



"What! Tax MY Land!"

land valuation for taxes when in the same speech he declared Lloyd George's policy to be "nationalization of the land, to come by easy stages, the Budget being the first stage."

Apparently the Unionists are setting up a policy of peasant proprietorship against the land taxation movement; but they are not pledging themselves to it. If worse came to worst with them, however, peasant proprietorship would probably be the most effective shield they could use to defend their own great landed privileges.

Their argument against modifying the legislative power of the House of Lords is that this body is necessary to represent "the settled sentiment" of Great Britain, and to stand in the way of "passing gusts of popular passion" as represented by the Commons. What they themselves propose is to reform the House of Lords by allowing it to elect from its own number a select body to legislate representatively for it. They insist upon a two-chamber legislature as necessary to democratic government, and imply that the Commons aim at a one-chamber legislature. To this the Liberals answer that they also favor two chambers, but that the Lords are proposing practically only one chamber and that their own. If the Lords can veto the action of the Commons whenever they wish, and cannot be controlled by the people, there is in effect, argue the Liberals, no other effective chamber but the House of Lords itself.

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There is a certain profound satisfaction in listening to campaign speakers here. They are argumen-

tative, yet interesting; they state facts with a keen sense of responsibility for accuracy; they are courteous—diplomatically so, at any rate—toward opponents; and although they make long speeches consecutively reasoned out, they are not dull. This is possible because the audiences take delight in following the reasoning. While they may applaud rhetorical periods, and do enjoy jokes—which they apprehend quickly, by the way, despite all our jokes upon their supposed slowness of apprehension—they seem to applaud the climax of an argument well constructed and simply put, better than anything else in a speech. With us, a campaign is the signal for arousing blind passion or enthusiasm; with them it is the signal for trying to "make good" in argument.

The newspapers, too, are infinitely better than ours, as circulators of the serious news of a campaign. No matter how partisan, they seldom misrepresent opponents in the raw way so common with us; and in many even of the partisan papers, you get fair reports of the speeches on both sides.

L. F. P.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, January 25, 1910.

### The Parliamentary Elections in Great Britain.

During the week since our last report (p. 57) the Unionists made greater gains than the Government forces, up to the 24th, when the Liberals made gains. The results then stood:

Ministerialists.	
Liberals .....	202
Laborites .....	34
Nationalists .....	69
Total .....	305
Opposition.	
Unionists .....	221
Laborites .....	1
Total .....	222
Unionist gains.....	115
Liberal gains.....	16
Net Unionist gains.....	99
Still to be elected.....	143

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Alexander Ure, Lord Advocate for Scotland, has been returned by a strong vote. Other Liberals duly returned have been Sir James H. Dalziel, proprietor of Reynolds' Newspaper; Herbert Louis Samuel, Under Secretary for the Home Office; Lewis Vernon Harcourt, and J. A. Bryce,

brother of the Ambassador to the United States. Albert Victor Grayson, the Socialist, lost his seat to a Liberal candidate, C. Leach. Timothy M. Healy, Irish Unionist member, was re-elected by a close vote. Henry Chaplin, leading advocate of tariff reform before Joseph Chamberlain adopted that slogan, was re-elected by the Unionists. David Lloyd George was re-elected from Carnarvon by a somewhat reduced majority.

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Mr. Balfour is reported as saying on the 24th: "This election may settle the Budget. It certainly will not settle tariff reform, or home rule, or the House of Lords. These are issues which the country will have to decide separately." T. P. O'Connor, in his cabled letter of the 22d to the Chicago Tribune, asserts that the policy of the Irish Nationalist leader, John Redmond, "is to stand by the Liberals till the veto of the House of Lords is settled forever, as thus the really formidable and only obstacle to home rule will be removed." He thinks the Laborites will give the Liberals more trouble than the Irish party will, asserting that the Irish "will be solid with the Ministry."

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From the London Daily News we learn that at York on the 12th Mr. Balfour made two statements that shed a much-needed light on his position in regard to the proposed tax upon the people's bread. The first was as follows:

So far he had treated the subject from the point of view of the community as producer rather than the community as consumer. The latter, he thought, ought to stand in the second place, but, still, its importance ought not to be ignored.

The second was as interesting and even more amazing:

He believed that a small duty on corn would tend to diminish rather than increase the price of bread. This second statement was controverted by one of his supporters, Mr. Shirley Benn, who, at Battersea said the price of the loaf would be increased by a duty on wheat. Mr. Balfour said further, continues the Daily News, that "he had long thought that there were many advantages in what was called broadening the basis of taxation—in other words, raising the necessary revenue for national purposes as far as possible from indirect taxation and as little as possible from direct taxation. He would prefer that the taxation the rich had to pay should be taken in the form of duties upon luxuries, because it was only in that form we might be sure that we were not taxing the rich and diminishing the employment of the poor."

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Henry George, Jr., and the editor of The Public spoke on various occasions during the week before

last, in support of the candidacy of Josiah C. Wedgwood, standing at Newcastle-under-Lyme (pp. 58, 78). Mr. George had an extended letter in the London Nation of the 8th on "The 'Insurgent' Movement in the United States." Mr. George's World syndicate letters are appearing in the Chicago Record-Herald and the Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, as well, of course, as elsewhere.

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#### National Agitation Over the Increased Cost of Living

Discussion of and excitement over the increased cost of living (p. 1) has been spreading from one end of the country to the other. The Milwaukee Daily News suggests that the cause may be found in the power of cornering food held by the cold storage warehouses. J. Ogden Armour says that the meat supply is not equal to the demand, which raises prices. Senator Elkins thinks that the American people are extravagant. The Chicago Tribune has a daily first-page article of inquiry into the matter, and has got as far as to conclude that the farmer is at least a beneficiary of the high prices. President Kirby of the National Manufacturers' Association, lays the high cost of living to the "labor trust," whatever that may be. The Cleveland Press responds with the argument that "there is no water in labor, while the stock of corporations employing labor is loaded to the guards with it." Fenton Lawson of Cincinnati says that "monopoly explains the high cost of living, and is making of the most of us (employers of labor though we be) merely time servants in the employ of monopoly."

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Boycotts on the use of meat for thirty or sixty days, or until the almost prohibitive prices should drop, were started in Cleveland the second week in January, and by the end of the week had involved about 65,000 of the city's population. The boycott idea flew across the country, being taken up in the State of Ohio, in Pittsburg, in Omaha, in Kansas City, in Baltimore, in Detroit, in Toledo, in Minneapolis, in St. Louis and in Chicago. Results in Cleveland were already reported by the 19th, and much more marked results were reported generally on the 25th.

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Inquiries and investigations have been set on foot in city councils and legislatures. In his message to the Ohio legislature on the subject Governor Harmon says:

If it be found that there are laws which put the people in the power of men who thrive by taking advantage of their necessities, or that there is a lack of proper laws to prevent such impositions, or that existing laws to that end are not duly enforced, in either case the means of relief are in your power. Or if the fault lies partly in the laws of Congress,