

LIBERAL LIBERTY LEAGUE

(Affiliated with the Liberal Party Organisation)

Free Land Free Trade Free Men

DEAR FELLOW LIBERAL,

For fifty years the Liberal Party has advocated the breaking of land monopoly by the Taxation of Land Values. But at the Annual Assembly of the Party in July, 1943, that policy was forsaken and by inference renounced. A resolution which was rushed with little opportunity for discussion accepted the Uthwatt scheme of land purchase that would endow privilege at the public expense. Thus famous Liberals of the past who have declared that the unimproved value of land belonged to the people are disowned.

The Assembly also abrogated the old Free Trade gospel of Liberalism by passing a resolution which in effect declared that the reduction of British tariffs was a matter of reciprocity dependent on international agreements. That was handing the key of the Citadel to the Protectionists. Following this surrender the Party leaders easily and logically led the Assembly to decisions favouring the extension of State subsidies, State patronages, and State controls over commerce and industry.

These steps must be retraced. They have disturbed and dismayed many Liberals almost to the point of shedding their political allegiance. A new, forward and vigorous campaign is called for. The undersigned have therefore decided to form a League, within the Party, for the purpose of offering to such Liberals a centre from which they can act together to uphold and promote the principles they hold dear. Thus we may secure a sound policy for the Liberal Party before the next election.

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 Party grew on such faith, in the teachings of Adam Smith, J. S. Mill, Cobden, Gladstone, Campbell-Bannerman and others, that the way of evolution was by

freeing the individual from interference by the State, except only in so far as that was necessary to free him from injustice by his fellows.

When our nation is fighting in defence of basic human liberty it is vital that those who have the vision, understanding and faith in liberty itself, should voice in concert their opposition to the present reversion to the conditions of bureaucracy and self-seeking policies which preceded the abolition of the Corn Laws. The Liberal Party above all others should be regarded as the natural guardian and champion of equal freedom, equal opportunity and the rights of man.

In this situation the undersigned decided to form a League, within the Party, for the purpose of offering to other Liberals a centre from which they can advocate equality of opportunity, the rights of the individual and private enterprise emancipated from monopoly, disclaiming the "economic planning" of a paternal and coercive State.

At a representative meeting held in St. Ermins, Westminster, on 15th January, 1944, the inauguration of the Liberal Liberty League was unanimously confirmed, officers and an Executive were elected, a General Council was formed, and a London office was established.

The League has affiliated with the Liberal Party Organisation.

From the responses already forthcoming it is evident that the League fulfils a purpose eagerly desired by many Liberals throughout the country and, given the support of these sympathisers, it will be able to exert an effective influence.

If you are in sympathy with us we ask you to fill up and return the enclosed membership form together with a contribution to the funds of the League.

Yours faithfully,

For the General Council of the Liberal Liberty League,

ASHLEY MITCHELL,
Chairman.
T. ATHOLL ROBERTSON,
Vice-Chairman.
WILFRID HARRISON,
Hon. Treasurer.

CHAS. H. BATTY,
FRANK DUPUIS,
S. MARTIN,
Hon. Secretaries.
4, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1. [ABB. 6665.]

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The Officers named *and* J. E. Allen, Cambridge; John Archer, Huddersfield; Miss Armfield, Ringwood; A. N. Batty, Hendon; T. P. Bell, West Kirby; F. Bentley, Bradford; W. E. Bland, Wood Green; V. H. Blundell, Southwell; W. Hartley Bolton, B.A., Dorchester; L. G. Bowman, Hendon; Ald. C. Austin Brook, M.A., Hanley; Mrs. Ann L. Brown, Finchley; Vivian Carter, East Grinstead; S. B. Cartwright, Sidcup; E. C. Chancellor, Bissels Green; L. Chittenden, Luton; C. E. Clarke, Bewdley; H. Crossley, Stoke-on-Trent; H. Darking, Sherwood; Elfyn W. David, LL.B., Cardiff; Sam Deakin, New Brighton; Major E. J. Donaldson, Glasgow; Mrs. D. Duplock, Highgate; G. H. Eckert, Barnet; Henry Edgcumbe, Wimbledon; G. Gamble, Leeds; C. Ayliffe Gardner, Cardiff; Norman Gardner, Cardiff; E. M. Ginders, Hereford; A. Goodram, Sheffield; G. L. Binns, Ealing; John Green, Dumbarton; Andrew D. Haxton, Leven; James T. Haxton, St. Andrews; Dr. H. Eugen Henderson, Edinburgh; G. G. Honeyman, London; E. Ingledew, Edgware; R. W. Jenkins, Sheffield; W. H. Kaye, Huddersfield; D. R. Kidd, Chiswick; F. W. T. Krohn, Pinner; A. J. Laver, Wirral; Mrs. C. Laycock, Huddersfield; D. L. Layzell, Leyton; W. R. Lester, M.A., Horsted Keynes; B. A. Levinson, LL.B., London; D. M. Lough, Blackheath; C. W. Loveridge, Streatham; Miss B. T. Macdonald, London; Kenneth MacDonald, London; Arthur R. McDougal, C.C., Lauder; Mrs. A. McGrouther, Glasgow; Miss H. McKeown, Streatham; Mrs. H. Mellor, Sheffield; George Miller, Liverpool; Dudley Mitchell, Huddersfield; D. E. Moore, Sheffield; Oliver Myers, Ossett; Councillor S. Needoff, Manchester; Councillor J. Oldroyd, Huddersfield; T. H. Oliver, Liverpool; Pryce V. Olver, Ben Rhydding; J. H. Palmer, J.P., Fulham; F. C. Parsons, Epsom; Austin H. Peake, Cambridge; F. J. Pearce, Clapham; Vivian Phillipps, Leigh, Kent; Mrs. C. W. Potts, Huddersfield; Harris Reid, South Shields; W. Richardson, Keighley; P. Roche, Holborn; H. Roebuck, Sheffield; J. B. Sharman, Ramsgate; J. C. Stewart, Inverness; Miss M. Stridgen, Huddersfield; Mrs. F. G. Sumner, Whalley; Frank Sykes, Peterborough; Miss A. Wells, Scunthorpe; Miss C. Wells, Scunthorpe; A. C. Wilson, Froggatt; Dr. A. Gordon Wilson, C.C., Penistone; G. H. Winder, Crowborough; Sir Richard Winfrey, Peterborough; H. V. Wood, Huddersfield; W. C. Woodroffe, Walthamstow; J. Wright, Keighley; R. A. Yellowlees, Selkirk; J. A. Yonge, M.A., Wakefield.