

"Man, my friend," replied Roberts very gently and sweetly, "seems to mean in Exodus all men and all women—the whole human race for all time to come."

"Then what in perdition do we sell if not the earth," exclaimed Jones. "That catchy real estate sign is used all over the United States. Never heard it criticised before."

Roberts thought a little. He was struggling to give a new thought its full expression. As I happen to know, he had never heard of "Progress and Poverty." "I suppose," he replied at last, "that if you had merely said you sold 'land' I should not have noticed anything wrong about it. But now it seems to me that you only transfer possession of land from one person to another. It's likely to be good possession for ages to come, but suppose that the great average mass of men—human society in general, I mean—were to change the plan and ordain that land-ownership should remain in the hands of the community. Really, my friend," Roberts closed with most charming gentleness, "I sometimes have thought that Bible doctrine runs that way, and your sign has quite convinced me."

We rode along the foothills and camped by a spring that night, long discussing the land question and the great sixty-thousand acre wheat ranches we were passing for days after that. Roberts went back to his Shasta pines, and I went on through the Sacramento Valley, which was practically controlled by less than a hundred men. Its vast silences, its tremendous and unutilized resources grew upon me hour by hour. I saw that it could feed, shelter and support millions of hungry people, the surplusage of over-crowded cities, and I thought many times of the great canvas sign swinging across the street, "We sell the Earth." Someone told me that Jones took it down in a few weeks and put up another which he said "did not worry the religious cranks." It read: "*We sell plain Dirt.*"

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE SINGLETAX IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London, August 16.

The political revolution has been consummated. After many angry protests the Parliament Bill has passed. By it the House of Lords have been deprived of their power to reject measures passed by the House of Commons. They cannot interfere with a Budget or money bill; and, no matter how objectionable it may be to them, they can only suspend the most radical measure for a period of two years. Any policy, therefore, which the majority of the

British people approve, will be adopted without the unfair and irresponsible obstruction of a comparatively narrow oligarchy.

There has been a good deal of unreal feeling in the declamations against the Bill. But at the same time members of our privileged classes have felt genuine alarm at being stripped of their ancient and privileged defenses, and at having their position exposed to the attack of policies reasoned out and accepted by the people. Among the schemes that will present themselves for passage through this newly opened door are Home Rule, Disestablishment of the Welsh Church, Educational Reform, Electoral Reform, and, most far-reaching of all, Land and Taxation Reform.

Intelligent men on both sides of politics recognize that we are only at the beginning of things. The last five years have been a time of continuous and often intense struggle. The next five years are likely to see even more strenuous activities.

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Of all the policies to which legislative shape has been given or promised, the most popular is the Taxation of Land Values.

The success of the Budget in winning the support of the country for the Government has impressed Ministers. This policy underlies and permeates the whole work of the Government. Preparations are being made for another step in the direction of the Singletax. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed a committee to inquire into the relations between Imperial and local taxation, "and to make recommendations on the subject for the consideration of His Majesty's Government with a view to the introduction of legislation at an early date."

Mr. Edgar Harper has been appointed a member of this committee. His long experience under the London County Council has given him a thorough knowledge of our local taxation, while his complete and sympathetic understanding of the Singletax qualifies him to deal with the problem adequately from this point of view. Mr. Harper gave evidence on the subject before the Royal Commission in 1901 and again before the special committee on the Scottish Land Values Bill of 1906.

In reply to the deputation from the Land Values Group in Parliament which presented a signed memorial in favor of the Taxation of Land Values, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer invited them to present evidence to the committee; and in this connection Mr. Crompton Ll. Davies is acting as adviser to the group. Like Mr. Harper, he has had unique experience of the subject, having been intimately connected with the inquiry of the 1901 Commission. It is hoped that the evidence submitted to this committee may enable the Government to proceed in a short time with a radical scheme for the Taxation of Land Values for local purposes.

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The Parliamentary session has not passed without serious discussion of the Land Question. The Scottish Small Landholders' Bill, rejected by the Lords on two occasions, was re-introduced on June 2nd and passed the second reading of the House of Commons without a division. It has been in Committee of the

House until today, when that stage was finished. The principle of the bill is that of the Crofters' Act of 1886 and carries with it a large installment of the Singletax. It provides for the leasing of land at a fair rent and with absolute security of tenure. The fixing of the rent and of the other conditions of tenure rests with a Land Court, and neither rent nor local taxation can be raised against the tenant on the value of his improvements. The Conservatives and the landlord section of the Liberal party did their utmost to introduce provisions for the purchase of land on lines similar to those in the Irish Land Act of 1903. This move was defeated by the Radicals and the Lord Advocate, Mr. Ure, who had charge of the Bill.

This Bill, which is almost certain to become law in the autumn session, will apply to tenants of 50 acres, or those who pay not more than \$250 rent. It will serve as a precedent or model form of tenure for all farming land. Its significance is fully appreciated by the landowners, and may be appreciated by others from remarks of Lord Rosebery, in his speech opposing the Bill in the House of Lords four years ago.

"Some of your Lordships," he said, "in early youth on the 5th of November may have followed a small but melancholy procession, carrying a grotesque effigy amidst the plaudits of those who should have known better, which was destined after a brief and melancholy existence to be burned at a common bonfire. I am reminded of the procession of Guy Fawkes when I am so constantly told that the existence of the landlord is necessary as the keystone of the Bill; because it seems to me that under the provisions of the Bill I see the landlord paraded like that effigy, applauded by the Singletaxers of the west of Scotland, borne on his way to his melancholy annihilation at the hands of some supplementary Bill."

This is a faithful, if unfriendly, representation of the effect of the Bill.

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These are the more prominent activities in our political world. By their side there proceeds the steady educational work made possible on such a large scale by the support of Mr. Joseph Fels. The Conference to be held in Glasgow next month, and a new campaign among the agriculturists in the east of England, will prepare the ground for future progress. Mr. Fels intends to have a special effort made to present the Singletax to the agricultural laborers of England. He has addressed meetings of these men in Norfolk and has got the co-operation of their organized leaders insofar as they are organized. All these things promise well for the future of our political and economic life.

JOHN ORR.

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SUGGESTIONS BY JOSEPH FELS.

39 Wilson Street, London, E. C.

18th August, 1911.

The Singletax (or Taxation of Land Values) movement is spreading so fast throughout the world that the time has now arrived when every League, Association or Society should receive copies of all important printed matter on the subject issued or

published by every other organization having the same object in view.

The exchange of information about the Henry George movement between all these associations in the many countries where the movement has taken root will be of great value in pushing on the reform.

The headquarters of the movement in the different countries should be kept informed of all matter of Singletax interest in all other countries. Such news will have great value in arousing interest, and will give a sense of co-operation and momentum. Will not every such association, therefore, send weekly or monthly news, letters, clippings or other matter to the following Singletax headquarters:

United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, 20 Tothill Street, London, S. W., England.

Fels Fund Commission, 530 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, U. S. A.

Women's National Singletax League, Mrs. John S. Crosby, president, 125 West 82nd street, New York City, U. S. A.

Manhattan Singletax Club, 125th street and 8th avenue, New York City, U. S. A.

Women's Singletax Club, Mrs. Gertrude Mackenzie, secretary, 31 T street, N. W., Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

Women's Singletax Club, Fairhope, Ala., U. S. A.

Women's Singletax Club, Dr. Mary D. Hussey, president, East Orange, N. J., U. S. A.

Land Value Tax Party, 3 East 22nd street, New York City, U. S. A.

Chicago Singletax Club, 508 Schiller Bldg., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

Singletax League, 75 Yonge street, Toronto, Canada.

A. G. Huie, Box 797, G. P. O., Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

F. T. Hodgkiss, 312 Flinders street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Singletax League, 30 Pirie Chambers, Pirie street, Adelaide, Australia.

L. Daw, Box 5, G. P. O., Boulder, West Australia.

Land Values League, Albert street, Auckland, New Zealand.

"Bodenreform," Lessing Str. 11, Berlin, N. W. 32, Germany.

Georges Darien, 3 Rue de Furstenberg, Paris, France.

J. L. Bjorner, Fredericiagade 25, Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Ret" (S. Berthelsen, editor), Hong, Denmark.

Johan Hansson, Tunnelgatan 19, Stockholm Sweden.

Antonio Albendin, Calle Mendez Nunez 21, Ronda, Andalucia, Spain.

Gustav Buscher, Limmat strasse 77, Zurich iii, Switzerland.

I am addressing this appeal to all those bodies whose names and addresses occur to me. There are doubtless many others, and I should appreciate all information as to additional ones that may be sent to me.

In every country, press bureaus should be established for the purpose of permeating the papers and other publications, daily, weekly or monthly, with news of the movement, and articles written with a

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