

help of the others, because if there were a war the nation that could manage with the least imports would have an advantage."

"I hope there's no danger of war," said Alice.

"We have many treaties to ensure peace—the League of Nations covenant, the Locarno treaties, the Kellogg Pact, arbitration treaties without number. But everybody is afraid of war and everybody arms. We are more heavily armed than when the last war started."

"How very strange," said Alice, though she did not want to seem impolite.

"No," said the Hatter. "For nobody has confidence in the treaties. Each knows that *he* will keep them, but he isn't so sure about his neighbours."

"Then what's the good of making treaties?" asked Alice.

"Take another cup of tea," said the Hatter.

"Tell her the story of reparations," said the Dormouse, waking up and rubbing its eyes. "For that's what has caused the most trouble."

"The Germans were obliged to rebuild what had been destroyed," began the Hatter. "That was because they lost the war—"

"I suppose they sent workmen and materials and repaired the damage," interrupted Alice.

"Don't make foolish remarks," said the Hatter. "They were allowed to do no such thing. For that would have deprived French builders of contracts and French workmen of jobs."

"Then the Germans paid to have it done?"

"That was impossible. They didn't have enough money or gold. The only way they could pay was in goods. But the creditors didn't want German goods and put up tariffs against them."

"Then how did they get paid?" asked Alice.

"They lent Germany money with which to pay. Then she had so much capital that she made her factories more and more efficient and produced more goods and employed less people—just like the rest of us. And now she has borrowed so much money that she's broke."

"If reparations are bad, why don't you abolish them?" asked Alice.

"That can't be done," said the Hatter, "because France won't agree and because the Allies must get reparations from Germany in order to pay their debts to America. These debts, too, must be paid in money from the sale of goods. But America has raised her tariff so as to limit the amount of goods she receives."

"Then how are the debts to be paid?"

"Nobody expects they will be paid," said the Hatter. "Yet we must act as though we thought they would be paid. One difficulty is that the debts change from year to year; so that the debtors must pay, not the amounts they borrowed, but much larger amounts."

"How can that be?" asked Alice.

"The debts are payable in gold, but actually the borrowers received goods, the prices of which were then very high. And what they pay back is not gold, but goods. But the prices of those goods have fallen; so in order to settle their gold debt the borrowers have to pay back about 50 per cent. more than they borrowed."

Alice sighed and wondered whether anything *ever* would happen in a reasonable way again. "Can nobody do anything?" she asked.

"Well, nobody *has* done much," answered the Hatter.

"But isn't it important to do something?" urged Alice.

"Of course. It is extremely important. Everybody knows that," said the Hatter.

Then Alice remembered what the Cheshire Cat had said.

The *Jewish Weekly* of 13th May had a half-column favourable review of *Social Justice and the Jew*, by Louis P. Jacobs. This pamphlet is published by the Henry George Foundation, and copies, price 6d. each post free, are obtainable from our offices.

Office supplies of the January-February and the March-April issue of "Land & Liberty" being exhausted, readers will do a great favour who will send us any copies of both or either of these issues.

THE BREAD TAX

By D. J. J. Owen

(Address at Alexandria Park, 9th June, as reported in the "Manchester Guardian.")

The Wheat Quota is simply another name for a subsidy, obtained in this case by a levy on millers and importers and paid ultimately by the consumers. It is a dole to landowners, who will be the ultimate recipients in the form of higher rents or land values. The essence of the scheme is a guaranteed price to wheat farmers. This increased price will not only be paid on marginal wheat land which may be stimulated into wheat production, but also on land already under wheat crops where a stimulus is unnecessary. On all this superior land the guaranteed price will yield a surplus over and above the normal profit. This will be absorbed in advanced rents.

As this wasteful subsidy will come out of consumers' pockets, their purchasing power will be reduced, and the demand for the production of other commodities will be diminished by more than the problematical increase in employment in wheat production.

The following example is suggested by a farming expert: Compare two farms of 100 acres each, one of superior land at 50s. rental per acre, selling eight quarters of wheat per acre, and the other of inferior land at 20s. rental, yielding only four quarters per acre. The subsidy under the quota scheme may be 15s. per quarter. Thus the better farm will receive £6 per acre or £600 in all, whilst the poorer farm will only receive £3 per acre, or £300 in all. The exact opposite of what the subsidy was supposed to do!

Tariffs give a monopoly to owners of land by restricting the area of selection in our purchases. Quotas enhance this monopoly and inflate still further the values of land by adding the element of compulsion to buy.

GEORGE LINSKILL

We have with deep regret to record the death on 11th May of an old friend and supporter, George Linskill, of Cleethorpes. Mr Linskill had spent a lifetime in the firing line in the municipal and trade union politics of the town and district. He never had robust health at any time, but he knew his *Progress and Poverty* and could not think to miss an opportunity to make opinion for the cause he lived to serve. He was not content to wait on opportunity and could provoke a discussion in the Council, on the platform and in the Press, as occasion offered.

We knew our friend and colleague more by correspondence than by personal contact. He was one of those who, working in quiet ways, give strength and character to the movement. There are very many who are indebted to George Linskill for the knowledge they possess on the relationship of industry to land monopoly.

One who knew him well writes: "His was a life of labour and service to a great cause and principle with no thought of material gain or advancement to himself, nor of any malice to those misunderstanding, unreasoning or self-interested opponents. His closing days were clouded with disappointment, yet he believed the dawn was nearest the darkest hour." In spirit and in truth, George Linskill played a man's part in the endeavour to make his fellow workmen realize that the labour question was embraced in the land question. Our sincerest sympathy goes to Mrs Linskill and her family circle.

J. P.