

the Inter-Departmental Enquiry Committee on Site Value Rating.

"The attitude of the parties on this all-important subject," Mr. Dupuis continued, "the equal right to use the earth, might suggest to some of your readers that the questions which really matter are those which partisans tend to avoid. Mr. Churchill, when a Liberal, again and again advocated the taxation and rating of land values, and Lord Snowden, good Free Trader and Labour Chancellor, introduced a measure for that purpose in 1931. Yet Mr. Churchill now aligns himself with the party which has always resisted any effort to reduce the private monopoly of land value, and Sir Stafford Cripps has consistently ignored any suggestion of reform, on some occasions (as on May 6, last) deliberately ignoring members of his own party who raised it."

In view of Mr. Stokes's new and influential position in the Government of the country his attitude to the Town and Country Planning Act (affirmed also in his printed Election Address) should go on record.

THE DEPTFORD CAMPAIGN

In one of the Labour Party's greatest strongholds, Deptford, in South-East London, Mr. Edward Miller stood as a Liberal candidate and fought the campaign as an uncompromising advocate of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. The "official" Liberal policy, with concessions both to Socialism (in such schemes as the *compulsory* co-partnership in industry) and to Conservatism in the *protectionist* guaranteed prices and markets for farmers, was severely ruled out. In that constituency there had not been a Liberal candidate in the last 25 years. There was not from the outset any hope of being elected but it was a propagandist and an educational effort that was much worth while. Invaluable assistance was given by members and friends of the Liberal Liberty League not only with generous subscriptions but also with personal co-operation in canvassing and speaking. Mr. Stephen Martin was foremost in these activities giving every moment of his available time and his associates included many members of the London Georgeists.

Following are extracts from Mr. Miller's Election Address:—

"The right use of land is of the utmost importance to our whole life. The proper housing of our people and the rebuilding of our cities depend upon land being freely available at reasonable prices instead of being held out of use for speculative purposes. Remember, idle land means idle men. To their credit, the Labour Party did recognise this truth, but by introducing the Town and Country Planning Act they have played into the hands of the Conservative Party and the landowners by offering £300 million to landowners as compensation for speculative values they have done nothing to create. That Act imposes heavy penalties by way of development charges on those who wish to use land in the best possible way. Building of houses is thereby being brought almost to a standstill.

"The land is the source of all food and the raw materials of industry and is a vast storehouse of wealth provided by nature for the use of all mankind. Its value is due to the needs and activities of us all. By taxing land values for public revenue we could relieve houses and buildings of rates and taxes and free the rewards of labour (*i.e.*, wages from income tax, purchase tax, etc.). The holding out of use of valuable land would be prevented, for the tax would fall on used and unused land alike making it unprofitable not to put land to its best and maximum use. Thus the fullest opportunity would be given to individual initiative and enterprise and a wider choice of employment would be available in all branches of industry.

"I believe that restrictions on the free flow of food, goods and raw materials lead to scarcity, foster monopoly, engender international antagonism and give privileges to a section of the community at the expenses of the remainder. I therefore stand for the repeal of all tariffs, duties, quotas and restrictions, including state currency, manipulations and controls which are hampering

the free exchange of goods. Open the ports—let the goods roll in, and by the exports demanded in exchange the 'dollar gap' problem would solve itself.

"I stand for the use of Proportional Representation in the election of all public bodies, because this would achieve a true representation of opinion.

"Direction of labour must be wiped off the Statute Books and military conscription replaced by a voluntary armed service, conditions and pay comparable with those of industry."

LIBERAL LIBERTY LEAGUE

Pre-Election Letter to each Liberal Candidate

The only justification for the existence of a political party is that it stands for some fundamental concept of the body politic; that it is based on faith in the truth of some natural laws that will lead to the progress of humanity. The Liberal faith demands that way of evolution is by freeing the individual from interference by the State, except only in so far as it is necessary to free him from injustice by his fellows.

The time is ripe for the revival of Liberalism as a force throughout the land. Bewildered and frustrated by the arbitrary dictatorial and futile acts of the present authoritarian Socialist Government the people are seeking a way out from the impasse into which the country has been led.

The Liberal Party has a grand opportunity at this election, they have nothing to lose yet everything to gain. *But no real success will come our way unless the following principles and policy figure EXCLUSIVELY in every election address and official Liberal pronouncement.*

FREEDOM OF PRODUCTION

The enactment of legislation to enable the transference of taxation and rating from production and the rewards of labour to the site value of land. The specific nature of this proposition and its far-reaching effect on economic affairs will be evident when it is realised that production cannot begin without the use of land. By shifting the burden of taxation to the site value of land, landholders would be compelled to put their land to its best uses, expansion of production would be relieved from the high speculative costs of land purchase, the greatest possible facility would be provided for new enterprises, and the restrictive and inflationary effects of position is fully appreciated by the Socialist Party who realise the threat it contains to their thirst for absolute economic power, and by the Tories who have frustrated in the past every attempt by the Liberals to obtain the required legislation.

FREEDOM OF EXCHANGE

The establishment of Free Trade; by opening the ports to the unrestricted flow of food, goods and raw materials; by the abandonment of State currency manipulation and control; and by a return to gold and silver as the basis of the nation's coinage.

Freedom of the market at home by abolishing all legally maintained restrictive practices, and by abandoning State fixation and regulation of prices.

ELECTORAL JUSTICE

By introducing the system of Proportional Representation and the single transferable vote in the election of all public bodies, thereby achieving true majority representation of opinion.

These are the pre-requisites of national and individual prosperity, enabling the greatest possible distribution of wealth. The provision of houses, homes and other necessities of life are all dependent on the fulfilment of these fundamental and traditional Liberal policies.

Therefore, we, the Liberal Liberty League, urge on you in this hour of crisis and national decision to discard all specious palliatives and stand firm without fear or favour for the essentials to the creation of a Liberal Society.

(Communicated by Mr. Stephen Martin, Joint Secretary of the L.L.L.)

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