

## PROTECTION AND LAND VALUES

By W. R. Lester

(Press Letter issued by the Land Values Press Bureau, 6th May, and published in many newspapers)

It has long been held by economists and land reformers that one of the evil effects of agricultural protection will be artificially to raise the price of agricultural land; and that any better price the farmer, fruit, or vegetable grower may get for his produce to start with will soon be taken from him by the higher price or rent he will be forced to pay for his land. In short, it is held that landowners and not farmers will be the residuary legatees of the benefit claimed by its supporters for agricultural protection.

It is thrown at those who advance this view that they are theorists and nothing more; so it is a satisfaction to them when they find their "theory" being vindicated in practice at the sales of land now being made at public auction and by private treaty. I quote as follows from *The Times* of 4th May: "ESSEX FRUIT FARMS: TENANTS BUYING. The value of Essex land seems to be improving judging from recent sales. . . . The probability of a better market for British produce is weighing with would-be buyers of land." (Italics mine.)

As the Minister for Agriculture, Sir John Gilmour, admitted in so many words in the House of Commons, 6th April, 1932, the benefit is destined to go where similar subsidies have gone, into the pockets of the landlords. Taxation of Land Values is the only way to deal with such a situation.

### "TAX LAND VALUES" BUREAU, LONDON

Our readers who have followed the reports of the good work done at the Bureau at 7 St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London, will learn with regret that, as reported in another column, the year during which it was to be kept open, has now come to a conclusion. The Bureau was a special enterprise made possible through the spirit, the personal interest and the liberality of Mrs Louis P. Jacobs, and in this work she has had the well-appreciated assistance of Mrs Beryl Eastwood as Hon. Secretary. Splendid advantage was taken of the central situation by the use of the electric sign, "Tax Land Values," which brought many a stranger and visitor to seek further information. The result has been the sale of many hundred copies of *Progress and Poverty*, and other works by Henry George; and something like 50,000 leaflets have been distributed. As reported in *Land & Liberty* the Bureau has been a meeting place for keenly interested audiences and repeatedly at these weekly gatherings the room has been packed to overflowing. Then there has been the more intensive educational work through the Economic Classes held on Sundays and led by Mr Andrew MacLaren.

We ourselves sincerely regret that the year of the Bureau has come to an end. Mrs Jacobs, Mrs Eastwood and all who have so enthusiastically co-operated with them are to be complimented and congratulated on their achievement. The Shop has attracted many passers-by and must have provoked very much discussion that will tell for the advance of the cause it was organized to serve—"The abolition of Poverty and Unemployment through the overthrow of Land Monopoly by the practical application of Henry George's teachings."

Dr C. R. Cooke Taylor, Liberal candidate at the East Dulwich By-election, 8th June, vigorously denounced tariffs in his Election Address and further declared that: "The Taxation of Land Values is still theoretically part of the law of the land, but the action of the present Government has rendered it inoperative. I believe that it is essential to the well-being of this country, both as a means of preventing land speculation and as a measure of justice to the man who puts his land to the best use."

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## THE FALSE DISTRIBUTION

In his address to the Workers' Educational Association at York, the Archbishop of York gave it as his opinion that "the absence of educational opportunity is the greatest and deepest of the injustices of modern life." With all due respect to the Archbishop: Among the 2,000,000 unemployed men and women of our country, many of whom are lacking the bare necessities of life, there are to be found thousands of highly educated men and women.

No, it is not as the Archbishop said, "the absence of educational opportunity" which "is the greatest and deepest of the injustices of modern life," but the private monopoly of Nature's bounty without which life and liberty are impossible.

To quote Henry George:—

"It is a well-provisioned ship this on which we sail through space. If the bread and beef above decks seem to grow scarce, we but open a hatch and there is a new supply, of which before we never dreamed. And very great command over the services of others comes to those who, as the hatches are opened are permitted to say: 'This is mine.'"

The man without book learning but having access to land can earn a living, but the most highly educated, failing the use of land, cannot exist without the permission of some fellow-being.—F. SKIRROW in the *Yorkshire Observer*.

Land reformers who voted for the National Government have already had to put up with a good deal. They have seen the staff of the valuation department disbanded, in the alleged interests of economy, and the national valuation, which is the pivot of land taxation, indefinitely held up. They are now asked to submit while the Land Tax is put on the shelf, not to be taken down again during the present Parliament. It would, indeed, be demanding too much that they should agree to the tax being repealed. In the form in which it was passed, the tax may not have been altogether free from objection, but the principle which it embodied is absolutely sound, and progressives are determined that, though its operation may be delayed, it shall eventually prevail.—*Huddersfield Examiner* (Editorial), 28th May.

### ARTHUR C. PLEYDELL

It is with deep regret we have to announce that Arthur C. Pleydell, Secretary of the New York Tariff Reform Association, suddenly passed away at his home in New York, on Monday evening, 30th May. His loss is a decided blow to the Single Tax cause in the United States which he served for many years with marked ability.

In a generous obituary notice, the *New York Times* records that Mr Pleydell was born in Philadelphia in August, 1872, and that as a youth became an ardent disciple of Henry George. In 1902 Mr Pleydell became connected with the New York Tax Reform Association and next year Mr Purdy and he obtained the amendment of the City charter providing for the separation of land value from total value in the New York valuation roll. In 1912 Mr Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey, appointed him member of a special State Commission of Taxation.

In 1925, when the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation was established, Mr Pleydell was named one of its Directors and from the first took a leading part in directing its activities. When Mr Purdy was chosen Secretary of the City Tax Department, in 1906, Mr Pleydell was appointed Secretary of the Tax Reform Association and held that position until his death.

Mr Pleydell was well versed in *Progress and Poverty* and could tell without difficulty where any quotation from the book was to be found.

In the death of our painstaking and resourceful friend the Henry George movement has lost one of its most able and devoted advocates. We express our deepest sympathy with Mrs Pleydell and her family in their great sorrow.

J. P.