

## FROM MR. ASHLEY MITCHELL'S ELECTION ADDRESS

THE DELUSION of prosperity caused by war expenditure obscures the great difficulties that face the country. To suggest that unemployment has been cured, when millions of young men and women are conscripted into the armed forces, is surely absurd. When the final end is reached, the country will be left with a burden that will strain its capacity to the utmost, and only if all obstacles to the free movement of trade, both in production and exchange, are removed shall we be able to carry the burden.

All the main political parties bring forward policies that fail to solve unemployment, since they ignore the fundamental issue of the land question. The official Liberal policy of "Full Employment" propounds a scheme that leaves land monopoly untouched: for that reason, I am standing as an Independent Liberal. Unemployment of men willing to work is unnatural and is only caused by man-made barriers that separate land from those who need it. And as land is the source of all wealth and the fount of all production, anything that prevents people using Mother Earth must lead to unemployment.

I have long advocated the true Liberal policy of the taxation and rating of land values. That is the practical method of preventing the withholding of land and of securing that all valuable land is readily available for use. If that policy were applied, industry could develop freely without State Control, enterprise would extend and, at the same time, the land values made by the presence of the community and taken for the community would make it possible to reduce and abolish the present oppressive taxes that not only discourage enterprise, but increase the price of necessities and cause real suffering to people of small incomes.

The urgent need for houses is plain to all, but, unless the land question is radically dealt with, all the best laid schemes will fail. The heavy increases of local rates, the high price of land and heavy ground rents prevent the solution of the housing problem.

We are terribly backward in this country in not having instituted this reform years ago. I have preached it in the West Riding of Yorkshire for thirty years. It has made great progress in other countries and, as an officer of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, I hope you will support me in getting this country forward on the same road.

Freedom to exchange goods, both inside a country and throughout the world, is just as essential as freedom to produce, and unless we sweep away our tariffs without reservation, whatever other countries may do, we shall still be indulging in the mad policy of economic nationalism which everybody agrees was the cause of the world-wide economic anarchy that made world war certain.

All the parties are agreed to establish compulsory schemes of social insurance and health benefits. These schemes, while making provision for sickness and other misfortunes, are often exalted in importance so that people are led to believe that if they are only made to contribute so much per week all their troubles will be solved.

Social security schemes are only palliatives. They should not be regarded as a substitute for individual independence and self provision that would follow from a raised standard of living.

I have long maintained that the just claim of the Old Age Pensioners for a pension of 30s. a week at 60, without Means Test, should be granted, and I

also support the claim for justice for spinsters to have pensions at 55.

If we had had electoral reform by the method of proportional representation, we should not see now an election being conducted by parties snarling at one another, but could have had the best men

## MESSAGES FROM MANY LANDS

ON THE announcement of Mr. Ashley Mitchell's candidature cables were received from members and colleagues of the Internal Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade all over the world. The messages, bearing good wishes and endorsing the policy of the Union, came from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America. The following are extracts from some of the messages.

### Australia

Mitchell's sound policy should receive strong support from lovers of freedom. Britain needs leaders of his type, prepared to stand for fundamental principles essential to ensure successful post-war reconstruction.

E. J. CRAIGIE, ex M.P., South Australia, President of the I.U.

Real liberal policy "Freedom to produce and trade" will make men free.

A. G. HULE, Vice-President of the I.U. and Secretary of the N.S.W. Land Values and Free Trade League.

Only Free Trade will secure peace among the United Nations and in the World. Henry George's economic principles would secure British soil for the use of British servicemen and thus abolish poverty and unemployment.

ALDERMAN J. R. FIRTH, ex-Mayor of Strathfield, Sydney, N.S.W.

### Canada

Ashley Mitchell's philosophy of freedom will produce trade, will overcome unemployment and raise standard of living and will promote business.

SENATOR A. W. ROEBUCK, Toronto.

### Cuba

In this moment of dark future for the world, the best way is the natural law—free land, free trade, free people.

ROGELIO CASAS CADILLA.

### Denmark

May fundamental liberalism with him win lasting peace as co-operative spirit won war victory.

J. L. and SIGNE BJORNER, Copenhagen.

England liberated Denmark; by liberating your own land you may liberate humanity.

F. FOLKE, Executive, I.U.

### India

Poverty of Indian people demands restoration of Land and Freedom for Trade.

F. HALKYARD, for V. J. WHITE, Vice-Pres., I.U.

### New Zealand

Recent survey State housing disclosed overwhelming success unimproved value system; fully expect Government make mandatory like New South Wales and Queensland, because building industry allied trades and manufacturing greatly stimulated, also agriculture. Here Tariffs Taxation and Sales Tax prove onerous burdens on majority of consumers and seriously injure Export Trade. Mitchell's policy considered proportional representation.

ROBERT G. VARLOW, Secretary of the N.Z. Taxation of Land Values League.

elected representing the different shades of opinion in the country.

I am opposed to compulsory service, either military or industrial. Compulsory military service should be ended by calling for well-paid volunteers to finish the war with Japan and a return made to the voluntary system which has kept this country free.

### Norway

By taking up regenerated Liberalism England could save world by her example showing how to distinguish true democracy from false and form a society both just and free, thereby furthering cause of peace.

OLE WANG, Vice-Pres., I.U.

### Palestine

Let unreserved liberty in Britain lead the Empire to a freedom-inspired mankind.

ISAAC BERNSTEIN, Vice-Pres., I.U.

### Sweden

World Peace is now necessary for human persistence, World Free Trade is indispensable for World Peace, Free Land is necessary for Social Justice and Peace. England was once the Free Trade Leader, the Progressives the world over are watching with anxiety if this election will show England's willingness to take up leadership again for Free Trade, Free Land and Free Men.

JOHAN HANSSON, Vice-Pres., I.U.

### South Africa

"Free Land, Free Trade, Free Men" offers only hope of a Britain as she should be and shows the way towards living and lasting peace.

F. A. W. LUCAS, K.C., Johannesburg.

### United States of America

Ever since I heard your prognostications in 1939 of a long and terrible war, but with certainty of Britain's endurance and victory, I knew you as one of the far seeing men needed to guide your Country's affairs.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, Daughter of Henry George and Vice-Pres., I.U. (Reference is to a speech made by Ashley Mitchell in New York, in 1939).

Principles of economic freedom and social justice many Americans hope will Parliament.

HAROLD S. BUTTENHEIM, Editor of the American City Magazine.

Mitchell's policies will bring prosperity, wealth and peace to people of Great Britain and all the world.

LAWSON PURDY, Executive, I.U.

Others who sent cabled greetings with messages in similar terms were FELIX VITALE, Vice-President of the I.U., and BELLAGAMBA and AGUILER, Joint Secretaries with him of the Argentine League; H. G. BRETT, President, and A. R. HUTCHINSON, Secretary of the Victoria Henry George League; MARCEL CORTURIEND, Belgium; Vice-Pres., I.U.; HERBERT T. OWENS, Executive, I.U.; A. DAUDE BANCEL, France, Executive, I.U.; PAYLOS GIANNELIA, Vice-Pres. of I.U. for Greece and Austria; F. R. WILLIAMSON, Jamaica; Vice-Pres., I.U.; MARGARET LAYZELL, Kenya, Vice-Pres., I.U.; MANUEL ROBLES, Mexico, Vice-Pres., I.U.; G. M. FOWLES, New Zealand, Vice-Pres., I.U.; FERD. LING, Executive, I.U.; BALDOMERO ARGENTE, Spain, Vice-Pres., I.U.; E. J. EVANS, South Africa, Vice-Pres., I.U.; GUSTAV BUESCHER, Vice-Pres., I.U.; and from the U.S.A.: JOHN S. CODMAN, Boston; FRANCIS NELSON, Chicago; H. W. NOREN, Pittsburgh; and S. N. TIDEMAN, Wilmette, Illinois.

The messages were printed and circulated with the Election Address.