

# HOW TO RAISE WAGES

## A Word to the Smallholder and Farm Labourer

You ask why you can't get land, or why rents are so high when you manage to get a little bit. Many people are in the same position. Yet there is plenty of land, and it could be got at a fair rent and without harming anyone. Instead of low wages, there could be high wages over the whole countryside. If you do not want to emigrate there is no need to do so.

The question is—what stands in the way and what is the remedy? Here is an example.

A typical Co-operative Small Holdings Society in the Midlands with 150 members managed to get holdings for 80 at rents of about 40s. per acre.

One of the farms the Society got covers 400 acres, and before entry of the Smallholders employed only seven labourers. Fifty Smallholders now work on this same land, and make a better living than did the seven labourers on the big farm. So work has been found for 43 extra men.

But why can't land be found for the remaining members of the Society? The reason is that landowners will not allow the land to be used for smallholdings, even at the price the Society is able and willing to pay. All round the existing holdings lie large farms rented at 18s. an acre, not producing anything like as much as the Smallholders could produce.

## LIBERATE THE LAND

The question is what is the real value of the bare land apart from all buildings and cultivation? This can easily be ascertained. It is certainly more than 18s. an acre. It is just because valuable land escapes taxation that landlords can do with it just as they like, allowing it to be badly farmed or not farmed at all, while charging a heavy price to those who would put it to full use.

The value of land is due to the presence and the work of the whole of the people. If it were rated and taxed, no landlord could afford to stand in the way of Smallholders and others wanting land. Here also is the proper source of public revenue, by adopting which trade and industry would be freed from burdens that never should have been imposed. It is the way to abolish customs duties and all the indirect taxes that the workers are forced to pay in increased prices.

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## KEY TO THE LABOUR PROBLEM

Here is the key of the labour problem. Value all land, whether in town or in country at its **real worth**, exempting all buildings and improvements. Make owners pay rates and taxes on that value however the land is used, and a vast area, now unused or only partially used, will soon be available for use.

Do not be deceived by the politicians who, in defence of landlordism, tell us that taxation of land values is only good for towns, and should not apply to agricultural land. The tax on land values will do more for agricultural districts and people than anything else the politicians have to offer. Without it, Small-holding Schemes, Allotments, State Credit to farmers and Land Development Acts will only send up the price of land.

Do not be deceived by the cry that it is the foreigner with his "dumped" goods who keeps you out of work, and your wages down. That is all a sham. Unemployment and low wages are caused by unused and half-used land.

**THEREFORE DEMAND TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, WHICH MEANS THE THROWING OPEN OF ALL LAND TO LABOUR, AND "THE MAKING OF ENGLAND LESS A PLEASURE GROUND FOR THE RICH AND MORE A TREASURE HOUSE FOR THE NATION."**

## TAX LAND VALUES—TAKE TAXES OFF HOUSES AND ALL LABOUR PRODUCTS



Ask your Candidate : "Are you in favour of the Taxation and Rating of Land Values in both Town and Country as a means to raise wages, so to deal effectively with housing and employment?"

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