

1931

To all subscribers and friends a Happy New Year. The news notes placed by the United Committee in "Land & Liberty" each month can best tell what has been aimed at and achieved for the advancement of the cause at home and abroad during 1930.

Here in England the three public Conferences held under the auspices of the United Committee in the Potteries, Manchester, and Heanor, Notts, were each and all successful to a degree.

This time last year a Budget Tax on land values was in prospect. Our readers know what happened—how Mr Snowden decided on a Land Valuation Bill to begin with. The Bill has been circulated, but only, as the Chancellor has explained, for the purpose of receiving suggestions in regard to it. In that event the chances are that Mr Snowden will have the opportunity to make good the impost in the Budget of this year.

There is a better understanding between the Liberal and Labour Parties in the House, and the Government should keep in office for a year or two longer. As we write this is current political opinion.

An American correspondent, who has a good grasp of the situation here, in a letter says: "What the United Committee wants at this time is another Joseph Fels." Our correspondent is right. What is urgently needed is driving power in the country, and additional financial backing is most urgent.

The organized landlord forces are powerfully equipped to contest any land value legislation. Our advantage is that the enemy has now been taken into the open: our disadvantage is that we cannot meet a fraction of the demands that are made upon us for the services we desire to render. This is not as it should be, and we can only appeal to friends with means to see that our organization is equipped to do its best at this time.

We should be foremost in the campaign to avert the disaster to the Free Trade cause the world over. That would be the certain effect of protective tariffs in this country.

Unemployment is the burning question of the day, and so long as it persists who can say that the Free Trade principle is not in danger? The only answer to Protection is a measure of land value taxation which will provide new openings to industry.

As the Committee of our International Union has well said:

"Great Britain, as all the world knows, is the recognized citadel of Free Trade. The prevailing unemployment has given the reactionary interests their chance and they are making the most of it. The cause of Free Trade is being menaced to-day as never before. The members of our International Union must have their eyes upon this critical situation, knowing that any ground lost in Great Britain would have the gravest consequences to the cause of freedom and progress in every other country. The immediate question is: What can be done to equip Headquarters with the means to strengthen and develop the campaign that has for its object the freeing of industry from the bondage of monopoly?"

Our endeavour must be to keep the ground we occupy, and make some progress.

J. P.

MANIFESTO

(Issued by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values)

FREE TRADE IN ITS FULLNESS TAX LAND VALUES

We declare our unfaltering adherence to the principle of Free Trade, which for its full expression requires the removal of all taxes and rates that now fall upon trade, industry, buildings, and improvements;

We affirm that the value of land, which is due wholly to the presence, growth and efforts of the community, is the proper and natural source of public revenue;

We condemn all proposals that would place further burdens upon production and exchange, whether by the insidious method of a tariff, or by repressive direct taxation of industry;

We offer uncompromising resistance to all measures, by whomsoever recommended, for land purchase with the help of State funds, and to any fiscal or financial policy which taxes the labour and capital of the country for the aggrandisement of special privilege;

We oppose all such devices as grants-in-aid to agriculture and public expenditure to "provide work," whose certain result is to increase the price of land, raise higher the obstacles to production interposed by land monopoly, and so aggravate existing poverty and distress.

Holding to the principle of complete Free Trade, freedom to produce as well as freedom to exchange, we call on the millions of voters who believe in the Taxation of Land Values as an instrument to free industry and enterprise from the fetters of monopoly, promote the best use of land, and open new opportunities to trade and employment, to give their voice and their vote only to candidates who stand for this liberating policy.

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