

the inhabitants of Florence and Bologna thrown out of their beds at 8 o'clock! Think how dreadful that one word is, "terremoto."

HERBERT HUNTER VAUGHAN.

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### A LAND MEETING IN ENGLAND.

London, Jan. 22.—It was quite dark when I left the most dismal of all London stations, and the train was an unconscionable time depositing me at the end of a little stub line right in the heart of Surrey. I stumbled up the poorly lighted street and across a ghostly looking market place, for it was shrouded in mist, and found the Old House at Home, the rendezvous of the local Land Club.

The meeting on this occasion was of the council formed of delegates from the local clubs of Surrey and Kent. Some of them had walked five miles, one had bicycled ten and one had come from thirty miles away by train, and all were good-humoredly intent on satisfying their land hunger. The various Land Clubs muster nearly 600 members, all of whom have applied to their County Council for land, and are still waiting.

The need of such an organization is apparent. It is not enough in this case to make the first actor in the series do his part, to have the action communicated all down the line until the pig gets over the fence. After the necessary pressure on the local authority has created the small holdings, the holder must be upheld or the whole movement will fall into disrepute. This means, organization. It means the inauguration of all the helps the small holders of the continent have—cheap money, through co-operative banks, co-operative briefing, co-operative dealing with transportation companies and co-operative selling. This may be to the holders' own co-operative bacon factories or creameries. The background of the whole scheme, however, has yet to be filled in, and these men are not forgetting it. It is the taxation of land values. Already prices of agricultural land have stiffened all over the country, though only a few paltry hundred acres have been purchased under the small holdings act.

The chairman of our meeting was the wife of the secretary of the Fabian Society. He was also present and must be a tower of strength to the council through his knowledge of men and affairs. Mr. Montague Fordham, whose book "Mother Earth," is the scripture of the land clubbers, is as picturesque as an Edward Carpenter or a Whitman, and has a smile which would melt any heart but a territorial lord's.

The discussion ran on such subjects as the fate of a recent deputation to the Minister of Agriculture to move him to put the Act in force through his Department, the possibility of co-operating with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and whether the present was the psychological moment for launching the movement on national lines.

After the meeting I heard from Mr. Fordham the sad story of some of their members whose innocent desire to have land to use has meant loss of employment or eviction from their cottage, and any one who knows rural England knows that this means eviction from the district. To stand by men in the hour of their need is another and most important function of the Union.

The London Daily Chronicle is doing splendid work. It has a column on taxation of land values every day.

A. K. MAYNARD.

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### SUPPRESSION OF NATIONALISM IN INDIA.

Norwich University, Jan. 26.—We are pretty well convinced from the news reports that the people of India are marching towards a stage of political transition. Indian nationalist leaders have been deported without any trial. They were deported under the regulation of April 7, 1918. This regulation has different sections and it is an exhaustive one. I quote the principal part of the preamble to show whether or not the regulation is expressive of the greatest amount of self-government consonant with the retention of the dependent status of the people of India. It reads thus: "Whereas reasons of state embracing the due maintenance of the alliances formed by the British Government with the foreign Powers, the preservation of tranquillity in the territories of native Princes entitled to its protection, and the security of the British dominions from foreign hostility and from internal commotion, occasionally render it necessary to place under personal restraint individuals against whom there may not be sufficient grounds to institute any judicial proceedings, or when such proceeding may not be adapted to the nature of the case, or may for other reasons be inadvisable or improper, and herein referred to; the determination to be taken should proceed immediately from the authority of the Governor General in Council."

From the letter and spirit of the above regulation we see that persons may be put in restraint against whom there is no sufficient ground to institute judicial proceedings. This idea is contrary to the principle of civil right; and the practice of restraining people without proper judgment is shocking to all who have any sympathy for the principle of civil rights. An individual is supposed to be innocent unless proved guilty of certain crime, and the innocent must not be punished or be deprived of personal liberty.

People in general are inclined to think that the British Government in India is a blessing to the people there, because it has guaranteed the people the enjoyment of civil rights. But the enforcement of a law of such an autocratic nature indicates that the people of India under British rule enjoy less liberty in the twentieth century than the British people enjoyed in the thirteenth. In the British Isle the right of trial by jury has long been regarded as one of the bulwarks of liberty.

In the celebrated Magna Charta granted by King John in 1215, we find the following clause: "No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned or disseized or outlawed or banished or any way injured, nor will we pass upon him nor send upon him, unless by the legal judgment of the peers or by the law of the land." It is against the principle of humanity and justice that because a people is in a dependent state they may be deprived of the privilege of defending themselves from arbitrary executive orders. On this point the British constitution holds that no freeman shall be imprisoned without cause shown, to which he may