

production; the overthrow of land monopoly; and the abolition not only of tariffs, but of all taxation now levied on trade and industry whether by State or Local Authority. The value of the land apart from improvements belongs wholly to the community because it is due to the presence and the activities of the community. It is the natural and proper source of the public revenue.

The passing of the Finance Act this year providing for Land Value Taxation lays the foundation for land reform and sound finance. It is vital that the Valuation be rapidly advanced and that the Tax be put into operation without delay. The Tax should be extended to *all* land and increased so that every occupation in town and country alike shall be set free from the fetters of monopoly. Hundreds of Municipalities demand the power to apply this policy in their own areas in relief of houses and other improvements from the burden of rates.

Holding to the principle of freedom to produce as well as freedom to exchange goods and services, we call on the millions of voters who believe in Land Valuation and true Free Trade to give their voice and their vote to the candidates who stand for this liberating policy.



PLEDGE YOUR CANDIDATE
TO LAND VALUE TAXATION
AND FREE TRADE

*** The United Committee's General Election Manifesto was published as a four-page quarto leaflet. The following arresting passage from "Progress and Poverty" was printed on the fourth page:—*

THE DENIAL OF JUSTICE

"What change may come, no mortal man can tell, but that some great change *must* come, thoughtful men begin to feel. The civilized world is trembling on the verge of a great movement. Either it must be a leap upward, which will open the way to advances yet undreamed of, or it must be a plunge downward, which will carry us back toward barbarism.

"The reform I have proposed accords with all that is politically, socially, or morally desirable. It has the qualities of a true reform, for it will make all other reforms easier.

"Our primary social adjustment is a denial of justice. In allowing one man to own the land on which and from which other men must live, we have made them his bondsmen in a degree which increases as material progress goes on. This is the subtle alchemy that in ways they do not realize is extracting from the masses in every civilized country the fruits of their weary toil; that is instituting a harder and more hopeless slavery in place of that which has been destroyed; that is bringing political despotism out of political freedom, and must soon transmute democratic institutions into anarchy.

"Turn to history, and on every page may be read the lesson that such wrong never goes unpunished; that the Nemesis that follows injustice never falters nor sleeps! Look around to-day. Can this state of things continue? May we even say, 'After us the deluge!' Nay; the pillars of the State are trembling even now, and the very foundations of society begin to quiver with pent-up forces that glow underneath. The struggle that must either revivify, or convulse in ruin, is near at hand, if it be not already begun.

"But if, while there is yet time, we turn to Justice and obey her, if we trust Liberty and follow her, the dangers that now threaten must disappear, the forces that now menace will turn to agencies of elevation."—Henry George in "Progress and Poverty," Book x, Chapters iv and v.

**Let Your Christmas or New Year
Gift be Books by Henry George. See
Special Announcement on page 173.**

"POVERTY AND PLENTY"

Mr Hobson has added to his list of instructive books. In this, his latest,* he seeks to disclose the reason why in modern civilization plenty is invariably accompanied by poverty, and though the problem has, as we well know, already been explored by master minds, Mr Hobson's line of approach provides food for reflection even from those whose opinions are already formed.

Throughout his analysis Mr Hobson insists that in the making of wealth or incomes the personal activity of individuals is but a contributory factor. He insists that economic society as a whole also contributes its share to all incomes and that the whole industrial machine is thrown out of gear, unemployment caused, production paralysed and incomes enjoyed without any regard to service because the world refuses to draw the line between what is earned by individuals and what is earned by society as a whole.

The present system, Mr Hobson shows, not only enables the stronger individual or group to get the better of the weaker and rob the latter of its proper share, but it also enables the stronger to rob society of the social contribution which co-operates with each individual or group in making values. Moreover, the appropriation of society's share by those who have the "pull" results in efforts on their part to unduly increase production by converting into capital goods the surplus unneeded by them for personal expenses. Glutted markets follow because of the reduced purchasing power of the masses who are robbed.

Among the further evil consequences of this failure to distinguish between individual and social values is the attitude of most men towards taxation. Thinking of their incomes as altogether the fruit of their personal efforts to which society in no way contributes, it seems clear to them that society should in no way share, and the very thought of taxation becomes hateful.

Space prevents us following Mr Hobson in his demonstration that if anything radical is to be done to secure just distribution of wealth social values must be separated from what is due to the individual and allocated to society as a whole. As to his way of dealing with this problem, the book must speak for itself and we can only say that a study of it will well pay the reader.

Special reference should be made to Mr Hobson's denunciation of the immorality (throughout the book appeal is made to the moral as well as the economic element) known as Economic Nationalism with its jackals: Protection, Imperialism and Militarism. All these he shows to be by-products of a false outlook generated by the private appropriation of social values, and in these things get no mercy.

But if there is a weakness in this book it is that from beginning to end no satisfactory or practical way of making the distinction between social and individual incomes is disclosed. This is the more surprising as the author is fully alive to the existence of economic rent and the fact that its private appropriation is the clearest of all the ways in which society is robbed. Witness these extracts:—

"Owners of natural resources are able to extort large payments for which they perform no services."

"As distinguished from payments for capital sunk in improvements, rents do nothing to increase the supply of land. . . . Virtually the whole of economic rent can be taken for public revenue without disturbance to industry of any kind."

"The rights of private ownership in land values has long ago been repudiated not only by economists, but also by a large proportion of the business classes, who are quite unable to see any analogy or similarity in the determination of land values and the profits of industrial undertakings."

"By general consent economists' rents form a 'surplus,' a body of wealth or income upon which a tax will lie without reducing the supply of the article taxed."

Admirably as this is stated, Mr Hobson has not seen that land values provide the missing link for which he is in search and that they perfectly measure what society

* *Poverty and Plenty.* By J. A. Hobson. Allen & Unwin, 3s.

contributes to the incomes of individuals. As it is, we lay down the book with a feeling of incompleteness.

It would form a watertight whole were that link inserted into the argument and we trust that in a future edition the author may see his way to develop it along these lines.

W. R. L.

OUR POLICY

To promote the Taxation of Land Values in lieu of other taxes.

The object of the Taxation of Land Values is to secure the equitable distribution of wealth by the taking by taxation of communal property—namely, the economic rent of land—for public purposes, and the abolition of all taxation interfering with or penalizing production and exchange.

A tax on Land Values is not a tax on land, but on the value of land. Thus it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value. It would thus be a tax, not on the use or improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user of the land.

In assessments under the Taxation of Land Values all value created by individual use or improvement would be excluded, and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighbourhood, public improvements, etc. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city site erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar site vacant.

The Taxation of Land Values would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding land idle as for putting it to the fullest use.

By taking for public uses that value which attaches to land by reason of the growth and improvement of the community, it would make the holding of land unprofitable to the mere owner, and profitable only to the user. It would thus make impossible for speculators and monopolists to hold natural opportunities—such as valuable land—unused or only half used, and would throw open to labour the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man.

Mr W. J. Lloyd, who is taking a W.E.A. Class of adults in Economics at Llanllechid, near Bangor, has interested his students in Henry George and in our Essay Competition. He has had to place "repeat orders" with us for *Progress and Poverty* and its companion books. Another correspondent is the Rev. W. Warcup, who has a class at the Poplar Men's (L.C.C.) Institute and has similarly interested his students. A third considerable order for the books is from the Whaley Bridge Branch of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, and a fourth from the Lower Irlam Branch of the Co-operative Men's Guild. Numerous correspondents have taken advantage of our offer to send six of the shilling books (in any assortment) for 5s. post free, and the constant requests for particulars of our Essay Competition (as advertised by the slip inserted into each book) show how widely Henry George is being read to-day.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

27th OCTOBER, 1931

Final State of the Parties :

Government		Opposition	
Conservatives ...	471	Labour ...	52
Liberals ...	68	Liberals ...	4
National Labour ...	13	Independent ...	2
Independent ...	5		
	<hr/> 557		<hr/> 58

Government majority—499.

Sixty-seven members were returned unopposed comprising 49 Conservatives, 12 Liberals and 6 Labour men. Numbered with the last-mentioned was Col. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

* * *

The total British electorate is approximately 30,150,000, of whom 21,656,881 cast their votes in this election. The votes received by each Party as compared with the 1929 election shown below.

Party	1929 Votes	1931 Votes
Conservatives ...	8,664,243	11,932,851
Labour ...	8,379,978	6,648,171
National Labour ...	—	343,353
Liberal ...	5,301,127	2,318,318
Others ...	293,949	414,188
	<hr/> 22,639,297	<hr/> 21,656,881

* * *

Expressed in round figures the total vote received by the National Government was 14,700,000, the Opposition being supported by 6,950,000 electors.

* * *

SOME ELECTION RESULTS.

The following results concern some of the more important contests where the candidates whose names appear in capitals are specially identified with the Land Value Policy.

(Members of the previous Parliament are marked with an asterisk (*). Con means Conservative; Lab, Labour; Nat Lib indicates Liberals of the Samuel group; and Lib Nat Liberal Nationalists of the Simon group; Nat Lab means National Labour candidates.)

Newcastle-under-Lyme

*RT. HON. COL. JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD (Lab)
Returned Unopposed. Opposition; No change.

Stoke-on-Trent : Burslem

W. Allen, K.C. (Con) 19,647
*ANDREW MACLAREN (Lab) 16,248
A. Rowland-Entwistle (Commonwealth Land Party) 401
Government Gain

Birmingham : Duddleston

O. E. Simmonds (Con) 16,332
*GEORGE F. SAWYER (Lab) 9,789
B. Moore (Com) 327
Jesse Williams (New Party) 284
Government Gain

Glasgow : Springburn

C. Emmott (Con) 16,092
*GEORGE D. HARDIE (Lab) 16,058
A. Haines (Com) 1,987
Government Gain

Sheffield : Hallam

L. W. Smith (Con) 26,857
HENRY GEORGE MCGHEE (Lab) 7,807
Government; No change