

## WHAT MR LLOYD GEORGE HAS SAID

(A statement circulated to the Press and issued by The United Committee as a leaflet for distribution at public demonstrations)

Who is the landlord? The landlord is a gentleman who does not earn his wealth. He does not even take the trouble to receive his wealth. He has a host of people around him to do the actual spending for him. He never sees it until he comes to enjoy it. His sole function, his chief pride, is stately consumption of wealth produced by others.—*At Limehouse, 30th July, 1909.*

Who ordained that a few should have the land of Britain as a perquisite? . . . Who is responsible for the scheme of things whereby one man is engaged through life in grinding labour, to win a bare and precarious subsistence for himself . . . and another man who does not toil receives every hour of the day, every hour of the night whilst he slumbers, more than his poor neighbour receives in a whole year of toil? Where did the table of the law come from? Whose finger inscribed it? These are the questions that will be asked.—*At Newcastle, 30th September, 1909.*

Only the business community in this country, and those who have been associated with it all their lives, can fully appreciate the extent to which the present ownership of land hampers and embarrasses trade and industry.—*Preface to "The Budget, the Land and the People," published December, 1909.*

I will tell you what is the matter with this country. There is one limited monarchy here, but also 10,000 little Tsars. They hold absolutely autocratic sway. Who gave it to them? We mean to examine the conditions. A fight full of hope for the democracy, we are asking nothing unreasonable.—*At Swansea, 28th May, 1912.*

Search out every problem, look into these questions thoroughly, and the more thoroughly you look into them you will find that the land is at the root of most of them. Housing, wages, food, health, the development of a virile, independent, manly, Imperial race—you must have a free 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 through. Well, let's burst it.—*At Aberdeen, 29th November, 1912.*

When they enclosed the commons they did it through Commissioners, and those Commissioners did the work they were set out to accomplish so neatly, so completely, so thoroughly, that we decided that, the Commissioners having deprived the people of their interest in the land, Commissioners are just the people to restore the land to the people. It is a great undertaking. It is a gigantic one, but we mean to put it through. It is one that may take time; it is one that may involve us in a struggle with great interests. We are accustomed to that. We have beaten vested interests and we will do it again.—*At Swindon, 22nd October, 1913.*

As long as the landlords are allowed to charge prohibitive prices for a bit of land, even waste land, without contributing anything to local resources, so long will this terrible congestion remain in our towns. Take the question of overcrowding. This land question in the towns bears upon that. It is all very well to produce Housing of the Working Classes Bills. They will never be effective until you tackle the taxation of land values.—*At Newcastle, 4th March, 1903.*

We do not want to tax industry; we do not want to tax enterprise; we do not want to tax commerce. What shall we tax? We will tax the man who is getting something he never earned, that he never produced, and that by no law of justice and fairness ought ever to belong to him.—*At Carnarvon, 8th December, 1909.*

Then there are questions like the Taxation of Land Values. And I am very glad the Government are going to put that in their Budget. I urged them to do that last year.—*At the National Liberal Club, 5th December, 1930.*

It (Land Value Taxation) has been done and is being done at this moment. It is being done in some of our Dominions—in some of the greatest cities in the Dominions. The real value of this is not so much what the right hon. Gentleman gets out of his penny (in the £ of capital land value); it is the thing that he pointed out, that it is to be the basis of local taxation. This measure of the right hon. Gentleman will broaden the basis of taxation; it will strengthen the local authorities; it will give them greater opportunities of beneficial action for the State; and beyond that it is in itself equitable, it is equitable as between one taxpayer and another, and it is equitable as far as the whole community is concerned.—*In the House of Commons, 6th May, 1931, in the Debates on Mr. Snowden's Budget provisions for Land Value Taxation.*