

of the French Revolution, he protested against the atrocities of the bloody Reign of Terror, and fearlessly raised his voice against the beheading of the king.

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The British Land Taxes.

The (London) Nation (radical), June 5.—The land taxes, which constitute the most novel, and in a proper sense the most revolutionary, proposals, are remarkable alike for the skill and the moderation with which their two-edged purpose is pursued. The main object, to secure for the exchequer a considerable and not excessive share of that value, peculiar to land, which the growing needs of a population increasing in numbers and wealth imparts to a factor limited by nature, is carefully and skillfully achieved. . . . The hardest fighting will probably center round the taxes on undeveloped land and mining values. Here the main fiscal purpose of securing to the public a share of future increments of value is supplemented by the further object of endeavoring to stimulate the best and fullest development of the resources of the land from the standpoint of the national interest. The limitations of the clauses show that this policy is confined to the case of lands ripe for building, which are being withheld from that purpose, either from carelessness, caprice, or, as is more usual, to obtain a price in a future market artificially enhanced by the scarcity due to this policy of holding back. . . . A good deal of the resentment expressed against the land taxes is due to a recognition that they tend to interfere with the existing liberty of owners to do with "their land" as they like, regardless of the public interest in this prime necessary of life. They complain that some of the new taxes, for instance, the undeveloped land and mineral taxes and the heavier estate duties, not being payable from current income, will compel them to put portions of their estates into the market, and at prices reduced in amount by the increased supply of land offered under this pressure. This, no doubt, is true. The taxes will conduce to the break-up of large ancestral estates, will increase the supply of saleable land, and will lower its price. All these results are public benefits, which though rather incidental than contained in the main purpose of the finance bill, are particularly welcome in a country which has suffered long and severely, both in its cities and in its rural parts, from the artificially restricted ownership and supply of land for human habitation and for industrial and agricultural working. This developmental side of the land policy is, indeed, of more immediate importance than the yield of revenue.

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Cheer Up.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, Liberty Bell (ind.), May 1.—We have cause to be optimistic. Look at the rejuvenation of democracy in our State of Oregon. Direct legislation has been tried there and not found wanting. Reform measures have been voted down in Oregon; not because of party politics, but on their merits as understood by the voters. This does not prohibit the same measures going before the people again. The propagandist and agitator will have to continue in his cause and clear the public mind of error if there is any. A just cause

is strengthened through defeat, as a general thing. In Missouri the voters after a year's deliberation overwhelmingly carried a proposition which they had voted down a year previous. The Oklahoman voter put his foot down on the proposition to sell the school lands. Thus, we see, wherever the people have an opportunity through the referendum or initiative to express themselves, they do it in an intelligent way. . . . Direct legislation is as an iron rung in a wooden ladder, on which civilization can go a step higher with impunity; it will secure to the poorest along with the richest all comforts and conveniences which justice demands. More; it allows a calm and dispassionate consideration of measures to the betterment of social conditions, where intelligence is beclouded and needs an awakening as to rights and duties.

RELATED THINGS

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RESPONSIBILITY.

For The Public.

Know you our land, what it shall be
 This day a thousand years?
 A garden sweet of loyalty,
 Of honor, and of manhood free;
 Or stained with wrong and tears?

Midst thoughtless swarms, what more are we,
 Our heart-deep faith and love,
 Than fragile sands that stem the sea;
 Or star-dust, sifting silently
 From searchless fields above?

Like far-spent tides, the yesterdays
 About us noiseless roll;
 Yet, something from their bygone ways
 Steals forth, and in the twilight plays
 The harpstrings of the soul,

And chants: "Through cycles vast, sublime,
 The future's agelong drift,
 The many-peteled rose of Time,
 The while its secret branches climb,
 May wondrous fragrance lift.

"All truths were ever taught! Recast
 This fickle, vernal time;
 That through strong deeds its human vast,
 Stern conflicts won, wild dangers passed,
 May reach a fruitful prime!"

Whose is the task? All eyes may see,
 Though word nor sign appears;
 Yea, dare I think, on you, on me,
 Depends where our loved land shall be
 This day a thousand years!

EMMA KENYON PARRISH.

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Look round at the courses of the stars, as if thou wert going along with them.—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.