

It is to be noted that the United Committee and the associated Leagues are free from any alliance with any of the political parties. We are a non-party organization, holding ourselves at liberty to stimulate thought and action in and through the political parties, as through all economic social, industrial and religious circles. Our people as individuals are to be found indiscriminately attached to the numerous parties and bodies concerning themselves with the solution of social problems.

STUDY CLASSES

Education by means of political economy classes, with "Progress and Poverty" or "Social Problems" as the textbook, has been conducted in many centres. As a rule, instruction is given under the auspices of the Committee and the Leagues, as a regular feature of their Winter work, at their offices or in rooms specially engaged for the purpose. During the past seven years more than 1,000 students have been enrolled at these most useful classes. Teachers have also been supplied by the Committee and the Leagues to educational institutions or political associations that have organized courses of lectures on the taxation of land values.

PRESS PROPAGANDA

Daily and weekly newspapers have been well supplied, especially during the past two years, with letters to the Editor, and where possible, with newspaper articles. This work has been very effective and has been carried on by the office staff, by numerous members of the associated Leagues, and by hundreds of honorary workers up and down the country.

THE FUTURE

Increased activities are especially necessary at the present moment in view of the serious industrial and financial situation, and of the coming general election. The time is now ripe for awakening the public, to a degree never before attained, to the justice, urgency and expediency of our reform. The present system of taxation has broken down; every palliative for improving social conditions has been tried. Our reform is the key to the solution of the problems of unemployment, low wages, housing, public health, national and local finance. It will end the industrial slavery in which we all live. All convinced of this truth will surely come forward and help.

W. R. LESTER,
C. E. CROMPTON,
Honorary Treasurers.
JOHN PAUL,
A. W. MADSEN,
Secretaries.

11 Tothill St., London, S.W., 1.

FOR unearned incomes derived from land, the taxation of land values is sufficient remedy.

—PROF. BROWN, in "Earned and Unearned Incomes."

Sees Land Tax Reform As Best Hope for Erin

FREDERICK F. INGRAM, of Detroit, has made a trip to Europe in which he has observed conditions. Following are his conclusions on the Irish situation:

Now that Ireland has won her freedom, what will she do about the land? How will she obtain its full economic service to the people? These are practical questions which will test at once the sincerity and ability of the Irish leaders.

At the present time Ireland's farms are held for the most part under the Land Purchase Act of 1903. Hailed by a majority of the Irish politicians as a generous act of reparation by the English which would prove a final solution of the land question, it was found to be nothing more nor less than a bonus to the English landlord, who received in this manner the remuneration which his impoverished tenantry was no longer able to give.

Sixteen per cent. of the purchase price was paid by the government, while the remainder was extended over a term of 50 years at low interest and paid by the Irish purchaser. The new landlord, in order to pay this sum and make a profit besides, became of necessity a greater rack renter than his predecessor. And the plight of the poor tenant and laborer became worse than before. It is therefore clear that with the change of regime will come some change of system.

TOWN SITES, TOO

What will that system be? It is equally clear that the land policy must be one that will bring harmony, content and prosperity not only to the disturbed districts but to the whole of Ireland, not only for the present but for the years to come. By "land" must not be understood merely the tillable soil. "Land" economically considered and as here used is meant to include the crust of the earth and the social values that inhere to it in cities as site values, together with all natural resources which exist apart from human agency but the use of which is necessary for the satisfaction of material wants. Therefore this land policy must provide for the revival of Irish fisheries and Irish manufactures by relieving them of the present strangling tax burden, promote re-forestation, utilize Irish mines, develop foreign trade through exports and imports. This is the position taken by Irishmen generally in opposition to Socialist schemes and to the restrictive policies advanced by some of their number.

Land and capital, it is contended, are not in any way synonymous. Land is not capital or wealth; it is the source from which wealth is derived. Land is limited in amount and cannot be produced by man; but under right conditions man can produce wealth indefinitely if he has access to land. It is the control of land and not the ownership of capital which gives power to one group of men to keep another group in economic servitude. Capital is the product of labor; land is the means of its production. This is

why it is the State's duty to provide the people unlimited access to the land but not to provide them unlimited wealth. The community has an inalienable right to the God-given land of the nation but has no right to the capital earned by the individuals composing the nation, nor to take in taxes their earnings to replace revenues from land that has been wrongfully diverted from public fund to private pocket.

Granting the foregoing, again the question arises, how is the land to be equitably redistributed? Consider the town of Westport. Under the Land Purchase Act, Lord Sligo repurchased all the park lands and retained the demesne proper which contains some 2,000 acres. The town is surrounded by these grass lands while the workers have no land on which to keep cows or to grow crops.

RICH HOLD LAND

In Galway holders of 20 or 30 acres backing on the bog are penned in by ranches of 900 acres let to grazers, the lowest form of agriculture, and that eliminates more than nine-tenths of farm labor. Obviously these lands should be adequately worked, also the vast areas held in complete idleness by rich owners. But on what basis? Under the present laws they are untaxed, or the landowner has been paying into the public treasury on a valuation of only five or ten per cent. of the real values.

Industries and the workingmen have been paying Ireland's taxes. It is argued that industry if relieved of this unjust burden could compete in the world markets, while if at the same time land were fairly taxed land would not be held out of use, or, if any land still remained idle, then an additional tax for the privilege of withholding land from use could be levied.

GRIFFITH FOR IT

Many patriots whose names are revered in Ireland, among them Bishop Nulty, Victor Lally and Michael Davitt, advocated the removal of the age-old burdens under which Irish industry suffered, and the bringing of all land into use—at the same time providing that those who work it should pay no more or less than its fair use value. The Irish National Party supported this plan up to its disbandment in 1918 when it was absorbed by the Sinn Fein. Arthur Griffith and many other influential Sinn Feiners favor it, as do books and pamphlets written by all classes of people of varying viewpoints, which are being circulated by the thousands.

Will Ireland do this? Will her leaders be big enough to seize the opportunity? From conversation with Sinn Feiners, Nationalists, Ulsterites and Home Rulers, I am convinced that the Irish of all camps are awake to the possibility and are keen for its realization. Certain it is that only through earnest consideration of the land problem and a careful working out of it can Ireland become the great nation her destiny seems to promise. If she devotes herself thus to the development of her natural resources and England leaves her, as the treaty provides, as unrestricted

in every way as is Canada, then may England hope for that conscious brotherhood of independent co-operative nations, drawn together at last by their common habit of thought.

LAND TAX ADVOCATES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Another large group, constantly growing, advocates shifting taxes from buildings and all other labor products to land, thus lowering—they claim—the selling price of both, which would increase consumption, increase employment and force vast areas of idle farming land into use. The idle land is there, rich, productive, untaxed. Put the tax where it belongs, on known values, and free industry.

In telegrams, in open meetings, and in the press, this group is constantly reminding Lloyd George of his public statements of some eight years ago in which he advocated the same thing. John Paul and other spokesmen of this militant group call on the government to heed the words of Lord Cavendish Bentinck, who said in parliamentary debate on unemployment:

"The best way of restoring our trade is to be true to the principles for which our sailors and soldiers fought in the war. We shall never get prosperity in this country unless we have the honesty and good faith to be true to our pledges and promises to the men who served us so well."

Our Australian Letter

WE are in the throes of what is probably the most important election that has ever been held in New South Wales. Industries are collapsing on every side, the costs of production are so heavy that employers are in many cases unable to carry on at a profit, and they very naturally close down their works. Thousands of workers are thus thrown out of employment, and yet the demagogues and trades union officials who lead them by the nose persistently refuse to agree to a reduction in wages, although this would bring about a reduction in prices, and thus increase the purchasing power of wages. Of course, labor is only one of the factors to be considered, but it is a very important one, and the terms under which it is paid in New South Wales are essentially unsound.

General Smuts was quite right when, speaking in the Legislative Assembly at Cape Town the other day, he declared that compulsory arbitration in Australia and New Zealand, which were the only two countries where it was in operation, had proved a ghastly failure, and was one of the devices which were wrecking the whole industrial system of the countries named. I happened to be the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Strikes and Arbitration which was appointed to inquire into the whole industrial problem after the great maritime strike of 1891.

The commission was composed of half a dozen representatives of Capital and a similar number of representatives of Labor. We took a tremendous amount of evidence, and inquired into all the conciliation and arbitration schemes that had ever been put on trial or even conceived.