

MacDonald could very well have said, on shaking the hand of Mayor Walker:

"Your Excellency, thanks to the work of one of your almost predecessors I have the privilege of meeting you in these circumstances. I refer to Mr. George."

Whether the impeccable Jimmy would have racked his head to think if the reference was to Lloyd George is really of no consequence.

—Idwal Jones, Book Reviewer, in *Washington Herald*.

Mr. Snowden and Land Values

IN well informed Socialist circles it is believed that Mr. Snowden, in his search for fresh sources of revenue, will tap land-values, and that he will not be content with a trifling tax. Socialists expect Liberal support for such proposals if, and when, they are brought forward in the House. Mr. Lloyd George's Increment Value Duty, Reversion Duty and Undeveloped Land Duty, which were in his famous Budget of 1909, were swept away by Sir Austen Chamberlain in his Budget of 1920, under Mr. Lloyd George's Premiership. All that remains of the Budget of 1919 is the Mineral Rights Duty. The other duties yielded comparatively trifling returns, and were a glaring failure. It is alleged, however, by those who favor the taxation of land values, that Mr. Lloyd George's system was too complicated and contained too many exemptions. These critics are pressing now for a tax on the capital value of all the land in Great Britain, assessed at its market value without taking account of improvements.

At the offices of the United Committee for the Taxation of land values I was told today that the capital value of this land is at least £4,500,000,000. A tax of threepence in the pound on this amount would yield £56,250,000 a year, but against this is to be set the cost of re-assessments at frequent intervals. The supporters of this policy are trying to make it one of the issues at the Municipal Elections on Friday week.

Yorkshire Post (Conservative)

Trust It May Be True

THE "*Sunday Express*" understands that in the event of Mr. Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, being compelled to introduce new taxation in his Budget, neither the income tax nor the super tax will be affected.

There is just the possibility that some addition may be made to the death duties, but it is far more likely that the increased revenue will be raised by the imposition of a tax on land values.

Mr. Snowden has already made detailed investigations into the yield that might be obtained from this source, and is satisfied that by a tax of threepence in the pound he could raise a revenue approximating £60,000,000.

He is credited with the view, apart from the revenue question, that the taxation of land values would act as a decided stimulant to the development of the land.

—*London Express*.

Who'll Enlighten Him?

THE following excerpt from the December report of B. H. Crocheron, director of agricultural extension of the University of California, does not seem to require any comment:

"Bill Smith owns a good ranch. He sells it at a pleasing price to John Jones, subdivider; presumably Bill makes a profit. Then John Jones divides the ranch into fifty small pieces, each of five acres or less, and sells the pieces to fifty families at prices pleasing to himself; presumably John makes a profit. Then the fifty families start out, each on a piece of Bill Smith's ranch, to try to make a profit. They paid more per acre than that place was worth to Bill, else he'd not have sold it to John Jones. They paid more than it cost John, else he'd not have sold it to the settlers.

"Bill didn't make a fine living; he got 'along', was saving, reaped advantage from the natural advance in land values and now is comfortable on the proceeds. But the settlers have only 2 per cent. of the area on which to farm; they paid a price per acre that would make Bill's hair stand on end and, furthermore, most of them don't know the business.

"Result, five years hence: Bill Smith and John Jones still satisfied; fifty 'farm families' very much dissatisfied. Two men with a profit; fifty with a loss; the county with a delinquent tax list; the community with a patch of deserted shacks. Is that the way to develop the State?"

—From *Farm and Orchard Magazine* of Los Angeles Times

The Bishop's "Natural" Cure

"I can see no cure for unemployment in this country," said the Bishop of London. * * * * "Such a state of affairs is too awful for words; the natural cure is to send British stock to the Dominions and Colonies."

If this Bishop is not better informed concerning this life, we must decline to place any reliance upon his assurances concerning the "life hereafter."

The "natural cure" is freedom to use the earth which the Bishop's God hath given for the children of men. Let him read his Bible again before he gets up to talk. Overcrowding arises from lack of houses. Lack of houses arises from high prices for land—on which to stand them and, (what is generally overlooked) out of which to make them. High prices for land arise from the claim by some of God's children that they can "own" what is provided equally for all.

—*Commonweal*, England.