

THE ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION

Under the name, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, the 21 trustees named in the will of the late Robert Schalkenbach have been incorporated, and organized with the following officers: President, Charles T. Root; Vice-President, Richard Eyre; Secretary-Treasurer, Walter Fairchild.

The provision in the will of Robert Schalkenbach which has made possible this foundation reads as follows:—

“Being firmly convinced that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book entitled *PROGRESS AND POVERTY* will, if enacted into law, give equal opportunity to all and tend to the betterment of the individual and of society by the abolition of involuntary poverty and its attendant evils, I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, including lapsed legacies, unto John H. Allen, James R. Brown, E. Yancey Cohen, Richard Eyre, Walter Fairchild, Bolton Hall, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, John J. Hopper, Charles H. Ingersoll, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Joseph Dana Miller, John Moody, John J. Murphy, Arthur C. Pleydell, Louis F. Post, Lawson Purdy, Charles T. Root, George L. Rusby, Albert E. Schalkenbach, Samuel Seabury, Frank Stephens, and to such of them as may survive me and consent to serve, in trust nevertheless, to expend the same and any accretions thereof, in such amounts, at such times and in such manner as to the corporation hereinafter directed to be formed may seem best for teaching, expounding and propagating the ideas of Henry George as set forth in his said book and in his other books, especially what are popularly known as the Single Tax on land values and international free trade.”

To fill the place of John J. Hopper, deceased, Edward Polak was chosen by the remaining trustees.

EXEMPTION OF NEW HOUSES FROM RATING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1925, contains the following section regarding the exemption from rating of certain new houses:—

“3.—(1) A local authority may, in pursuance of a general resolution approved by the Ministry and applying to all houses in the area of the authority which complying with the prescribed conditions, exempt all such houses from payment of rates leviable by that local authority in respect of those houses for a period not exceeding ten years from the date of the completion of the houses as certified under Section One of the principal Act.

“(2) A county council may, in pursuance of a general resolution passed on the application of the council of a rural district situate within their county and approved by the Ministry, exempt from poor rate, for a like period as is mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section, all houses within the rural district which comply with the prescribed conditions.

“(3) In this section the expression ‘prescribed conditions’ means:—

(a) the conditions for the payment of grants under section one of the principal Act as amended by section two of the Act of 1924 and this Act; and

(b) the condition that the house has been commenced after the passing of this Act.

“(4) The powers conferred by this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any powers

of a local authority or rural district under sub-section (9) of section one of the principal Act or sub-section (4) of section two of the Act of 1924.”

There is every reason to believe that the provisions will be utilized. Under the heading of “Rate-Free Houses,” the *TIMES* of 24th June has this paragraph:—

“Several Ulster county councils are taking advantage of the new Housing Act, passed by the Northern Ireland Parliament, and have decided to charge no rates on houses built before 1st April next for a period of five years. It is hoped in this way to encourage the building of houses in rural districts.”

There should, however, be a land-value valuation, and those who hold the land should be required to contribute on the basis of its unimproved value, whether it is being used or not, as in Sydney and other places where houses are rate-free. If this side of the reform is neglected, the unrating of houses may play into the hands of the landlords by enabling them to obtain higher prices for the sites.

J. D. W.

TARIFFS WHICH HELP THE LAND SPECULATOR

By Andrew MacLaren, M.P.

(In an interview with the *DAILY NEWS*, 15th June)

Imperial Preference will help the Dominion land speculator rather than the producer, is the comment of Mr. Andrew MacLaren, Labour Member for Stoke-on-Trent, to the *DAILY NEWS* on Saturday, when he discussed the action of 20 Labour M.P.s in voting for Preference.

“The Labour Party, generally speaking, claims to be neither Free Trade nor Protectionist—failing to see that it is impossible to be on neither side.

“Labour has always been dominated by an altruism which demands that ‘sweated goods’ should be kept out of the country.

“What is behind Imperial Preference?” said Mr. MacLaren. “Land speculation in the Dominions. If any advantage is gained by way of Preference in any of the Dominions, it will not go to the workers in those Dominions, but to the land speculators. They will benefit by the development schemes made necessary by the increased demand for Dominion produce. Therefore this Preference Bill is the apotheosis of all their desires.

“What we want, then, is a campaign to open out land in our own country, not by subsidising any particular industry, not by offering money to landowners, in that that would only feed the monopoly, but by unrating the houses of the people, taking off the taxes that are responsible for the shortage of houses, by un-taxing industry, and by placing those rates and taxes on the market value of the land, thus breaking the monopoly.”

The Chancellor, he added, has been successful in misleading the Labour Members into voting for measures which would serve only to increase the wealth of speculators in Colonial land.

Speaking at a luncheon given on 15th June at the Guildhall, London, by Mr. A. P. Stanley Stone, Chairman of the Overseers Committee, the Lord Mayor mentioned that in 1666 at the time of the Great Fire land in the City, in the neighbourhood of Lombard-street and Cornhill, was valued at 5s. per square foot, freehold; now it was about £1,000 per square foot.—

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