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## **Single Tax Movement in England**

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ENGLAND.

PROGRESS OF OUR CAUSE UNMISTAKABLE— THE SINGLE TAX THE ANTIDOTE TO SOCIALISM—THE SCOTTISH BILL FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES—HOW DEFEATED.

The excitement due to the General Election having subsided, we are able once again to take a calm survey of the situation and to form some estimate of the progress which our movement has been making of late. That it has made progress of a most solid nature we have ample evidence to prove, and the rate of that progress has been greatly accelerated by the Tariff Mongers' attack upon our present system of Partial Free Trade. Their "raging and tearing propaganda" played into our hands admirably, enabling us to bring out the true remedy for social ills and industrial depression, and to focus attention upon the Taxation of Land Values as a measure of much greater importance than a mere "shifting of the burden of taxation from one set of shoulders to another." Chamberlain and Co. have unwittingly done us a great service in providing so excellent an opportunity for the re-establishment of the principles of Free Exchange.

Free exchange of commodities, though good in itself and a long step in the right direction, is recognized by an ever increasing body of public opinion as providing no solution of the social problems with which this country is confronted. And in consequence those who are not satisfied with the old policy of leaving things as they are, and who at the same time find themselves unable to accept the protectionist theories, are being impelled towards either Socialism or Single Tax, By the more searching inquirers Socialism is seen to be impracticable, involving as it does economic contradictions and the loss of individuality. Unfortunately the plausibility of its advocates is blinding many to its dangers and, therefore, to counteract the evils which must inevitably follow its adoption, continuous effort and unflagging energy, on the part of all Single Taxers everywhere, are essential. No stone which in any way can further the cause is being left unturned, and we have good reason to believe our labors

will in the near future be crowned with a great measure of success.

Once the Taxation of Land Values is put into operation, the conditions which give to Socialism its power to secure so much support, will begin to disappear, and with them the *raison d'être* of its existence. Unemployment and low wages arm the Socialist with a powerful weapon with which to attack existing institutions, and neither orthodox Tory nor orthodox Liberal has any sound alternative to offer to his proposals. Our remedy for the two ills referred to is not easy to grasp at first sight, and before a man can assimilate it a lot of educational work must be done. Once understood, however, it takes a firm hold.

This work of instruction is being carried on as never before, and men are being enrolled as members of our league from all quarters. If the Taxation of Land Values becomes law the position of Socialism will be seriously undermined by the disappearance of the unemployed, and the resultant rise in wages.

The present Government, the most democratic we have ever had, is largely with us, and no doubt every facility will be given for the passing of any bill embodying our principles. No direct Governmental legislation on our lines is anticipated this session; but by means of private bills we hope to achieve some notable result. Should such bill or bills go through, and our doubts are small indeed that they will not, and the proposed Tax become an accepted method of taxation, we may reasonably expect that the financial difficulties of chancellors of the Exchequer will cause them to fall back upon it as the easiest and cheapest way of raising revenue.

Each successive increase will help to remove more and more weight from the shoulders of industry until at last we shall see breaking upon us the dawn of that era of real prosperity to which all Single Taxers are looking forward with confidence and hope.

Since the foregoing was penned the Scottish Bill for the Taxation of Land Values has been brought before the House of Commons. The rejection of the Bill was moved from the Government side of the House by Mr. Harold Cox (late Secretary of The Cobden Club), but this was

defeated by 333 to 03. The second reading of the Bill was carried by 319 to 61. The Bill had a cordial reception from the Lord Advocate (T. Shaw) on behalf of the Government, but owing to the antiquated methods of procedure in the House of Commons the Bill failed to get referred to a Grand Committee on law, and so becomes a dead letter unless the Government resuscitates it.

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