

FREE TRADE AND THE LAND QUESTION.

RESOLUTION ON FREE TRADE.

Adopted at a Meeting of the Anti-Corn Law League held at King Street, Manchester, December, 1838.

"Holding one of the principles of eternal justice to be the inalienable right of every man freely to exchange the result of his labour for the productions of other people, and maintaining the practice of protecting one part of the community at the expense of all other classes to be unsound and unjustifiable, your petitioners earnestly implore your honourable House to repeal all laws relating to the importation of foreign corn and other foreign articles of subsistence; and to carry out to the fullest extent, both as affects agriculture and manufactures, the true and peaceful principles of Free Trade by removing all existing obstacles to the unrestricted employment of industry and capital."

RICHARD COBDEN'S plain words on LAND VALUES.

Speech at Derby, December, 1841.

"It is a war on the pockets that is being carried on; and I hope to see societies formed calling upon the Legislature to revalue the land, and put a taxation upon it in proportion to that of other countries, and in proportion to the wants of the State. I hope I shall see petitions calling upon them to revalue the land, and that the agitation will go on collaterally with the agitation for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, and I shall contribute my mite for such a purpose. There must be a total abolition of all taxes upon food, and we should raise at least £20,000,000 a year upon the land, and then the owners would be richer than any landed proprietary in the world."

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THE A.B.C. OF LAND VALUES TAXATION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.

QUESTION : What does the agricultural labourer want ?

Answer : In the first place he wants higher wages.

Q. : How is he to get higher wages ?

A. : By a demand for his labour being created.

Q. : How can a greater demand for his labour be created ?

A. : By compelling all owners of land to use it, or let it go to someone who will.

Q. : How can this be done ?

A. : By finding out the value of the land, and taxing it so that landowners will not be able to hold millions of acres idle for game and the amusement of the idle rich. Instead of pursuing game they would be chasing after labourers to till their acres, and so wages would rise.

Q. : What will be done with the money raised by taxing Land Values ?

A. : It will be used to get rid of rates that now fall on the user of land—on his farmhouse and buildings, and his cottage. Also to get rid of taxes on tea and sugar.

Q. : Are Land Values taxed anywhere ?

A. : Yes, in Australia, for instance ; and because the land tax is forcing land into use British agricultural labourers are leaving by tens of thousands a year for Australia. Tax Land Values, and the labourer will be able to stay in his own country.

Q. : What else does the agricultural labourer want ?

A. : He may like to have a cottage and a bit of land for himself.

Q. : Will the taxation of Land Values help him to get them ?

A. : Yes, because when all landowners are forced to use all their land, or to make way for others who wish to use it, the labourer will have a better chance to get a bit of land. Having higher wages, he will be better able to rent a good cottage, or build one for himself and become independent.

Q. : Who oppose the taxation of Land Values ?

A. : The great land monopolists, a few of whom own most of the land of Great Britain. They know that a Land Values tax will mean that they will have to loosen their hold on the land, and the people will come into their own, for the land was intended for all.

Q. : Then the agricultural labourer should support the taxation of Land Values ?

A. : Yes, unless he is content to work for a starvation wage, live in a hovel, and see horses and hounds better tended. Unless he is content to be driven to city slums and overseas, whilst the land that would maintain him lies idle in millions of acres.

**IDLE ACRES MEAN IDLE HANDS. TAX LAND VALUES AND
THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ALL.**

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