

of the community, the superior of the lands should have to pay something in taxation.

Mr. Isaac Mackenzie, Inverness, seconding, said that taxation of Land Values was the most important policy in front of the country now. It was time that the Liberal Party, both the leaders and the rank and file, took it up in earnest. If they wanted to get on firm ground again they must adopt that policy or perish. He did not see any earnestness on the part of the leaders. The previous night Mr. Lloyd George never once, from the beginning to the end of his speech, made reference to the taxation of Land Values.

Sir Henry Ballantyne, speaking in support, said he had not been a member of a Commission on Housing without knowing something about the land question in Scotland. They all knew the extravagant prices that had to be paid for land in their cities and towns, and they knew that, owing to their present system of rating, the landowner who got twenty times more a year than he got before in the way of feu duties did not even pay the rates he did before when it was agricultural land, but shifted the whole of them on to the individual feuar or the community. They talked about housing. That was one of the causes why they could not get houses as they would like to get them. They talked about unemployment. Let them free the land so that men could employ themselves. There was surely enough land in Scotland to give employment to all the unemployed in the country.

If the Liberal leaders in 1909 had gone straight for the Taxation of Land Values, he did not believe that the Liberal Party would have been in the present position. They had allowed the Labour Party to steal most of their programme. He did not think they quite agreed amongst themselves yet about the Taxation of Land Values, but once they were, Labour would steal that too.

It was a very dangerous thing to preach anything in the nature of nationalization or Government interference with the individual, and he was afraid that Mr. Lloyd George's coal and power and land programmes were tending in that direction. If they thought by advocating policies of that kind they were to get back some of their best Radicals who had been driven out—very largely, he believed, because of the failure of the Liberal Party on the Taxation of Land Values—he thought they would find themselves bitterly mistaken.

Mr. J. Deas, Glasgow, said one of the main reasons for the decline of Liberalism in Scotland was the failure of the leaders to follow the lead given by the Scottish Liberal Federation. And Mr. Lloyd George was the chief offender. It was his surrender to landlordism in 1909 that was the chief cause.

Mr. Wm. Reid, Glasgow, emphasized the importance of land value taxation as applying without any artificial distinctions both to "rural" and to "urban" land, and explained how Denmark had successfully made a valuation of the land apart from improvements, had imposed a universal and uniform though small tax on land values, and was now taking up local taxation of land value in both town and country.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

## LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE

The Story of New South Wales  
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By ALDERMAN J. R. FIRTH  
12pp. Price One Penny

From our Offices.

## A WARNING TO THE LABOUR PARTY

By E. ROSSLYN MITCHELL, M.P.

(Extract from article appearing in FORWARD, Glasgow,  
17th October)

### The Whirlwind Campaign

Newspapers tell us that Mr. Lloyd George has had a "whirlwind campaign" and a "lightning campaign" in Scotland. It has done just what whirlwinds and lightning generally do, caused much disturbance and excitement. It has not swept away landlordism or royalties or deer forests, or thrown much light on land-hunger and Highland depopulation. It has revealed nothing as to the why of glens that once maintained a hundred families being inhabited by two gamekeepers and a shepherd. It has told us nothing of the why of industrial and mercantile depression through high rents, high interest, and high rates. There is not in all Mr. Lloyd George's Inverness speech one suggestion that will help one man to farm an acre of land. Surely everyone knows now about clearances, about alien deer-stalkers, about lost common lands, about crofts and farms going back to heather and bracken, about emigrations to America, and migrations to Glasgow. These things happened and happen still, not because there is no land. The land is there, where it always was, and none can shift it. But it is no longer available for cultivation, because some of Mr. Lloyd George's war-time friends, being war-rich, will pay more for a season of grouse and deer than farmers can pay for ten times the acreage and as much for the privilege of fishing as the rent of 200 acres.

### The Great Land Robbery

The very rich want land, not for its produce, but for their pleasure. Villages that once were peopled by men possessing common rights in land are now composed of landless labourers. The people's stake in the soil of their birth has been snatched from them by men who corrupted the powers of the State and denuded the land of its healthy children. Look at England! In the early 19th century when the French Revolution was solidifying into the French Empire, nearly 3,000 separate Acts of Parliament were rushed through by corruption unprecedented, to give the English landlords six million acres of the common lands of the English yeomen—leaving them serfs and paupers. They crowded into towns or were deported for poaching or fled to America for land. Scotland's story is much the same, but without the Acts of Parliament. What help does Mr. Lloyd George offer to the descendants of the robbed? What suggestion has Mr. Lloyd George to offer to those already in the cities who find the results of their energy and enterprise squeezed from them by owners of land, the value of which they and their fellow-citizens have made? Not one word. This land campaign may have some success as a vote-catcher. It can have none as a scheme of land-reform. Probably to its promoter the latter is a minor consideration. But if it has success even as a vote-catcher, it will be, not because of its own merits but because no other Party has had the inclination or courage to face the problem.

### Back to the Land

The Conservatives are naturally very well pleased with things as they are, constantly increasing Government subsidies to maintain rent, freedom from local rates, under-valuation for death duties and the social prestige that still clings to landownership. Liberals are in desperation to recreate the influence which they

wantonly cast aside by ceasing to be Liberals. They know what is right and refuse to do it. Labour is more concerned with increasing wages of those who are employed and providing unproductive work for those who are not. And the land, the mother of all wealth, the fount and origin of all material, the seed-nursery of the human race, the cradle of freedom, the abundant giver to all who will take her treasures from her, is regarded as of little account in an industrial age. And yet every advance of industry, every new discovery of science, every invention, every social development, every increased activity makes less available the land upon which everything depends. What are we dreaming of, my brothers, pottering about with trifles, squabbling about scraps, frittering away our energy over the distribution of existing wealth, which is only a mite of potential wealth, when the whole source of wealth lies locked away? The land problem is one of the easiest to solve of all problems.

#### Tax the Landlords

Why is industry oppressed by taxation? Because, what industry produces in improvements is taxed and what industry produces in land-value is not. So in towns the people produce wealth and are taxed on every instrument of produce, while the land owner, basking at Lido or rouletting at Nice gets the community to produce his land value for him and sits free of tax during the process. We are a landless people but we are not a landless nation. The land of Scotland is better than that of Denmark or Belgium. But there the land is used. Here it pays the landlord to keep land in his control, with yearly tenancies and insecurity so that the increased value due to higher skill or greater need may flow to him instead of to those who create it. There have been many methods suggested to bring back the land to the people and the people to the land. There is only one that is based upon economic history and the law of universal justice, and that is to tax land on its value, giving to the community that which is created by the community and to the individual that which is created by his own enterprise and energy.

When the Labour Party, which is so fully cognisant of the circumstances of wealth production and the inequalities and injustices that exist in its distribution, will take its courage in its hand and face the problem of the origin of wealth, bringing to the people who labour the opportunity of going direct to that origin, they will need to fear no party and no quack political agents for they will then be able to control by the operation of cause and effect the whole basis and machinery of the material things of life.

Mr. Lloyd George may talk, but the party of Labour must think, and when the time comes act fearlessly.

#### COMMANDER KENWORTHY'S VIEW Liberal Party not Consulted

Radicals have the uneasy feeling that if he (Mr. Lloyd George), and he alone, propounds programmes and leads in politics he may endeavour to march the bulk of a revived Party like mercenaries over into the camp of the Conservatives. And that would be the end of Liberalism. As an example, take the land question. It is apparently suggested that this will be the main plank of the future Liberal programme. But the land policy so far propounded does not commend itself to the Radicals themselves. It satisfies neither the land taxers, nor the land nationalizers, nor the old-fashioned Whigs. And the Party as a whole has not been consulted on the land question.—*Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M.P., in the OUTLOOK, 10th October.*

#### MR. ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P., ON "THE CRUEL HOAX"

In a letter to the *DAILY NEWS* of 8th October, Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., wrote:—

"Mr. Lloyd George has at last issued his great Land Reform proposals. They are a direct challenge to the fundamental principles of Liberal Land Reform as enunciated at many elections and on a thousand platforms. From beginning to end the whole of his scheme is bureaucratic and reactionary. I have spoken on a hundred Liberal platforms on the principles of Liberal Land Reform, and have advocated, not the purchase of the land, but the taxation and rating of Land Values. Indeed, throughout Scotland it was the boast of Radicals and Liberals that they stood fast to the principle of rating and taxation of Land Values as against proposals of purchase. The scheme he (Mr. Lloyd George) now puts before the public must not go unchallenged by those who wish to save the people of this country from another cruel hoax. Mr. Lloyd George blames the Whigs in the 1909-10 Government for the fiasco which followed his Land Campaign in those years. Who will he blame for the reactionary land policy which he has now launched upon the country?"

Another letter from Mr. MacLaren appeared in the *ABERDEEN PRESS AND JOURNAL* of 15th October, as follows:—

"Mr. Lloyd George has astutely gone into the Highlands of Scotland to launch his famous land campaign. He has in his mind the magnificent work of the old Highland Land League, and knows the pioneer work done since those early days. He hopes to resuscitate himself and the Liberal Party by advocating his new policy. It was with great pleasure I read of the protest that had been raised at the meeting held in Inverness, where a discussion of the new policy took place. Sir Henry Ballantyne and the other delegates did noble work in reminding Lloyd George that the Liberal policy in the past was one of taxation and rating of land values. Since 1911 Mr. Lloyd George has consistently evaded this issue. He comes to the Highlands and asks the Highlanders to sing 'Scots Wha Hae,' and appeals to their Celtic imagination. The time has passed for political poetry. It is not singing the Scottish airs that can stop the draining of the Highlands of its young men and women. The Radical and Labour elements in the Highlands know this.

"If the latest announcement on the land policy is all we may expect from the Liberal Party, then the time has come for Highland Radicals to take stock of their political future. The entire policy, as stated in the 'Rural Land Policy,' is an insult to any student of the Highland land problem. It is the production of a few class-room Fabians and bureaucrats who have no actual experience or inside knowledge of the problem as it has affected the Highlands for the last 200 years.

"May I appeal to the democratic and independent forces of the Highlands to band themselves together in a determined fight for the principles for which Liberalism of the past stood? Let us go back to the direct policy of taxing the monopoly of the landowner and liberating the soil of Scotland for the people of Scotland, and give Mr. Lloyd George and his bureaucratic assistants the direct reply that, as the land belongs to the people, it shall be taken by the people through the weapons of taxation. Our land has been defended by the common blood and suffering of the Highlander, as many a vacant strath only too tragically gives evidence. And who is he, or what is the party that dares come forward now and ask us to submit to enormous burdens of taxation