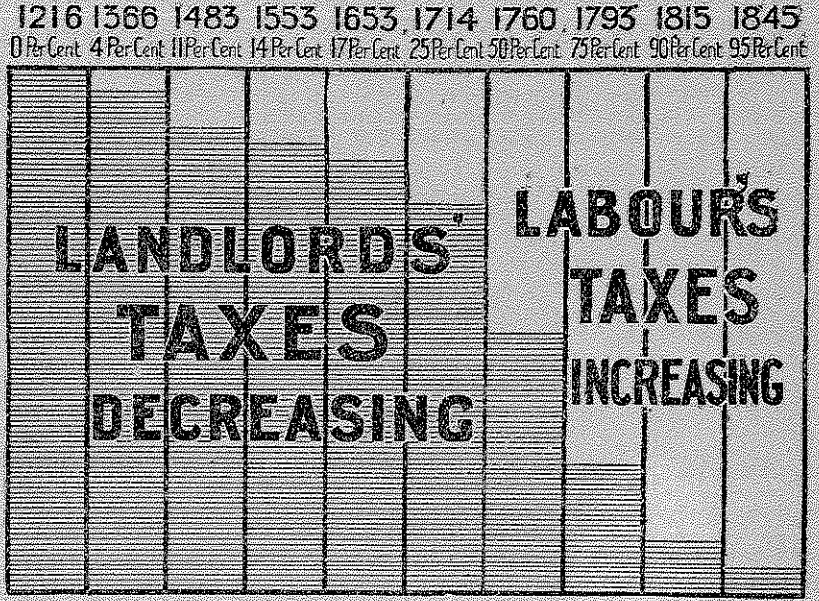
Leaflet No. 68.

THE LANDLORDS THREW OFF THEIR TAXES

AS FOLLOWS:—



The above diagram shows that up to the year 1216 the landlords shifted none of their just burdens. But, commencing in the year 1216, they shifted them off their land on to the labourers as the diagram shows. The clear columns show the increasing share of the tax burdens unfairly lifted from their own backs to those of others. The shaded columns show the lessening proportions at those periods still borne by the landlords. As rentals grew taxes on rentals were legislated away, the landlords being the law-makers.

This process must be reversed. Taxes and rates must be removed from labour and from industry until the rent of land again becomes the direct source of all public revenues. This is what is meant by the Taxation of Land Values and the Un-Taxation of Industry.

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RICHARD COBDEN'S explanation of the diagram on the previous page.

SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, DECEMBER 17th, 1845.

". . . . Honourable gentlemen claimed the privilege of taxing our bread on account of their peculiar burdens in paying the highway rates and the tithes. Why, the land had borne those burdens before Corn Laws had been thought of. The only peculiar State burden borne by the land was the Land Tax, and I will undertake to show that the mode of levying that tax is fraudulent and evasive, an example of legislative partiality and injustice second only to the Corn Law itself. . . . . For a period of 150 years after the Conquest the whole of the revenue of the country was derived from the land. During the next 150 years it yielded nineteen-twentieths of the revenue—for the next century down to the reign of Richard III. it was nine-tenths. During the next seventy years to the time of Mary it fell to about three-fourths. From this time to the end of the Commonwealth land appeared to have yielded one-half the revenue. Down to the reign of Anne it was one-fourth. In the reign of George III. it was one-sixth. For the first thirty years of his reign the land yielded one-seventh of the revenue. From 1793 to 1816 (during the period of the Land Tax) land contributed one-ninth. From which time to the present (1845) one twenty-fifth only of the revenue had been derived directly from land. Thus the land, which anciently paid the whole of taxation, paid now only a fraction, or one twenty-fifth, notwithstanding the immense increase that had taken place in the value of the rentals. The people had fared better under the despotic monarchs than when the powers of the State had fallen into the hands of a landed oligarchy, who had first exempted themselves from taxation, and next claimed compensation for themselves by a Corn Law for their heavy and peculiar burdens."

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