

Wealth is as indispensable to mankind for purpose of growth as water is to the soil. It is not the fault of the water if its natural circulation is interfered with; if a certain portion of the land is saturated and other parts left completely dry. Since ancient times wealth in all countries is artificially confined to a certain class. An immense part of mankind is shut off from natural opportunities that can only be enjoyed when land is of free access to labour, therefore an unjust and cruel distribution of wealth.

The restrictions and obstructions to the distribution (wherefore better production) of wealth cannot be removed without destroying the monopoly of land, the greatest evil and the worst obstacle to establishing the true freedom of interchange of wealth. Let society get the values created by social progress and increase in population and the individual the full product of his labour.

"The power to tax is the power to destroy." Society needs taxation, like as the human body needs food. Medicine is useless if the body is poisoned by bad food, in the same way as any reform aggravates the disorders produced by bad taxation. Land values arising out of the association and co-operation of people are essentially a community product. Our slogan is "We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community and leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."

We are not so mistaken as to believe that our slogan will be easily accepted. We firmly believe that we have grasped an everlasting truth. Men are groping to find rest. Our civilization is so complicated that we forget that man is a land animal. What difference does it make whether I own the land on which another man must live or own the man himself?

In what did the slavery of Russia consist but in giving to the master land on which the serf was forced to live? Is it strange that many, feeling bitterly the monstrous wrongs of the present distribution of wealth, are animated only by a blind hatred of the rich and a fierce desire to destroy existing social adjustments? When one thinks, this class is less dangerous than those who proclaim that no special improvement is needed or is possible.

In legislation common tendencies are toward socialistic measures—high-purposed but incoherent mixture of truth and fallacy, the defects of which may be summed up in its want of radicalism, that is to say, of going to the root. The first steps can be moved only by the simple formula of abolishing all the burden of taxes on labour, hence on production and distribution, and taxing land values, values attached to land, by social progress and increasing population.

In the international field we aim to teach the world that the highest interest of the people of every land is identical with the interest of the people of that land. If people do not understand peace at home they will not understand peace between nations. Human rights, if trampled on by any nation outside, means that they are trampled on first at home.

These thoughts ought to be the fundamental principle of a regenerating crusade, the only step to uplift the welfare of mankind in accordance with justice and moral law.

FELIX VITALE.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I bequeath (free of duty) to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Limited, the sum of £.....

MR LLOYD GEORGE'S PROPOSALS

By Capt. A. R. McDougal

(Liberal candidate for Roxburgh and Selkirkshire. The following are extracts from speeches delivered on 5th February at Galashiels and 13th February at Selkirk, as reported in the "Border Telegraph" and other papers; and at Glasgow, 14th February, opening the new Liberal Club buildings there.)

Mr Lloyd George's proposals, much the same as in 1929, are now remarkable for two things—one inclusion and one omission.

1. *Tariff War.* A tariff war is the inclusion. May one ask if there is any instance of a tariff war proving anything else than ruinous to both parties? It is the same as any other war in this respect and no one knows it better than Mr Lloyd George.

2. *Land Values.* Land Values is the omission. Mr Lloyd George rightly proposes to embark on great development schemes, to utilize idle men and money in order to provide necessary public improvements. No one knows better than he that nothing can be done without using land and that the landowners will demand and get hugely inflated prices for any land required. They will pocket millions in the increased land values caused by the improvements executed by the State.

Unless preceded by a drastic scheme for the taxation of land values and powers to acquire land at its rateable value, all these fine schemes will be wrecked on the Land Value rocks, whilst the landowners loot the ship.

Similarly, Mr Hore-Belisha's road schemes, excellent in themselves and long overdue, will be hampered by the enormous costs of land. They should be accompanied by a statutory Order empowering local authorities to take all land required for road improvements at its bare agricultural value, and as a minimum measure of land values taxation, they should have power to rate at its full selling value, with no derating allowance, all land beneficially affected by the improvements made by the community.

A recent road improvement at Manchester cost £550,000 for works and £117,000 for land. It lasted for five years employing 450 men, showing a cost for land of £260 per man for the period.

Another eight-year scheme at Bath cost £1,000 per man for land.

A Board road authority were held up for years in a widening scheme by a demand of £300 per acre for a strip of sandy waste in the open country.

The world-wide unemployment is caused by the gap between producer's costs and consumer's purchasing powers. This gap is almost wholly due to the toll exacted by Land Values which increases producer's costs and reduces the consumer's purchasing power, and it is intensified by all obstacles to trade, such as tariffs, quotas and similar follies.

The derating of houses and the rating of Land Values would accomplish more in stimulating consumption and eliminating unemployment than anything else. Mr Lloyd George never mentions this. . . . The present Government repealed Snowden's Act, through which it might have been done. Here is a great opportunity for a progressive party to draw nation-wide support in tackling unemployment and depression at the source.