

be recalled by popular action. But if any are elected, it should be only the chief—as Mayor, Sheriff, Governor or President, and he should have full responsibility for, and therefore full power over his subordinates, and be in some way constantly subject to popular recall.

* *

The Insistent Land Question in Great Britain.

Further steps regarding the British Budget (p. 441) have been taken by the British "United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values." It was this federation and its subsidiary bodies that spurred on the ministry by arousing the people, when ministerial indifference to the land question threatened the Liberal party with overwhelming disaster. That was in 1908. In July of that year, the United Committee urged upon the Ministry these four considerations: (1) that industrial and commercial progress, unaccompanied by economic reform, is tightening opportunities and causing increasing dependence of workers upon the classes that control the sources of livelihood; (2) that "small holdings," "housing" and "town planning" laws would by themselves make no change tending generally to weaken the monopoly of land; (3) that the "widening of the whole field of employment—a larger scope for the application of labor to land in a natural and remunerative way—is the only solution of the problem;" and (4) that land valuation is the first step on the only sure road to that solution. The United Committee therefore proposed at that time (in what it called "Land Valuation: a Plea for Urgency,") that the plans for land valuation "should be forthwith laid before Parliament and the country with a view to the coming political campaign." This plea of urgency was followed with public conferences, the distribution of literature, and other forms of popular agitation; and in the April following land valuation was incorporated in the Budget which has now become a law. Having gained that first step, the United Committee now issues "A Further Plea of Urgency," also addressed to the Ministry.

*

In this second urgent address the United Committee while repeating that "valuation is the first step," emphasizes the statement with a declaration that it is "the first step only" and warns the ministry to be alert. "By itself," this urgent plea asserts, land valuation "arouses all the animosity of the privileged classes, but remains impotent to bring relief to the workers whose hopes were raised and who rallied to liberalism at the last general election as they never did before." What the

United Committee "urge, therefore, is a bold policy of land value taxation, in order to break down land monopoly and widen the opportunities for general employment." The alternative, as they point out, is a flank attack from the Tories which will put the Liberals out of the fight. Already the signs of preparation for such a flank attack are visible in the Tory tendency to advocate a system of "borrow and buy" for the purpose of creating a peasant proprietary. This policy would leave nothing to fight over if the Liberals meet it only with a policy of "value and buy," argue the United Committee, and there is really no doubt of it. Comparing land value taxation with protectionism as a remedy for economic distress, the United Committee's "Further Plea for Urgency" impressively describes in this fashion what Liberalism would do if it does what it should: "The Protectionists' remedy for poverty and distress is to put fresh impediments in the way of industry; the Liberal remedy is to free industry by freeing land. They would close more doors; Liberalism would fling open the doors which are now closed. They would make things dearer and scantier by obliging them to be made under less favorable circumstances and at a greater cost, owing to tariff walls; Liberalism would make them cheaper and more plentiful by unlocking the land, the source from which alone material commodities can be drawn." This is good doctrine, not only for Great Britain, but for every other country as well. And in its concluding words the address we are quoting from truly tells how to accomplish the result everywhere when it says: "There is no solution for the problem of unemployment except giving a wider scope for the free and profitable application of labor to land. The way to secure this is to tax or rate the value of all land, whether used or unused, and to free buildings and improvements of all kinds from rates and taxes."

* *

The Reality of the Ideal.

In these days when mankind are passing through that stage of philosophy wherein they dispute over the question of which comes first, the idealist's hen or the materialist's egg; when some of them say that the ideal evolves from the material, and others that the material is generated by the ideal; when the latter view seems just about coming to its own—at such a time a rule of thumb test is handy to have in the mind. And one is given by G. K. Chesterton, who says:

If any one wandering about wants to have a good trick or test for separating the wrong idealism from