Her sense of humor enlivened the grimmest subjects and embraced the most trivial as witness her gleeful surprise on discovering in one of Shakespeare's Historical Plays a quip in disparagement of prunes!

Long enforced disuse of her eyes and her utter inability to let her mind vegetate wrought an impress of thought on that brow of which it may not be too much to say that we shall not look upon its like again.—M. J. J.

## THE NEW LAND PARTY PLATFORM.

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES.

It is meet and proper for those organizing the Land Party to make declarations of principle and policy, and to set forth reasons for its coming into being:

- 1. All men being created free and equal, they must under any well ordered government have equal opportunity in life; this is impossible under institutions that permit the private monopoly of nature's resources, all of which are included under the term "land."
- 2. Human beings cannot exist without the land; of right it belongs to all the people, and any form of tenure which allows some to hold land out of use is an injustice to others who wish to use it but are not permitted to do so. To prevent the use of land also works great injury to the State and nation.
- 3. In order to make possible the proper use of land there must be security of tenure, protected by law. This can be provided for under deed or lease giving evidence of rightful possession. Such land must not be taken from the lawful holder thereof in any proceeding, without full compensation for improvements made thereon.
- 4. Who creates rightfully owns. Individual products under natural law belong to individuals. What is not humanly created belongs to all. Thus the land, not being a human product, belongs of right to the community. In agreement with this principle the people rightfully own publicly erected school houses and

other civic buildings, also land values, all being created by the community. Adhering to this principle we reject the socialistic dogma that the community has right of collective ownership in private buildings, machinery or other products of individual skill, industry and enterprise.

- 5. The people being rightful owners of the land, not as individuals, but as tenants in common, they are entitled to the income or rental value, but not to the income derived from improvements on land.
- 6. Having in view the fact that most of the land in this country is held out of use under a monopoly system of private ownership, we declare that the best means yet devised to get rid of this evil is found in the taxation of land values regardless of improvements; that such taxes should ultimately amount to ground rental value.
- 7. The rental or annual value of the land alone would in time of peace provide ample funds for all purposes of government. In time of war or other great emergency temporary taxes on personal property or incomes might possibly be necessary, but no tax which creates a monopoly is ever justifiable. Adoption of these principles by all countries will prevent war between nations.
- 8. The taxation of land values only would make it undesirable for private individuals to hold land out of use to the injury of the whole community; it would at first weaken and finally abolish land monopoly with its attendant poverty and starvation, and do so with less friction than any other plan yet suggested.
- 9. Under a people's government the best method of attacking public evils and securing what is good in laws and institutions, is to vote against the evil and for the good. Therefore we resolve by our votes to further the adoption of principles and policies herein set forth.
- 10. Land Party adherents would prefer to vote for this system of taxation as a proposition, separate from party politics; being denied that privilege in nearly all of the States, we will support at the polls such candidates only who openly indorse our principles and agree to support them faithfully wherever laws or constitutions

are made, and whose pledge to that effect can be relied upon. Nothing can be gained for a good cause by voting for its enemies or its inactive friends. When aspirants for office cannot be relied on to support these principles ably and honestly, the Land Party will nominate its own candidates, especially for offices having to do with the making and enforcement of laws affecting taxation and land monopoly.

- 11. Private monopoly of land is the parent of all other monopolies which burden the people; it destroys human liberty and is the main cause of that poverty which curses a large proportion of the human race. The noblest political aim is to lessen and finally prevent poverty. This is the purpose of the Land Party. It cannot be accomplished so long as our laws foster the acquisition by some of the wealth earned by others.
- 12. The Land Party has full sympathy with the initiative and referendum and many other proposed reforms in the policy of government, to which we give our hearty support. But our main object is to secure the taxation of land values so as to bring natural resources within the reach of all persons willing to pay to the State (that is, to the people) a fair annual rental for their use; it is here referred to as a tax on land values, only to suggest a convenient method of collection.
- 13. We favor the community creation and ownership of such public utilities as are necessary for use of all the people, and which cannot be created or operated under private control without the aid of monopoly. In other enterprises the State should not enter into business competition with any of its people. Individual initiative and enterprise are essential to human progress and advancing civilization, both of which are stifled under the extortions of private land monopoly; they would also be stifled under Socialism. Until this baneful monopoly is destroyed labor cannot obtain its earnings nor industry and enterprise their just reward. Personal liberty and land monopoly cannot together
- 14. In all the States land taxation is provided for under State laws. The dis-

cussion of customs tariffs is not necessary in our work for land freedom. The object of the Land Party is to free our country from the blight of private land monopoly. All lovers of humanity, whether protectionists or free traders, can in our party ranks work together for the common good.

The principles herein set forth, if incorporated in our laws and institutions, would be of inestimable benefit to all; we therefore invite the co-operation of all lovers of humanity. We urge all to join us as co-workers in the Land Party who earnestly desire their country to become happy, prosperous and great beyond the fondest hopes of the past. Earnest effort, unremitting energy and consistent self-sacrifice will achieve victory.

Adopted at the city of New York, this 6th day of January, 1915.

- G. WALLACE, Freeport, N. Y.
- A. BASTIDA, 111 Broadway, N. Y. City
- A. Bourgeois, Belleville, N. J.
- W. J. WALLACE, Newark, N. J.
- A. G. SULLIVAN, Farmingdale, N. Y.
- B. E. CARPENTER, Cleveland, Ohio
- G. HAXO, N. Y. City

Committee on Platform.

#### It was further

Resolved, That the above named persons shall constitute a Provisional Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to take further steps to organize the Land Party, based on the foregoing declarations of principle and policy.

The above committee for the organization of the Land Party is a volunteer body of earnest men who are convinced that to effectively awaken the interest of the public and advance the propaganda of the land question it is necessary to bring it forward as a political issue in each State; separating its consideration and advocacy from the rivalries and prejudices dividing the electorate on national policies. To that end the committee has formulated the foregoing declarations of principles, carefully avoiding extraneous issues, and now urges the formation of a Land Party in each State.

The committee calls attention to the fact that within State boundaries there is no real difference between parties and that consequently State elections have degenererated into annual scrambles for office and patronage by the politicians, who, to cover up the absence of real issues, encourage the voters to support in the State the party they favor nationally as recording their approval or disapproval of the national administration. Experience shows that this advice is generally followed and that the absence of real issues goes unnoticed.

The committee desires to state that it does not arrogate to itself any power or control over any State organization; that its individual members will enroll in their respective State organizations, support their duly elected officers and abide by the rules and regulations of such organization.

A. Bastida, Secretary,

For the Committee

# WHAT PROPHET WROTE THIS?

And it came to pass as the people increased in number the rulers and chief men grew fat and proud, for they walked not in the way of the Lord, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

They gathered unto themselves the lands of the tribes and thus forced the people to labor and bring unto them the fruit thereof, so that the people hungered while yet they brought in corn and the increase of the herds.

Now the people knew not the manner in which they were despoiled but mounted in misery from day to day.

Then came there a prophet sent of God, who spake unto them saying,—

Hath not the Lord thy God given thee the land as an inheritance, with the command to subdue and replenish it?

Did not the Lord thy God, speaking through the mouth of His servant Isaiah, curse those who added house to house and field to field until there was no place for the people?

Arise therefore, gird up your loins and demand from the rulers the land which thy God giveth thee,—that ye shall inherit it, one as well as another.

Now when the rulers saw the people assembled in rebellion their blood turned as water in their veins, for they said—who can withstand the multitude when it speaks as one man?

But the scribes and overseers counseled that emissaries be sent among the people to sow dissension and lead them astray.

These came unto the people with alms and doled out charity and urged them to ask that certain tithes be lifted, that wine be not drunk and that they save their pennies and put them out to usury; and from the people they raised up some to be overseers and judges and these also did urge the people in like manner.

Whereupon the people drew apart into rival camps and their hands were lifted against each other, and thus came the rebellion to an end.—AD-ITSAB, Chap. 1, verses 1 to 11.

# DEBATE IN NEWARK BETWEEN EDMUND B. OSBORNE AND GEORGE H. GOEBEL.

On Sunday evening, March 7th, a debate on socialism occurred at the Strand Theatre, Newark, between Edmund Burke Osborne, the well known Single Taxer, and George H. Goebel, a prominent local Socialist. The question was whether it was to the interest of the working class to vote the Socialist ticket. Mr. Goebel contended that none of the old parties had anything to offer the working man, that they had failed in their pledges to carry out reforms in the interest of labor and that the best way for the working people to accomplish their ends was to stand solidly together and vote the straight Socialist ticket. He pointed to the labor legislation that had already been securred as due to the influence of the growing Socialist vote upon the old parties. Mr. Osborne, while in sympathy with the Socialist ideals, contended that it would be better for the working class if they united with one of the old parties on some practical measure of reform like public ownership of public