three votes. He may have this qualification in different ridings, and there may be twelve ridings in a county! Mr. Morrison and his friends coolly demand that they should be relieved of rates, but still retain their voting qualifications! 'We do not desire to evade our responsibilities,' says Mr. Morrison, but they demand to be relieved of a million pounds annually in rates all the same while retaining the plural franchise!

"As for Mr. Morrison's assertion that the unimproved value of land is an uncertain quantity, we would point out that it is a very certain quantity when it comes to the resumption of land for public purposes. When the Crown acquired the Flaxbourne Estate in Marlborough the 'compensation' was £60,000 in excess of the land-tax valuation. The Hatuma Estate in Hawke's Bay was acquired for £23,000 above the land-tax valuation, and Forest Gate for £13,000. More recently we have seen the Crown mulct for £11,000 for a mud bank in the Hutt River Estuary, of which the official valuation was less than half that sum. And more recently still we know that Councillor Appleton received £37,000 for a piece of land in Wellington City which a dog would cover in half a dozen leaps! So much for Mr. Morrison's accuracy.

"Fellow-Electors, we ask you to bear the foregoing facts in mind when you cast your votes and to see that you do not allow the land monopolists, who are the scourge of this country, 'to get away' with a clear million annually at the expense of further taxes on wages, salaries and incomes."

The echo of the League's campaign was heard in the final election speech of the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, which was broadcast throughout New Zealand and in which Mr. Fraser said: "An agitation had been raised by Labour's opponents to free the rich landowners from their legitimate rate obligations in respect to hospitals. He wished to tell the mass of the people that if the hospital rate was taken off the rich properties the burden would have to fall on the wage earners and the poorest section of the community, who would have to contribute an equivalent amount either from social security payments or through extra taxation."

Mr. Varlow in his covering letter expressed the hope that the Wellington League would grow out to the "New Zealand" League. Meanwhile they were in the process of forming rules, etc., to become incorporated in law; and so that it be provided with explanatory literature a considerable order for books and pamphlets has been placed with the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain.

The Objects of the League are thus stated: (1) To advocate the raising of public revenue by taxes upon the value of land apart from buildings and improvements in order to secure the economic rent of land for the community; (2) to advocate that all local-body rating shall be upon the unim-

proved value of the land; (3) to oppose the transferring of profits from municipal trading concerns to the general fund for the purpose of reducing rates on land; (4) to advocate the reduction of indirect taxation and to oppose the imposition of taxes which act in restraint of trade or tend to retard

industry or to increase the cost of living; (5) to stimulate public opinion in support of the above objects by means of the distribution of literature, public lectures, debates, letters to the Press, deputations to Parliament and such other lawful and constitutional means as may be decided.

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LIBERAL LIBERTY LEAGUE

Free Trade Free Land Free Men

THE FOLLOWING notice has been issued by a group of Liberals who are concerned to strengthen and clarify the Party's position on fundamental economic policy. Members of the Liberal Party who are willing to assist in this effort are invited to communicate with Mr. Ashley Mitchell, 250 Almondbury Bank, Huddersfield:—

"For fifty years the Liberal Party has advocated the breaking of land monopoly by the Taxation of Land Values. But at the Annual Assembly of the Party in July, 1943, that policy was forsaken and by inference renounced. A resolution which was rushed with little opportunity for discussion accepted the Uthwatt scheme of land purchase that would endow privilege at the public expense. Thus famous Liberals of the past who have declared that the unimproved value of land belonged to the people are disowned.

"The Assembly also abrogated the old Free Trade gospel of Liberalism by passing a resolution which in effect declared that the reduction of British tariffs was a matter of reciprocity dependent on international agreements. That was handing the key of the Citadel to the Protectionists. Following this surrender the Party leaders easily and logically led the Assembly to decisions favouring the extension of State subsidies, State patronages, and State controls over commerce and industry.

"These steps must be retraced. They have disturbed and dismayed many Liberals almost to the point of shedding their political allegiance. A new, forward and vigorous campaign is called for. The undersigned have therefore decided to form a League, within the Party, for the purpose of offering to such Liberals a centre from which they can act together to uphold and promote the principles they hold dear. Thus we may secure a sound policy for the Liberal Party before the next election.

"The only justification for the existence of a political party is that it stands for some fundamental concept of the body politic; that it is based on faith in the truth of some natural laws that will lead to the progress of humanity. The Liberal Party grew on such faith, in the teachings of Adam Smith, J. S. Mill, Cobden, Gladstone, Campbell-Bannerman and others, that the way of evolution was by freeing the individual from interference by the State, except only in so far as that was necessary to free him from injustice by his fellows.

"When our nation is fighting in defence of basic human liberty it is vital that those who have the vision, understanding and faith in liberty itself, should voice in concert their opposition to the present reversion to the conditions of bureaucracy and self-seeking policies which preceded the abolition of the Corn Laws. The Liberal Party above all others should be regarded as the natural guardian and champion of equal freedom, equal opportunity and the rights of man.

"A meeting to put the League on a firm basis will be held at St. Ermin's, Caxton Street, Westminster, on Saturday, the 15th January, 1944, at 2-30 p.m."

Tickets of admission, to those wishing to join the League, will be sent on application to Mr. Ashley Mitchell, 250 Almondbury Bank, Huddersfield."

Signatories to the Letter are: John Archer, Huddersfield; C. H. Batty, Hendon; W. E. Bland, Wood Green; L. G. Bowman, Hendon; Vivian Carter, East Grinstead; C. E. Clark, Bewdley; Elfyn David, Cardiff; Sir Alfred T. Davies, Brighton; Frank Dupuis, Sudbury; Charles Ayliffe Gardner, Cardiff; Wilfrid Harrison, Hendon; A. D. Haxton, East Fife; J. T. Haxton, East Fife; G. G. Honeyman, East Surrey; E. Ingledew, Hendon; R. W. Jenkins, Sheffield; Mrs. C. Laycock, Huddersfield; W. R. Lester, East Grinstead; B. A. Levinson, Strand, London; County Councillor A. R. McDougal, Berwick and Haddington; S. Martin, Chislehurst; Ashley Mitchell, Huddersfield; D. E. Moore, Sheffield; H. Donald Moore, Withington; Councillor S. Needoff, Manchester; Councillor J. Oldroyd, Huddersfield; Pryce V. Olver, Pudsey and Otley; A. H. Peake, Cambridge; Vivian Philipps, ex M.P., Tonbridge; Mrs. C. W. Potts, Huddersfield; T. Atholl Robertson, ex M.P., Kinross and West Perth; P. Roche, Holborn; E. T. Sykes, Huddersfield; County Councillor Dr. A. Gordon Wilson, Penistone; G. H. Winder, East Grinstead; W. C. Woodroffe, West Walthamstow.

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