

COMMONWEALTH.

Edited by IGNATIUS SINGER.

Motto:—They are slaves who will not dare, all wrongs to right, all rights to share.

VOL. I. No. 1.]

ADELAIDE, MAY 22, 1886.

[WEEKLY, 2D.

We want no flag, no flaunting rag, for Liberty to fight;
We want no blaze of murderous guns, to struggle for the right.
Our spears and swords are printed words—the mind our battle.
We've won such victories before, and so we shall again. [Signed
Mashey.

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Our Commonwealth.

ADELAIDE, MAY 22ND, 1886.

INTRODUCTION.

We live in a time of transition. Education is spreading with rapidity amongst the toiling masses, and with the diffusion of knowledge discontentment is ever growing. The reason is not far to seek. Every day reveals a new fact, and each new fact is to the toiler a beam of light which dispels the mist that hides from him his true position. Every such beam added a new letter to his political alphabet until these, arranged into a sentence, taught him that "All men are born free and equal."

With the dawn of this knowledge the struggle for existence took a new form. It is no longer the foe from abroad the laborer has to contend against. It is no longer a warfare of race against race, or nation against nation. It is a struggle of the masses against a privileged few; an attack on antiquated and iniquitous political and social institutions; a fight for LIBERTY to live, to labor and to enjoy.

To the furtherance of this cause "OUR COMMONWEALTH" will be devoted. We shall enquire into the causes of the existing inequitable distribution of wealth; examine our constitution; scrutinize our whole social fabric in the light of modern political economy, and shall not shrink from exposing fraud and error wherever we may find them. We propose boldly to lift the curtain behind which TRUTH and JUSTICE have so long been kept hidden, and without heeding the cobwebs of ignorance, prejudice, or fraud that may be disturbed thereby. Any institution that cannot stand the test of truth and justice must fall. Old systems must pass away and make room for new ones, more in accordance with modern civilisation.

"OUR COMMONWEALTH" will be in the service of no party, nor advocates the cause of any one class, but that the whole working community, including the farmer, the artisan, the manufacturer, the merchant, the laborer, the professional man—in short, all who contribute to our common weal in any shape or form. Our policy is expressed in the sentence—*Equal opportunities to all and favor to none.* We shall make it our special endeavor to establish the

Our programme will, amongst others, include the following reforms:—

1. The stoppage of the further sale of Crown Lands.
2. The restoration to the people of lands already alienated, (with a fair compensation to present owner and security of tenure.)
3. Payment of members of P-liament.
4. Adult suffrage.
5. Free education in all State schools.
6. Abolition of indirect taxation and taxes on thrift and industry.
7. Simplification of civil laws and reduction of court fees.
8. Abolition of sinecures in the civil service.

DARTS AND ARROWS.

Glad tidings for the unemployed and starving poor of South Australia:—His Excellency the governor will hold a levee at Government House, at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 24th, in honor of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Birthday.

His Excellency was also pleased to appoint a new private secretary, and to palm on to the colony Henry Hutton Richards, Esquire, his late secretary—a lad as yet in his teens—by appointing him to be provincial aid-de-camp, whatever that may mean. Most likely the cost for this valuable officer will be saved by retrenching a few hard-working civil servants.

In Old England no more than half of the members can be seated in the House of Commons. In South Australia we have a very commodious house, and yet a quarter of a million is now being thrown away for a new building. Some of our M.P.'s say it is to find employment for the people and thus bring back prosperity to the colony. Would it not be a wiser plan to erect a lunatic asylum for such old chatterboxes, and put men into their places who know something about political economy?

The Whigs and Tories of Great Britain are anxious that the union between them and Ireland should not be weakened. The union! Quite so; we understand! They mean that "union" which transfers the produce of the Irish peasantry to their lordships and helps them to keep up the dignity of that noble institution, the British aristocracy. In the meantime it is well worth while to consider whether both England and Ireland are not paying too much for their whistle.

The rent paid in Ireland to the landlords is certainly exorbitant, and amply accounts for the continuous decrease of her population. But then, what do the Irish people gain by forsaking their land and going to America or coming out here? Or what do our own people gain by leaving these shores for other countries? Would it not be better to unlace and drive the few gamblers and swindlers away, who are of no use to the community whatever, while they drive the best of our people out of the country.

Nothing is more amusing in these hard times than the frequent cry of wages being too high. As a matter of fact, not one of the wage-earners gets his full wages at present. A full wage is the *whole* results of one labor, minus, of course, the capital employed and its due return. Is there any one in this or any other country—excepting kings, governors, and attorneys—who can say they get all they earn? If this were the case where would the landlord get his thousands from? Secure to every man

Over and over again Victoria is held up to us as a model state of prosperity and wise legislation. Are there no poor to be found in Victoria? We do not mean professional tramps and cripples, although the very presence of these in a country are strong proof against the wisdom and justice of its institutions; we mean, are there no healthy, able-bodied men, willing to work without being able to find employment in Melbourne? And those who are employed, do they get the due return to their labor? If so, how are the continually recurring strikes to be accounted for? If any of our legislators happen to visit ag'n that country of flowing milk and honey, we advise them to enquire how many of them get the honey and the cream, and how many of the population have to subsist on the whey and dregs. Also, which class of that happy community gets the cream and which the whey.

Our "wise" men to whose care we so unwisely entrusted the future of our colony, keep on continually telling us *how* to produce and *what* to produce. This is very well in its way; but why will they not tell us to *whom* that produce should belong? No doubt that new resources of wealth might, and, we have no doubt, will be opened. But of what earthly benefit can this be to the toiling masses, as long as the major portion of the wealth they produce is allowed to go into the pockets of a few idlers? How to prevent this kind of legalized bushranging must be our first care. Our cars, for the recent speeches of our "representatives" have clearly shown that justice is not to be expected from those quarters. Some of them think honestly on this question, but they are too cowardly to speak out. There seems to be a false sentiment amongst these few; a dread that if they spoke out their convictions boldly while in a minority, they would be laughed at by their colleagues. Possibly they would; so was Oliver Twist laughed at when he betrayed his 'greenness' in the company of the doggers. But their mirth would assume a more serious character if only one man could be found in that house who had the courage of his honesty.

Criticising the speeches of Messrs. Smith and Layford at Norwood, the *Register* says:—"With much, however, that we think is fairly open to criticism in both speeches, there was a good many ring about them which it is pleasing to hear." Alas! that it is the "ring" only. As to the manliness we must in all fairness, admit it in the case of Mr. Playford, who certainly had the "manliness" to say to his constituents, that they are to have the "pleasing ring" only, or, in other words, that he will jingle a few platitudes into their ears without "committing" himself. He, and his colleague, rust, however, have been disappointed with the manner in which their constituents received their "pleasantries," to use the would be treasurer's own word. People are no longer the ignorant dupes of a few cunning politicians, and it will be well for these to grease their weathercocks, so that they might be better informed in the future which way the wind blows.

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TIME PAYMENTS TAKEN.

S. A. FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a recent meeting of this influential body, two important questions were raised, viz.:- the action of the delegates' meeting re the tariff and the nationalization of the land; and one of the resolutions adopted was to the effect "That the question of free-trade or protection be submitted to the branches with the request that they will answer directly in favor of the one course or the other." To our mind there is but one course—that of doing away with customs' duties altogether. That there should be found people amongst the working classes, and, above all, amongst farmers, who support our present fiscal policy can only be explained on grounds of ignorance as to the true nature of our present tariff. The general idea is that a tariff is necessarily either for free-trade or protection. This popular fallacy is so deep rooted that very few only are conscious of the fact that there is a third kind—a revenue tariff—which favors neither production nor exchange, but hinders and injures both; that our present tariff has been framed with this one chief object in view is evident from the fact that three-fourths of the total amount required by taxation for the current year is proposed to be levied through the customs. The following items are taken from the Customs Returns for 1884, and will serve as an example in what way our industries are to be "protected":—

INCOME DERIVED IN 1884:

For Tea	£37,760
" Coffee	8,293
" Sugar	41,916
" Tobacco	10,000
" Salt	2,443
" Dried Fruits	30,000
" Bags and Stacks	91,910
" Maritime, Profits, Wages, and	6,172
" Residues and other duties	11,923
"	5,799

£288,074

Is there any sane and, at the same time, honest man who can say that taxing tea, sugar, tobacco, salt, corn sacks, &c., are favorable to our industries? These are only a few items taken at random, and if the reader will take the trouble of glancing over the tariff for himself he will find that 80 per cent of our customs revenue is derived from articles which are principally consumed by the laboring classes, as those always yield the greatest revenue. That the farmer cannot lose by the removal of a tax which weighs most heavily on him, must be evident to every thinking man. Nor is it easy to see how a tax on such articles as enumerated above, can assist our industrial classes. We make no score of it that we are in favor of free-trade absolute, as we think that industries can be best fostered by removing the burdens of taxation from the producers to those who at present get large amounts in the shape of rent without contributing adequately to our expenditure. "Protection" must begin at the other end; cheaper food and less taxes means less cost of production. If, at the same time, our bootmakers, coachbuilders, and others think that they can only exist if they are protected by a tariff, let them go in for it by all means. But they should take care that the duty should be high enough, so that no revenue should be derived from that source; for, if the articles still continue to be imported, it is of no benefit to the respective trades, while the consumer has to pay more. There is yet another aspect of the question, which will at once explain why our legislators prefer this kind of revenue to any other.

A tax on necessities is paid according to consumption and not according to the revenue of the individual, and as it is chiefly the poorer articles of food and clothing and such articles as are required by the working classes only—as tools, implements, corn sacks, &c.—which yield the bulk of the revenue, it is principally the producer who has to bear the burden. Thus, a working man who earns seven shillings a day would pay at least as large a share of this tax as a man who has an income of £5,000 a year; while, if the same amount were raised by a land tax, it would principally fall on a class who now reap all the benefits of the enormous expenditures we have incurred without helping to pay the interest on the capital thus expended. That the farmer has no reason to fear a tax on land values

	Town and suburban lands.	Country sections.
The Assessed value for which the state received	£29,117,122	£29,771,736
	£391,967	£4,146,089
Tunable amount	£19,825,755	£25,625,647

The reader will observe that we have here deducted the amount paid to the state, as it is the unearned increment only that ought to be taxed. A tax of 3d. in the pound would bring in £18,192,880, nearly half of which would fall on the lucky owners of town blocks. Nor is this all; the plot of country land is held by syndicates and speculators, and thus the bulk of the second half would be paid by individuals who at present get off scot free, or very nearly so, while they are allowed to rob and plunder the people who toil on their estates.

That secret land syndicate called the S. A. Land Company alone draws £70,000 annually, in rent, and if not checked, will go on with their extortions as the colony advances. The names of Angus, Elder, Dutton, Hay, Ayers, and others need only be mentioned to show the class of people who would then be taxed. Let each farmer weigh and consider the figures we have given above, and we doubt not as to the conclusion he will arrive at. He will see why a certain class are so fond of a property or any other tax in preference to a land tax. A property tax means a tax on labor, and these fellows do not mind that, as they have little property of that kind. Even the present halfpenny land tax is in many cases nothing but a property tax, inasmuch as the farmer who paid £3 or £4 per acre to the state has now to pay taxes on his own money. A comparison of the amounts paid to the state for town lands and for country sections, and also of their present values will no doubt open the eyes of many. Both farmers and artisans must learn that they are all laborers, and instead of waging war against each other, they ought to unite against their common enemy. If they have once realized this, they may also discover who and where their enemies are, and it is not unlikely that they will find out some day that they have selected the oats to watch their cream.

WORKING MEN'S BLOCKS.

Surprise and regret have been expressed at the meeting held on Friday evening, May 14, to consider the above subject, that Mr. Cotton does not find more supporters for his scheme, and no doubt many fail to see why land nationalists observe such a strict neutrality towards this movement. That they do not take a deep interest in working men's blocks is not true; on the contrary, landnationalists would recognize no other than working men's holdings. But their with them "working man" is a wider term and never used in that very narrow sense Mr. Cotton seems to use it. It is hard to say where, if pressed for a definition, he would draw the line; it is evident, however, that the farmer, who toils 12 or 14 hours daily for a bare living is not included in his definition; nor the manufacturer, merchant, tradesman, all of whom render useful and necessary services to society. It is this narrowness, this class distinction, which prevents radical reformers from swelling the ranks of his followers.

The question at issue is not whether small holdings should be permitted or encouraged by the state—we think every individual should be at liberty to take up as much or as little land as he pleases—but who should labor and who enjoy? This is the question that has to be decided first of all. It is this issue that neither Mr. Cotton nor his co-legislators dare to face, and the whole scheme of working men's blocks seems to have been started in order to divert attention from the main issue. There are some hundreds of men starving while seeing others enjoy the wealth they have created. They begin to murmur "There is something rotten in our state" and it is imperative to give these men work and food, were it only to "keep body and soul together," and to prevent them from thinking too much.

It is a mistake to suppose that under our present laws the holder of such small blocks would reap the full benefits of his labor any more than does the confectioner, bootmaker, barber, butcher or any other tradesman who has to pay the lion's share of his earnings into the pockets of the landowners. Nor can Mr. Cotton's scheme remove the cause which brings about these depositions and produces that chronic state of poverty amongst the masses. That it would be a great boon if every man, whose principal occupation is not that of agriculture, were to have a few acres for garden purposes, cannot be doubted; and we trust the people of South Australia will not rest until this object is achieved. It does not reflect credit on our institutions that in a country where there are more than 800 acres per head of population, the spaces allotted to the people for habitations should be meted out with such niggardliness, that laws are necessary to limit the minimum cubic space necessary for breathing. Even in our suburbs, with thousands of acres of waste lands around, we find isolated cottages so closely fenced in that the children cannot find a play-ground within the limits of their homes, and the mother has to go to market for every block of

stop there. Let us have working men's holdings by all means, but securing men's holdings only. A man who does not want land for his own use should not have the right to own it at all. It does not matter whether a man holds one, ten, or a thousand acres, as long as he utilizes it one way or another, and pays his due share towards the public expenditure. But it does matter if men hold millions of acres of the pick of our land, not cultivating it, and not allowing others to use it except on their own terms, and without helping us to bear the burden of taxation. It is this we cry out against; let us do away first with these laches, who suck the lifeblood of the industry. Before we decide where, how, or by whom production is to be carried on, we want to know who is to enjoy what is produced. Working men ought never to miss an opportunity of putting this question to their professed benefactors, and they will soon detect the wolf in the sheep's garb, for they will never receive a straight forward answer to this. If pressed they will be bound to admit the principle, but avoid the consequences by saying that "While the hay grows the steed may starve." But why? Is it not quite as easy for these gentlemen to be honest as the reverse? Can they not pass an act of parliament in 24 hours? Has it not been done to reduce down-trodden Ireland when the landlords' rent was at stake? Has not a fleet been dispatched and Alexandria been bombarded against the wish of the British people when the interest of a few bondholders were endangered? Was not our own government ready last year to dispatch troops to the Sudan, and spend South Australian life and money to support a most villainous war? Oh, yes, yes! we know the difference between the one case and the other, and need not be told. In those cases it was the "integrity of the British Empire" which means a few parasites and spittle-flickers, while in the other it means the life and happiness of the millions without whom that empire could not exist.

And now a few facts about this scheme. A four acre block near Narracorte has been knocked down at a rent of 30s. per acre. We ask: would that block have fetched that money if the waste lands in and around Adelaide and in the hills were open to settlers? Why! triple our population could not bring under cultivation all these lands, and yet we allow them to be locked up in the hands of syndicates and gamblers, and turn our farmers to go in the high north, and beyond Goyder's line of rainfall, allow one company alone to draw £70,000 annually in rent and so on, and then men who want to become treasurers tell us all this is beyond human control. Verily the working men have yet a road dead to be trodden before they know how easy they are gulled.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

There is a great deal of truth in what Mr. George says in the February number of the *North American Review* that the important question in Ireland is "the social," not the political one. The land question is at the back of the demand for Home Rule. "All the maladies of Ireland which perplex statesmen and economists," says Mr. Gorkin "have arisen from injuries inflicted by England in the wars which she waged to get possession of the Irish land. Ireland had been irreconcilable, not because she was conquered by England, but even because she was persecuted, but because she was robbed of her independence. If England had done everything she has done against the Irish nation, omitting the confiscations, the past would have been forgotten, and, undoubtedly long ago, and the two nations would have been one people. Even religions were resolved themselves into efforts to retain the land, or to recover the national estates. And the banished chiefs never could have rallied the nation to arms, as they often did against overwhelming odds, if the people had not been involved in the ruin of their lands. All that is really important in the history of the country for the last three centuries is the fighting of the two nations for the possession of the soil. The reformation was in reality nothing but a special form of the land war. The oath of supremacy was simply a lever for extracting the owners of the land. The process was simple. The king demanded spiritual allegiance; refused was high treason; the punishment of high treason was forfeiture of estates, with death or banishment to the galleys. Any other law they might have devised. This law fixed its iron grapple on the conscience and made allegiance impossible, without a degree of honesty that rendered life intolerable. Hence Protestantism was defeated, not so much as a religion, as an instrument of spoliation." There never was an opportunity so admirable afforded to any Government as to test the principles of land nationalization as now in connection with the Irish question. Mr. Gorkin suggests that the landlords be paid off at 20 years purchase of the judicial rentals, the state giving them bonds as purchase money, and the rent being payable to the Irish Government. To settle the Irish land question on the basis of peasant proprietorship would be simply to future the rights of the community, to

VICTORIA.

WRITTEN FOR "OUR COMMONWEALTH," BY W. T. CARTER.

Allow me to commence my first letter as your Victorian correspondent, by heartily congratulating you on your enterprise, in starting a democratic weekly paper, which will, I feel sure, be devoted to the advocacy of the interests of the commonwealth without class bias or prejudice.

Writing of the affairs of this Australian state, Victoria, I am necessarily at a disadvantage. I have not been here long enough to quite get what a "Yank" would call "the hang of things," and the effect produced on a stranger by being suddenly set down in new conditions, is to cause him to conduct all his observations by comparisons between his strange surroundings and those from which he has just departed. Thus, spite of myself, I write of Victoria as a "South Australian," because I see it through South Australian eyes. I might have some reason to regret my yielding to this necessity should your paper fall into Victorian hands, were it not that I know that Australian love of candour in the expression of opinion, forgives even that which wounds its self-love.

The first contrast that strikes me is a favorable one, it is the more general interest in matters political on the part of the masses in Victoria, than that which is shown in South Australia, although the conditions on which one can vote are far less liberal here than there. Here a name has not only to be on the roll but, if the qualification be merely manhood, then the voter has also to take out an elector's right for which he has to pay 1s., and yet a far larger proportion of the manhood of the greater constituencies take a deeper interest in politics than the South Australian manhood voters do.

The reason for this is, that, whether it has been of the wisest kind or not, legislation has been undertaken here expressly in the interests of manhood. Taking this into consideration, it strikes one as very incongruous and as showing blindness on the part of the leaders of the people that a system of plural voting should be permitted to exist, under a property qualification in such a form that it goes far to counteract the effects of manhood suffrage; for here one may vote for members for the Assembly in every district in which he has property, as there is no such healthy clause as you have in South Australia, demanding a residential, as well as a property qualification.

I was in Melbourne during the election of members for the parliament which is just to assemble, and had the opportunity of studying the doings of democratic Melbourne during the strife of a general election, and I was not at all favorably impressed by it. The gross unfairness with which some of the candidates were treated by sections of the audiences, which seemed as though they had assembled not to hear them, was in striking contrast to the generally fair hearing accorded by Adelaideans even to those from whom they strongly differ.

Then in the matter of cabs and beer, enough was done to invalidate every election according to South Australian laws. Besides all this, candidates were to be seen all day long canvassing at the booths. The people here have demanded and obtained payment of members in order to make the representation of manhood possible, and yet they countenance practices which go a long way towards neutralizing its influence. A significant evidence of this was given during this election in the rejection of the three labor candidates, Messrs. Trenwith, Bromley, and Murphy. They were all thoroughly well known men, well known as the champions of the interests of labor. Mr. Trenwith has been the soul of every successful fight between labor and capital for years past. Mr. Murphy had done yeoman service as secretary of the Trades Union, and Mr. Bromley was at that time its president, and was known as one who had given much earnest and able thought to the interests of labor and although very large sections of thoughtful working men worked earnestly and well for them in the respective electorates for which they stood, they were yet defeated. The Age regarded this as a proof that working men did not want to return men in the interests of their class alone, because they preferred those who went in for the general good, and this might be accepted if there had been no such thing as class legislation in Victoria, but, to my mind, a less flattering explanation presents itself. It is because they were not able to spend so much money on the election as their opponents. Has this proved to me the falsity of the principle of payment of members? Nothing of the kind. It has only proved that you want Victorian payment of members plus South Australian guards against bribery and corruption, for I still hold to the position which I laid down at a banquet at Port Pirie, that payment of members is the natural and necessary corollary of manhood suffrage. You can never be sure of getting the manhood of the state represented without it. Yet without proper guards you are but subsidizing those who buy the votes of the people that they may be enabled to sell their own. Another contrast unfavorable to Victoria is found in the manner in which the daily papers are

papers in Adelaide. The Melbourne papers do not pay anything like the attention to country matters that your papers do; and they are not near so open to writers from "all sorts and conditions of men" as your papers are, witness the fact that although Mr. Christian Reimers and his "colle" have been here some time, he has not yet been allowed to appear in print to any extent. You may write a bona fide letter on matters of immediate importance and not even have it acknowledged in the answers to correspondents.

On visiting the suburbs of Melbourne three months ago, one might well think that he was in the Adelaide and its suburbs of four years ago. On every hoarding, fence and available blank wall he would notice garish advertisements of LAND WALKS, while advertising tricks worthy of the vendors of "Warner's Safe Cure" &c. were resorted to in the papers to call attention to sales of blocks that had "steadily risen in value" and were "sure to still further rise," "capital investments," &c., &c., and the game still goes on, but now with some abatement. Land in Collins Street was being sold during the last few months for £100 per inch! The last important block, however, that was offered in that important locality was passed in, only £900 per foot having been offered, and that same sale, I believe, showed that the floodmark of speculative value had reached its highest point, and that the tide has already begun to ebb. It we reason by analogy, it will not be hard to foretell some of the results that will come through gambling with the values which the efforts and needs of the people have created. True, these results may not have exactly the same effects here as were produced in South Australia, because they may not reap them under the same conditions. But if the Victorians were now to have a few bad years to aggravate the matter, it would go hard with them. It is a remarkable thing that these Victorians believe themselves to be perfectly safe from any such complications as are to be witnessed in New South Wales and South Australia to-day; and they usually claim that their immunity from this state of things is owing to their "protective policy"! Your small attempt at protection, they argue, has had no effect of pulling you out of the hole, because "it isn't stiff enough." You must go in for more of it! and they rejoice at the prospect that want of employment in England will yet force the old country into the adoption of a "protective policy," rejoicing, as all enthusiasts do in the success of their cause, but with the usual protectionist blunders which prevents them from seeing that their cause is not like other causes, that its universal adoption means its complete destruction, for when all countries become equally protective, it will be as though none were protective.

In my next I have something to tell you about legislation of a socialistic character which Victoria has been going in for; and also of some of the effects which are already beginning to manifest themselves through even the proposal to irrigate portions of the country.

COST OF ENGLISH MONARCHY.

THE QUEEN'S INCOME.

The cost of monarchy to the nation, but few English taxpayers know. Sixty years ago the thinking people of England were startled by the astounding revelations made in a voluminous book, which gave an exposition of the income, privileges, and powers of royalty, the aristocracy, privy councils, diplomatic, and of consular establishments, law and judicial administration; profits, influence, and monopoly of the Bank of England; the national debt and funding systems; and with a complete list of holders of pluralities, placemen, and sinecurists, thus presenting a full and complete review of the cost of state, law, and representation. This celebrated "Black Book" is now out of print, and is almost forgotten; but it was unquestionably the precursor of that species of literature which led the way to the productions of the same character by Richard Carlyle, Home, Owen, and Charles Bradlaugh, and it is certainly better compiled and more ably constructed than any of its successors.

The source from which Queen Victoria derives the bulk of her income is the civil list, a monarchial revenue which dates from the period of the Revolution, about 1688. Originally a few thousands annually allotted for the purpose, but with each successive sovereign larger grants were demanded, until, when George the Fourth was king, it reached about half a million per year. At the latter end of the reign of that monarch, the then government were compelled (by the pressure of the Commons) to print a parliamentary paper termed, "The Annual Finance Account for 1830," and it was in this official document that the people of England discovered the enormous sums paid to royalty, and it is also the first printed report (available to the public) to show that the then Princess Alexandra Victoria was personally supported by the state. If we mistake not, Victoria became a royal pensioner when she was about seven years of age, and has continued so for the last sixty years. It will be of interest to state that the House of Commons, about the year 1826, passed a bill to allow grants of money from the

Table listing names and amounts: Prince Leopold, Duke of Clarence, Duke of Sussex, Duke of Cambridge, Duke of Cumberland, Duke of Gloucester, Princess Augusta, Princess Mary, Princess Elizabeth, Princess Sophia, Duchess of Clarence, Duchess of Kent, Princess Sophia.

Concurrent with these large grants, a few years later the Commons again squandered the people's money by voting £100,000 a year to Queen Adelaide, the consort of William the Fourth, a queen which she also received during her widowhood. The Princess Victoria accepted the £8,000 annually until by the force of circumstances she ascended the throne. It is not possible to give the exact amount of the Queen's income; indeed it is very doubtful whether she knows it herself; but the following items compiled from the "Fin. Ref. Almanack for 1885," will convey some idea what the cost of royalty is, so that the reader may then the better appreciate its representative in this colony:—

Table listing expenses: Her Majesty's Civil List, Royal Palaces occupied personally by her Majesty, Her Majesty's Civil List, Royal Palaces occupied personally by her Majesty, Her Majesty's Civil List, Royal Palaces occupied personally by her Majesty, Her Majesty's Civil List, Royal Palaces occupied personally by her Majesty.

THE LOYALISTS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

A representative of the Pall Mall Gazette has interviewed Mr. Johnston, M.P. for South Belfast. In answer to question put, the hon. member said:—

"We will resist the overment and demands of any Irish Parliament, and we will do so in the belief that we are acting not merely in the assertion of our own rights in Ulster and in defence of Protestantism, but in the best interests of the Crown, the Constitution, and the Empire. For we believe that if a separate Parliament be conceded, a serious blow will have been struck at the honour and integrity of the empire, and we would be placed under a foreign domination."

"Then, I am to gather that if a separate Parliament is conceded you will in no way recognize the fact, will take no part in the return of members to it, and when it proceeds to enforce its laws against you, you will resist?"

"Yes, we would have nothing to do with it, but the form of resistance would depend upon the overt acts of the Parliament. We would not, of course, initiate an invasion directed against them, but were they sought to reach us we should drive them out. Of course, you will understand that I am only expressing my individual views, but I believe I am correct in saying that in expressing these views I expose the feelings and intentions of all those with whom I usually associate."

Go ahead, ye "loyalists," and teach the people that might is right, but take care that you are on your side. What will Mr. Downer say to this? When some time ago he was appealed to as altering our laws as "to secure to the producer the result of his labor," he considered this solution and inflammatory language. What does he call the above? And yet, ere long, he and his party will find themselves in the same position here, as their confederates are at present in Ireland. People will no longer be gulled by soft speeches; they want their rights, and nothing less will satisfy them. Signs of this will manifest themselves at the next elections, and in the near future democracy must wield the power as an old lady. We wonder whether Mr. Downer and his associates will then rejoice in the victory of right over might, or whether they will follow the examples of the "loyals" at the anti-poles.

IRELAND.

Five cases of typhoid fever from the neighborhood of Capinure, County Wexford, have been admitted to the hospital of Lanesboro, and considerable business has been excited in the medical profession.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

The military have been called out in Milan to suppress bread riots.

The revolution in Uruguay has been finally suppressed by the government.

The toast of the Queen was hissed at a Liberal dinner at Stratford-on-Avon.

Evictions of tenants in Ireland are still continuing to take place, and in all probability will continue until the tables are turned, and landlords are evicted instead.

Rev. Mr. Ker, a Cork Presbyterial clergyman has warned his flock against the orators of the Loyal and Patriotic Union who preach civil war.

We read in The Weekly Freeman of April 10.—During the latter portion of the past week a strike broke out amongst the cotton spinners and weavers at Easchadh, Holland, in consequence of the lowering of the wages of the people.

A battle has taken place in Montevideo between revolutionists and government troops, in which the latter were defeated, with a loss of four hundred men. Subsequently, in another encounter, the government troops defeated and dispersed the revolutionists.

Mr. M. Leonard, agent of the Earl of Kenmare's estates in Ireland, announced that "All yearly tenants who pay in full up to the 1st. November, 1880, on or before the 15th of April, will be allowed an abatement of 25 per cent. The yearly tenants who only owe the November, 1880, gate will be allowed an abatement of 50 per cent.

The following advertisement appeared in one of our dailies:—

Goods—Persons are Cautioned not to cut or remove wood from Section No. 2,378 and 2,383, without permission from Ed. Martin, Inman Valley. No land nationalization leaders need apply.

We have sent Mr. Ed. Martin, of Inman Valley, a copy of this paper, as he seems to be sadly wanting information on the subject of land nationalization. We want to do away with the system by which *leasers* can hold the land, and put *workers* on it instead. Mr. Martin has to fear land nationalization only if he is a *leaser*, but not otherwise.

The following resolution was passed in the New Jersey State House Assembly:—

Whereas Charles Stewart Parnell, leader of the Irish race, and grandson of a distinguished Jerseyman, has issued an ultimatum to the British government demanding home rule for Ireland; and whereas in the dark days of the revolution and rebellion Irishmen were ever ready to lay down their lives that the republic might live, and that union of states might be cemented and perpetuated; and whereas it is eminently fit and proper that we should express our approval of the gallant struggle which a warm-hearted people is making in a great cause, therefore be it

Resolved—That this house extend to Parnell and his co-laborers its largest sympathy and best wishes for their success in the great contest for self-government.

The third sale of working men's blocks was held in the Government Land Office on Thursday, May the 13th. Out of 3,858 acres offered for sale, only 2029 acres were sold. There was a keen competition for some blocks, and four acres of the "1st class" were sold at 28s. per acre. The next sale will take place on June 1st, when from 10,000 to 15,000 acres will be offered for sale. The next sale will take place on June 1st, when from 10,000 to 15,000 acres will be offered for sale. The next sale will take place on June 1st, when from 10,000 to 15,000 acres will be offered for sale.

The Adelaide Branch of the S. A. Land Nationalization Society held its fortnightly meeting on Tuesday night in the Staff Assembly-rooms (Mr. J. H. Wright, vice-president presiding), when Mr. L. H. Berens opened a discussion on the recent public utterances of members of parliament. He condemned the proposed income and property tax as being a rise on thrift and industry, and strongly recommended an increase of the land tax. Other speakers followed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Berens for the able manner in which he dealt with the subject.

A meeting of the Working Men's Political Association was held at the Reform League Hall on Monday evening, at which the president of the Association (Mr. J. Clements) presided. The secretary (Mr. Barrow) read a very interesting paper on "Our Organization." The paper stated that one of the reasons advanced in favor of almost every public work was that it would be advantageous to the working men, but the only benefit they received was that they had to bear the brunt of the increased taxation necessitated thereby, while the persons who advocated the work were benefited pecuniarily. In hard times when the working men were compelled to ask the Government to do something for them, they were offered work at wages that were insufficient to maintain themselves and families. Such was the state of things which the founders of the association wished to alter. The membership of the society at the present time was 237. The three aims of the society were the abolition of all taxes on the necessities of life, and in lieu thereof an increase of the land tax; payment of members; and the establishment of a state bank. In addition it was also proposed to place the names of all members on the electoral roll, to devise means of employing surplus labor, and to study the interests of the colony in general, and of the working men in particular. One of their most important duties was to see that the views of all candidates for Parliamentary honors were in accordance with those of the working men of the colony, and that they would represent the views of their constituents, and not those of the class to which the candidates belonged. By this means they hoped to prevent the election of men who would enter the house for the purpose of self-aggrandizement, thus preventing the capitalists from arranging everything to meet their own ends, and imposing fresh burdens on the wage-winners. By the help of the association in the future they hoped to prevent designing men from making the working men a stalking horse to further their own designs. An animated discussion followed, in which Messrs. Singer, Hocking, Matthews and others took part.

The Operative Bootmakers' Union of South Australia held their half yearly meeting at the Labor League Hall on Monday evening last. There was a good attendance, and the president (Mr. E. M. Hennessey) occupied the chair. The secretary (Mr. H. Bernot) read his report. It stated—"The half year has been the most eventful one in the history of the society. Just six months ago to-day we entered on a struggle which at the time promised to be one of long duration, but which happily, owing to a combination of circumstances, terminated in our complete and short period of 24 working days. The principal contributor to this was, without doubt, the

sacrifices many of you made during that unfortunate period. Another and not less important factor in the early settlement of our troubles was the extreme interest taken in our affairs by our co-workers in Victoria. Not only did they render us valuable financial assistance but they also sent us a medium in the person of Mr. W. A. Trenwith, without whose timely aid it is very difficult to see how matters would have ended, certainly not so soon, and probably not so much in our favour as they did. By his intervention a conference between the employers and our representatives was brought about, over whose deliberations he presided, with the result that a new statement was prepared and adopted." After a brief reference to the statement and the need there was for the men to carry it out, the report went on to state—"The total number of members at present on the books is 288, being an increase of 30 since the last report. The state of our funds at present is—Cash in bank and in hand, £39 19s. 9d., which is within £20 of what it was before the strike, and we are thankful to see that the steps taken by the union to bring about this state of our funds was so fully endorsed by the loyal payment of the increased contributions." The auditors' report stated that the strike pay amounted to £288 7s. 2d.; other incidental expenses brought up the total amount expended during the half-year to £722 13s. 3d. The receipts during the same period had been £472 11s. 10d. The reports were adopted. The election of officers for the ensuing six months resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Hennessey; vice-president, Mr. T. Norrish; treasurer, Mr. T. Hawker; secretary, Mr. H. Barrot.

The employees in the hardware trade of Port Adelaide held a meeting on Monday evening at the Temperance Hotel Port, to consider the decision of some of the employers to open their establishments on Saturday afternoons. There was a very large attendance, and Mr. W. H. Mitchell presided. It appears that for a considerable time past the hardware dealers of the Port have given their hands a half holiday on Saturdays and reopened their shops in the evening. (No firm, Messrs. Jones Bros.) have, however, departed from this practice and fears are entertained by the assistants in the other establishments of the Port that they might be deprived of their half holiday in consequence of this action. Several apologies for absence were read, the writer in each case expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting. The opening of Messrs. Harrow's Hardware department, and of Messrs. J. Colton & Co's Port establishment also wrote letters of sympathy. Messrs. Jones Brothers wrote as follows:—"In reference to remaining closed on Saturday afternoons we find that trade is still being driven to the city, instances of which are constantly coming before us. Our regular customers also frequently complain of inconvenience, as it is not sometimes possible for them to leave their homes in the evening. We have carefully considered the matter, and have decided to open on Saturday afternoon, May 22. We believe by this means the Saturday night shopping will be much lessened." Mr. Trengena called attention to a paragraph in the Advertiser giving a very erroneous impression. Readers were made to believe that some friction had existed between employers and employed generally, when the reverse was the case. Mr. W. T. Darson thought it significant that a complaint should arise just as Jones Brothers commenced the furnishing business. During ten years' experience of the Port he had only known of one or two instances of people wanting to buy goods on the Saturday afternoon. Everything bought before 2 o'clock was delivered the same afternoon in spite of early closing. He moved—"That a deputation wait upon Messrs. Jones Brothers to express the views of that meeting." Mr. Colton seconded. Messrs. Trengena and Mitchell proposed forming a deputation, and Mr. Mitchell proposed that the deputation should consist of Messrs. Mitchell, Trengena, Butler, and Robson, with the secretary (Mr. Baker).

At a large and influential meeting held at Port Augusta, on May the 13th, to consider "various matters seriously affecting the interests of the colony at the present juncture," the following resolutions were adopted:—

- 1.—"That it is desirable in the interests of the colony that a bill for the construction of the north-western railway of development should be introduced to parliament at the earliest possible date.
- 2.—"That immediate steps be taken to provide for the conservation of water at present running to waste from the Flinders Range, in order that a plentiful supply may be available at all times of the year for the encouragement of wheat.
- 3.—"That in view of the amount of Port Augusta shipping it is fully time telegraphic communication should be established between that Port and Point Lowly.
- 4.—"That in view of the great injury being done to the port by the late arrival and early departure of the trains our members be respectfully requested to make a determined effort to have the time table altered.
- 5.—"That in order to provide relief for the unemployed of the district the Public Works Department should be strongly urged to proceed more energetically with the work of filling in the wharfs.
- 6.—"That this meeting considers that the amount of money being spent on the defence of the colony is far too great, and that it is highly desirable that our defence forces should be assimilated to those of the United Kingdom.
- 7.—"That the members of the district be requested to make application to the Government Geologist to make a thorough examination of the Flinders Range, from Barrota to Hocking, with the ultimate object of employing prospecting parties to search for minerals.
- 8.—"That it is desirable that provision should be made during the ensuing session of Parliament to allow corporations and district councils to obtain and keep license fees paid within their limits by publicans, stockkeepers, and others.
- 9.—"That this meeting considers the present mode of assessing municipal properties upon the value of improvement thereon as a direct tax upon industry."

A meeting was held at Mounta on the 14th of May to consider the unimproved question. The Institute was crowded, and the mayor (Dr. Archer) presided. The following resolutions were carried:—

- 1.—"That in the opinion of this meeting the policy of the Government in stopping public works whilst there was such a dearth of employment in the colony has been detrimental to the best interests of South Australia.
- 2.—"That in consideration of the severity of employment in this northernland it is highly desirable that the Government should authorize the local road board to anticipate any amount likely to be voted for the construction of main roads by the parliament when assembled.
- 3.—"That, considering the cheap state of the labor market and the destitution of the district...

THE DISTRESS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.

[FROM THE "IRISH TIMES."]

Our special correspondent writing from Westport on Monday, says:—

Immediately upon my arrival I had an interview with the Rev. Raymond O'Connell, incumbent of the parish, and with the Rev. Father Conway, parish priest, both of whom state that great distress extensively prevailed, and that the people had as long as possible striven to conceal their poverty-stricken condition. This statement was further corroborated by Mr. James Cleary, a local merchant, to whom the inhabitants of the district owe close on £1,000 for provisions, chiefly consisting of Indian meal. Excluded from the neighbouring island of Inish-boige, the population comprises 70 or 80 families, or about 400 individuals, and nearly three-fourths of these have been for a considerable time passed living upon the potatoes which they had reserved for seed, and on meal obtained on credit. Credit has now, except in rare instances, ceased, and nothing remains for the support of those people but a limited store of potatoes, and the proceeds arising from the sale of any little live stock which some of them possess. To dispose of cattle is next to impossible, for the prices prevailing are ruinously low, and even to effect a sale at any terms is exceedingly difficult, no one being willing to purchase, the condition of the animals being too poor owing to insufficient feeding. In a few instances the only horse which a family had been able to procure food—a certain evidence of deep distress, for as a rule the utmost sacrifice would be made to retain the horse and the cow, farming being almost impracticable without the one, and no milk, very scarce even at present, being procurable for the children without the other. Under such circumstances the resources of the majority of the population may be considered to be exhausted, for it is evident that some of their potatoes they will have no crop this year, and famine will result; and if they sow their potatoes they will be entirely destitute of food for the next few months. In particular cases, however, the state of affairs is infinitely worse, for in some houses which I visited, all the potatoes had been eaten, and the people were living on what they could borrow from their neighbours or occasionally purchase with the wages for a very occasional day's employment. How hazardous such a means of existence is needs no comment.

Judging from the results of inspection I would say that the whole population is exceedingly poor and deeply in debt, but that the distressed may be divided into three classes, those who will be able to tide over their difficulties if they be given a supply of seed potatoes, those who absolutely require both seed potatoes and food, and those for whose miserable condition no remedy appears likely to be at all lasting in its effects. This last-mentioned class comprises one evicted family living in a shed but, several families who have returned either from England or America, and now have no holdings, and others who are out of a previous existence by that pernicious system of temporary subdivision called "the cut." The destitution of these people is extreme, and were it not for the charity of their neighbours they would at present either be starving or be inmates of the workhouse. The latter alternative they regard with loathing, and so strong is the feeling in this direction that even outdoor relief is never sought except as a last resort. When such aid is given it consists of 1s. 6d. a week per individual, and as advanced age or serious sickness is among the essential conditions of legal eligibility how insufficient such a sum would be.

It is to be regretted that the authorities in the district have not been able to do more to relieve the distress. The only relief afforded is in the form of a small sum of money given to the distressed, and seed oats is much needed. As in most other places which I have visited, the clothing of the people as a general rule is extremely thin, scanty, and ragged, and many children are unable either to go to church or school owing to their half-naked condition. The beds consist of heaps of straw, and the covering a few old tattered cloths. The districts on the mainland inspected were Garthrus, Knockmaghin, Talla, Duona, and Aughnes, the two last-named being the worst, though, of course, particular cases of much distress occur everywhere.

Duona and Aughnes are situated in the midst of bogs, which, after the rains of winter, are in some places almost swamps, and to make ones way through this mud is both fatiguing and difficult. Innumerable ditches and drains had to be crossed, and in the soft ground the feet sank at nearly every step ankle deep, the whole distance having to be accomplished, for time was precious, by running and jumping and scrambling and stepping along as best I could. A more depressing looking place, or one more unsuitable for human habitation could not be pictured, and that any crop could grow in the black soil-reclaimed bogland that formed the potato ridges would be incredible, but the fact was proved. To add to the dismal appearance of this bleak and wretched tract of country which is periodically swept by fierce storms, rain fell heavily, but it was difficult to decide which was preferable, the stifling smoke of the cabins into which I was hospitably invited, or the cold drizzling downpour. The hovels in which the people live presented a most wretched appearance, and in several I found persons lying ill, their suffering intensified by the discomfort of their surroundings and circumstances. With the exception of the sick those most to be pitied were, however, the children, for the old people are inured to their condition. Little boys and girls I found whose attire was the scantiest possible, their limbs and bodies showing through the ragged remnants of clothing they wore. This concluded my investigation on the mainland, and in considering the necessities of the case an important fact should not be forgotten—namely, that there is no local relief committee, and there are no funds for distribution whatever, nor has any assistance been yet given to the district.

RESUMÉ'S FABLES REVISÉD.

THE LANDOWNER AND THE MULE.

A rich man had a piece of land on which a young mule was grazing. "I shall harness you," said the man to the mule, "and make you plough this land to grow mellons on, of which I am very fond, while the stalks will supply you with food." To which the mule replied: "If I consent to toil on your terms, you will have all the mellons and I shall be worse off than now, inasmuch as I shall have to eat dry stalks instead of feeding on the fresh green grass. I'll not do it, sir."

"How unreasonable you are," remonstrated the landowner.

Crazy men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them.—Hiccup.

"Compulsory expropriation of landed proprietors is sound in principle."—W. E. GLADSTONE.

"To be true in heart and just in act are the first qualities necessary for the elevation of humanity."—Fichte.

"It is the rich utter, not the poor man, who feels the most keenly the need of great wealth. Therefore nations are ruined and overcast, and citizens are divided, and necessities, only to provide for the expenses of tired idlers."—Hiccup.

A summary of the latest number of the Narodnaia Volia appears in the current Social-Democrat. It gives a horrifying account of the internal condition of Russia and of the sickening brutality of the divine Czar to whom some of our radicals still think fit to write pious hymns.—Justice.

King Cash is an important potentate, for although he rules his subjects with a golden scepter, it is as hard as iron and as cold. If he is displeased, he does not suspend *Arctos curvas*, he suspends payment; the penalty is not imprisonment, but torture—torture by starvation, occasionally culminating in death.—Pall Mall Gazette.

"What would become of the world, and what should we be ourselves, if we were all on our guard against enthusiasm? Every precious thing which we possess has been the work of the idealists who have succeeded. They have formed goods; they have built up our science; they have created our art; they have enriched humanity by noble examples."—Quarterly Review.

It is a mistake to suppose that the rich man maintains his servants, tradesmen, tenants, and laborers. The truth is, they maintain him. It is their industry that supplies his table, furnishes his wardrobe, builds his houses, adorns his equipage, provides his amusements. It is not the estate, but the labor employed upon it, that pays the rent. All that he does is to distribute what others produce; which is the least part of the business.—Tolstoy's Moral and Political Philosophy.

Warning! Land owners look out! There are breakers ahead! This is the new law governing the price of land, both in city and country. The price of land is determined by the law of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," falling as it rises, and rising as it falls. It is now past its first hundredth edition, and it is going faster than ever. In ten years from now town lots will not be worth more than the taxes. Private property in land is doomed!—Truth, San Francisco.

At present we have landlords to make our laws, and we have landlords' sons, grandsons, and cousins to administer them, and among them they find the democracy has been a very easy bird to pluck. Not much longer, however, can the game go on. Ireland is demanding, and soon will have, the administering of its own affairs; and the people of this country are awaking to the knowledge of the truth that if they would have their affairs well managed, they must see that they are managed in the interest of the people as a whole, and not in the interest of a class that has been, is, and ever will be, the enemy of the State.—Landlord government and the welfare of the people are incompatible, and the sooner the majority is restored to the management of the will be to the common benefit of the whole of the country. Reynolds's.

Reynolds's in our columns we give the particulars of two sad cases of suicide from starvation. No more affecting incidents have been published for some time. Here in wealthy London, a city paved with gold, two men have been done to death by cruel fate for want, literally, of a bit of bread. In the case of Henry Tompitt, it is shocking to think that his wife, a seller of matches thought that she had had a splendid day's trade if she earned sixpence, and on this the twin lived. Mincepie!—a sum which, to a West End idler, would not represent the price of a buttonhole bouquet, or a cigar, or a liquor of brandy. But even this paltry sum filled the poor woman, and ultimately her husband died. Sometimes the count is squandering millions here and there, and paying for popinjay count idlers a sum per annum which would keep a roof over the head of every poor person in the realm through. How long is this to be? Reynolds's Newspaper.

We extract the following from Modern Society:—If a confirmation of the remarks we have recently made as to the Queen's investments be needed, it is to be found in the following extract from the Sydney Bulletin:—

"We are amused to see Sir Henry Ponsonby's letter, which has gone to the press, and which distinctly states that the Queen owns no ground rents in London or the City, and states that she has no money with which to purchase such properties. We would ask whether or no the Queen ever purchased, and if so, how long ago, the ground rent of St. Mary Chambers, St. Mary-axe; whether the price paid was £40,250; whether the ground rent was equal to £1,000, and bought at twenty-five years' purchase; whether or no this property is as this moment vested in the name of Her Majesty; whether on June 6, 1878, and whether the purchase was made for her private account? We shall have questions to ask on further properties next week. We wait for a reply."

A series of "Land Tracts for the People" is being extensively circulated throughout England with the object of spreading the light on matters of political and social interest. The first of the series deals with "One of the causes of bad trade," and refers to the rapidly-maturing question of house rents, and land has been made by the small powerful landlords in both Houses of Parliament exclusively for their own benefit. Not only have the landlords shifted the burden of all land rates and taxes from themselves on to the occupier, but they have also confiscated all improvements made by the tenants during their term of occupancy. The result is, that a tenant who rents a house for years to build up a business, tradesmen, after struggling for years to build up a business, and paying his rent and all the land rates and taxes, and perhaps spending some hundreds of pounds of his own money in improving the landlord's premises, when his term has expired has either to pay whatever sum the owner likes to demand in the shape of rent, or "sit upon removal," or go away and leave all his improvements behind for the benefit of the landlord, business loss of his business, which may mean absolute ruin to him. Reference is then made, *inter alia*, to the income of the Duke of Westminster from his London ground rents, which amount to £150,000 per annum, and on which he pays not a penny local taxes. Suggestions are made for remedying this intolerable state of things, and an appeal is made to traders to agitate the question and to vote for no party candidate who is identified with the "Land Interest."—England

(This column is open to all Trades Unions and Working Men's Political Societies for the insertion of any official announcements, free of charge. The Editor does not necessarily endorse anything appearing under this heading).

ALLOEMEINER DEUTSCHER VEREIN. (German Political Association).

A lecture on Capital and Labor will be delivered (in German) on Tuesday evening, May 21, at the National Hotel, Piccadilly.—OTTO KROPPKE, Hon. Sec.

TO THE ELECTORS OF EAST ADELAIDE.

At a request of a joint Committee of the Working Men's Political Association and the Land Nationalization Society MR. HENRY TAYLOR has consented to Address a Preliminary Public Meeting as a Candidate for the representation of East Adelaide, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Green.

S. A. LAND NATIONALIZATION SOCIETY.

As with the expansion of the Land Movement the working expenses of the Society are increasing, and for the special purpose of positions to Parliament at present being circulated for signature additional funds are required, the Society appeals to the public for financial help. Donations will be received by the undersigned, and acknowledged in the columns of this paper.—T. P. KAAN, Hon. Sec. L. N. S., Adelaide Branch, Flinders-street, Adelaide.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Agents are wanted in all parts of the colonies to sell Our Commonwealth. Liberal commission given. Persons wishing to become Agents will please send in their names early for publication, and also state number of copies required.

"T. Hilton, Pt. Geraldine."—Your letter has been handed us, but has not time to give you desired information in this number. Will do so in our next.

All articles for the paper must be addressed to the Editor of Our Commonwealth, 4, Arcade, Adelaide, and must reach this office not later than by the first delivery on Thursday morning in order to ensure insertion in current issue. Inexperienced contributors are cautioned to write only on one side of the paper.

The real name and address must accompany each letter, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

TENDERS.

ENGINEERS-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.—

For constructing an extension to the tramway between King-street and North-terrace, 24th May.

For constructing a post and telegraph office, with residence, at Wilson, 24th May.

For the supply of general stores to the workmen on the Hargott Springs and Strangways Springs line, 24th May.

For the supply of butcher's meat to the workmen on the Hargott Springs and Strangways Springs line, 24th May.

HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS' DEPARTMENT.—

For the carriage of cement from Port Pirie, or other railway station, to Botolton reservoir, 27th May.

ARCHITECT-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.—

For erection of G. I. stables, at Gapanah, 24th May.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.—

For the sale of 17 dead gum trees, in the bed of the Rocky River, on unleased Crown Lands, south of Crystal Brook, 24th May.

WATER CONSERVATORS' DEPARTMENT.—

For grabbing and clearing road in the Hundred of Hart, 24th May.

For excavating reservoir on section 48, Hundred of Maitland, 25th May.

For clearing out Finley's dam on reserve adjoining section 88, Hundred of Paratoo, 25th May.

For fencing and erecting pump, troughing, &c., to reservoir on section 91 and 92, Hundred of Wokurna, 24th May.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.—

For the erection of a telegraph line with iron poles, following the railway line from Petersburg to the border of New South Wales, 25th May.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.—

For applying provisions required for the college from July 1st, 1886, to June 30th, 1887.

The contractor for meat, bread, and groceries will be required to deliver the same at the college as required, 1st June.

LOCAL ROAD BOARDS.—

Local Board of Main Road, Victoria District, Mount Gambier, May 14th, 1886.

Sealed Tenders will be received by the board for the following works:—

Maintenance—Speeding Mole's Bay and Beach-road. Contract No. 254—MacDonnell Bay and Beach-road. Contract No. 255—Mount Gambier and Beach-road. Contract No. 256—Mount Gambier and Beach-road. Contract No. 257—Phelia Hill-road. Contract No. 258—Port-road. Contract No. 259—Beachport and Hill-road. Contract No. 260—Phelia and Border-road. Contract No. 261—Phelia and Hill-road.

Tenders to be at the office of the board, Mount Gambier, not later than 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 20th May, 1886.

CITY OF ADELAIDE.

Alternative Tenders will be received by the council until Monday, the 24th day of May, 1886, at one o'clock, for executing the following works:—

Cleaning, Watering, Mending, and Repairing the Streets. Contract No. 35—The whole city. Contract No. 31—North Adelaide. Contract No. 32—South Adelaide. Contract No. 33—East Adelaide. Contract No. 34—West Adelaide.

Trades Unions are not new on their trial, they are accomplished facts and recognized by law. The history of Trades Unions is a exhibition of the ignorant tyranny of capital over the gradual development of energy, intelligence and organization of defrauded labor. Ever step taken has been an advance solidly won never more to be surrendered. The cost has been enormous, the sacrifices heroic, the gains untold. To read the history of the revolts the battles, the temporary routings, and the eventual glorious victories of labor over the grinding oppression of the past; generating it as a romance. We attribute the present superior advantages of the laboring classes mainly to Unionism—the organizing of labor—and the best practical proof of this is to be found in the fact that where labor is most completely organized, there the condition of the workers attain the maximum of advantage.

But much as has been done, and much as we may truthfully boast of past achievements, our work is yet but in its infancy. The fetters of bondage are cast asunder, but we have as yet scarcely even scanned the sunny field of liberty which it is ours to secure, and to this end we call on all well wishers of themselves, their wives, their families, their fellows, and their country to unite in their several callings, and federate the whole body of toilers, not for defence merely, but for aggressive warfare which shall be appraised only by equal justice, equal laws, and a natural and a full value for their toil. Nothing short of this can be deemed a "fair day's pay"; the term generally used to denote just as little a wage as the workman will submit to labor for.

But our view of a "fair day's pay" is something different. We mean that the worker should be in full receipt of that which his labor produces—no more or less. This, under our present system we do not get, as is soon from the fact that the garner is in possession of those "who sow not, neither do they reap," who neither toil nor spin; who rule us, abuse us, and rob us, and despise us, and who, we rejoice to say, are at last beginning to fear us. And it is our purpose to expose the little game which has gone on so long to our cost; we will pillory their crimes and expose their devices; we will countenance no privilege, our cry is, all for each, and each for all.

In our time we well remember that Trades Unionists were doubtful as to the propriety of touching politics; and it was only after years of attempts on the part of some that the annual Congresses permitted even the mild resolution calling for the extension of the Franchise. They worked well according to their lights, and their efforts have been rewarded by the possibility of political action, and the fact that they have been determined to do so, and to do so much as the law permits, and to do so in a way that is appropriate to the state of the country, and to the times; this, the aristocracy—the landocracy—has always been the solid barrier to progress, and has been as prodigal in hindering production as it has been greedy in its spoliation, and extravagant in its criminal waste. The workmen of South Australia have paid dearly for neglect of their political duties; the penalty will be the same for similar omissions in the future. Therefore, let us be up and doing. Let no man be heard to complain of the tyranny of government or capital who is not prepared to take his stand in the army of labor. We have heavy work before us; our heaviest will be the burden of those in our midst, who through selfishness or ignorance, choose to do nothing but carp and sneer at those, who, though not faultless, are, in their way, striving to do their duty. In organization much compromise is often necessary; and our grand motto will assist us much in overcoming each other's shortcomings.

"Be to their faults a little blind, And to their virtues ever kind."

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

In a sub-leader on the choice that was made by the Library Committee to fill the vacant post of librarian in connection with Parliament House, the Register says:—

There were, as had been already stated, nearly thirty applicants for the position, and of these Mr. Morphett's nomination, Among those who applied for the position were some men who were well qualified by education and University training to fill it with credit. At least two of them held high degrees, and were conversant with books, and were well qualified to do so. The committee, however, will upon a full view of the matter, and after a full consideration of the duties of the position, and of the qualifications of the applicants, give any student possessing a knowledge of books, and it would be interesting to know on what grounds the Library Committee, in their selection, have chosen Mr. The public interest demands that the best man should be the victor in the contest, and in recommending a gentleman for the position of Librarian, it is especially desirable that those who are called upon to make the selection should be untrammelled by any considerations of party, and should be regarded alike by the nature of the work to be done and to the fitness of a candidate to undertake it.

The notes are ours. We would be glad to learn what those "political considerations" were which led the committee to decide in favor of Mr. J. P. Morrice. The Register gives us in the whatever favored

LITTLE JOHNNY'S LETTER.

MR. EDITOR—



I don't know whether you object to boys meddling with politics; but if you will afford the little ones to come onto you, I will write to you now and then what I think on certain questions and thus try to practice myself in political matters. I wish, Mr. Editor, you would allow me to do this, for father is continually fretting as to what trade or profession I should learn.

Now I hate too much learning and also too much work; therefore I should like to become a politician, or a landowner, or both.

I have read of late several speeches of our leading statesmen, some of whom aspire to the treasury benches and other £1,000 jobs, and it was very cheering for me to learn from those speeches that no knowledge whatever is required to fill those billets excepting plenty of small talk, and as I can talk a good deal without committing myself any more than Mr. Playford himself, I have decided to become a politician. It is about the best paying business I can think of, requires no study, and is highly amusing into the bargain. What capital fun it must be when an M.P. is called upon by his constituents to explain his policy and he, not having any, says nice things without meaning as for instance "It might have been," "In all probability I might say at some future time," "I am not quite sure about this or that," and finally wind up with the stereotyped peroration—"All I desire to see is the best done to the colony generally." Then he sits down amid loud applause and after a vote of thanks has been duly moved, seconded and supported, leaves his constituents to enjoy the fun amongst his colleagues. I make extracts of all these beautiful phrases, arranged under proper headings, and when I am once old enough to take my seat on the Treasury benches, I know I shall make a capital speech from them. But mind, Mr. Editor, I would never once let a Government simply for the sake of taking their places; oh, no! I would wait patiently until there was a vacancy, and if there wasn't, I would first try to make one.

In the meantime, I practice with my school-mates and teach them new games. I like political plays much better than any other, and that "wave of depression" game—I think how members call it "ax-grinding" amongst themselves—I prefer to either "eyedrop" or "pitching." If you will promise not to betray it to the other boys, I will tell you how I do it. Our teacher said one day that everyone of us is suffering from a "wave of depression," and said it in such a solemn tone that I wondered why he don't go to parliament, or join the 'Flux rather than bothering us with names and figures for which I have no little taste. Well, my schoolmates did not know the meaning of this—they never read political speeches—and thought it was some kind of maledy or an epidemic, in fact, knew no more about it than Messrs. Johnson, Playford, Bagster, or any other man who is looking out for a place on the Treasury, so I thought there is a fair field for operations—or ax-grinding, to use a more parliamentary term.

I proposed, therefore, that we should play land-lordism. I explained that they should be the state who have a right to sell the play-ground, and I offered to give two marbles to every one of them for the right of ownership, and that whoever plays on my land has to pay me rent, say one marble out of every four they might win. (You see, Mr. Editor, that I made use of the indirect system, as this takes much better with boys.) My proposals were joyfully accepted, play was started—eyedrop this time—and I laid snugly down reading the wise sayings of Messrs. Gilbert and Bagster, while all the time my rent was rolling in without stop or hindrance. I never troubled myself who won or who lost—I was sure of my share.

But as my stock of marbles increased, those used for playing—that is the capital in circulation, as you would call it—decreased, and every now and then a boy dropped out of the sport for want of funds to carry on the game. Oh, what jolly fun I had when I saw them quarrelling and fighting, accusing each other as being the cause of their losses. I alone was safe against attack, for I would say to the loser at once that he didn't pay me anything, it was only part of profits I took, and that was right because I staked my capital. "Supposing," I said, "all of you had lost, I would never have received any rent at all." And all of them looked very wise and said I was right. The play continued, boy after boy dropped out, until all the remaining marbles got into the hands of two boys, and finally belonged to Tommy alone. You see the results produced were the same as when landlordism is played by you men. We had now a landlord, to wit, myself; a capitalist, to wit, Tommy; and a community who suffered from a "wave of misfortune" or had lost their

share. The boys are beginning to complain of Tommy, they say he is this and that, but no one thinks of blaming me, because I told them at once that they didn't pay me anything, and it is only right that Tommy, having the most income, should pay me something for the use of my property. Of course I eat their cakes and their apples all the same, but then that "indirect" system is a first-rate invention. The only unpleasantness I had was when father asked me last night where I got all the sweets and toys from. "From the boys," I said. "You ought to be ashamed to beg like that." "I didn't beg." "Then did you buy it?" "No." "So you must have stolen it?" he asked with a frown. "Not at all," I replied, "we have been playing land-lordism, and I should like to play the same game when I am grown up." Whereupon father told me to go to bed at once. But I will tell you more about it next week. JOHNNY.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

The following is the programme of this great and influential American organization, and deserves the greatest attention and study on the part of our unions:

I. To make industrial and moral worth, not wealth, the true standard of individual and national greatness.

II. To secure to the workers the enjoyment of the wealth they create, sufficient leisure in which to develop their intellectual, moral and social faculties; all of the benefits, recreation and pleasures of association; in a word, to enable them to share in the gains and honors of advancing civilization.

III. The establishment of bureaus of labor statistics, that we may arrive at a correct knowledge of the educational, moral and financial conditions of the laboring masses.

IV. That the public lands, the heritage of the people, be reserved for actual settlers; not another acre for railroads or speculators, and that all lands now held for speculative purposes be taxed to their full value.

V. The abrogation of all laws that do not bear equally upon capital and labor, and the removal of unjust technicalities, delays and discriminations in the administration of justice.

VI. The adoption of measures providing for the health and safety of those engaged in mining, manufacturing and building industries, and for indemnification to those engaged therein for injuries received through lack of necessary safeguards.

VII. The recognition by incorporation of trades, unions, orders, and such other associations as may be organized by the working masses to improve their conditions and protect their rights.

VIII. The enactment of laws to compel corporations to pay their employees weekly, in lawful money, for the labor of the preceding week, and giving mechanics and laborers a first lien upon the product of their labor to the extent of their full wages.

IX. The abolition of the contract system on national, state and municipal works.

X. The enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed, and to enforce the decision of the arbitrators.

XI. The prohibition by law of the employment of children under fifteen years of age in workshops, mines and factories.

XII. To prohibit the hiring out of convict labor.

XIII. That a graduated income tax be levied. And we demand at the hands of Congress:

XIV. The establishment of a national monetary system, in which a circulating medium in necessary quantity shall issue direct to the people, without the intervention of banks; that all the national issue shall be full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private; and that the government shall not guarantee or recognize any private banks, or create any banking corporations.

XV. That interest-bearing bonds, bills of credit or notes shall never be issued by the government, but that, when need arises, the emergency shall be met by issue of legal tender, non-interest-bearing money.

XVI. That the importation of foreign labor under contract be prohibited.

XVII. That, in connection with the post office, the government shall organize financial exchanges, safe deposits and facilities for deposit of the savings of the people in small sums.

XVIII. That the government shall obtain possession by purchase, under the rights of eminent domain, of all telegraphs, telephones and railroads, and that hereafter no charter or license be issued to any corporation for construction or operation of any means of transporting intelligent passengers or freight.

And while making the foregoing demands upon the state and national government, we will endeavor to associate our own labors:

XIX. To establish co-operative institutions such as will tend to supersede the wage system, by the introduction of a co-operative industrial system.

and their employees, in order that the bonds of sympathy between them may be strengthened, and that strikes may be rendered unnecessary.

WOULD LAND NATIONALIZATION BENEFIT THE FARMERS?

A DIALOGUE IN THE SMOKING ROOM BY J. H. BERNES.

MR. PRACTICAL.—Good day, Snorob; I was looking for you.

MR. SKEWEN.—Why! what do you want me for so urgently?

Pa.—I want to know how the proposed scheme of Land Nationalization would effect the farmers?

Sn.—It would effect them the same as the rest of the working community, that is, it will benefit them all round. If it did not do that it could not be said to be beneficial at all.

Pa.—Most of our farmers do not think so; you will find them strong opponents to your scheme.

Sn.—Not when they thoroughly understand it; we have already many staunch adherents amongst them.

Pa.—Have you really? That is saying a great deal, as they are a shrewd, intelligent body of men, keenly alive to anything that would benefit or injure them.

Sn.—All the better, for then we shall soon make converts of them all.

Pa.—Don't be too sure; you will have your work out.

Sn.—Doubtless, but our present system oppresses them as much as the other portion of our toilers. We are all suffering from the same cause.

Pa.—I do not see that; still less do I see how taking away their land could benefit them.

Sn.—We really do not wish to take it away from them; they will still have the use of it and be able to utilize the same to its utmost extent.

Pa.—Yes, of course, and allow others to reap the benefit I suppose.

Sn.—Not at all, sir, we can secure to them the full enjoyment of all they produce, which our present system does not.

Pa.—But how about their improvements?

Sn.—We can and will secure to them all their improvements; and what is more, shall not even tax anything representing labor.

Pa.—You seem to have every faith in the practical working of your scheme as well as in its justice and wisdom.

Sn.—I have; it is the only reform which strikes at the root and sooner or later must be adopted.

Pa.—If you can convince others of its advisability it may; but when talking of its benefiting the working classes, do you mean at the expense of the remainder of the community?

Sn.—In a well regulated community there could be no remainder. He who does not produce or facilitate production lives upon the labors of others.

Pa.—But the merchant, doctor, lawyer, architect, trader and others?

Sn.—Are all of them workers and contributors to our common weal?

Pa.—How about capital?

Sn.—Capital is previously accumulated labor, utilized to facilitate and increase the return to present labor.

Pa.—You have on a previous occasion defined capital as wealth in exchange, or that portion of wealth not aside for reproductive purposes.

Sn.—Exactly—wealth is accumulated labor and capital is a part of wealth.

Pa.—I see, then all capital is wealth, but all wealth is not capital?

Sn.—Yes, of course; it is well to know the difference.

Pa.—Well, supposing I exchange my previously accumulated labor for a piece of land?

Sn.—You have then exchanged what is rightfully wealth for what is not rightfully wealth.

Pa.—How do you mean?

Sn.—You have simply secured a monopoly, which no power on earth ever had the right to grant you.

Pa.—The present and past generations have assumed the right.

Sn.—Yes, but whether future generations, seeing the awful evils it produces, will consent to be bound by their assumption, is an open question.

Pa.—Which we need not now discuss.—You maintain then; that wealth, which you describe as accumulated labor, can only rightfully be exchanged for other forms of accumulated labor.

Sn.—Exactly—you may exchange your improvements in and on the land which are accumulated labor and thus rightfully the property of the individual who produced them.

Pa.—I understand. You recognize right of ownership in that form of wealth only, which is due to personal exertion, while you deny the rights of ownership in—

Sn.—The elements of nature.

Pa.—Of course; I admit that in theory. But of what use is land if nobody can own it?

Sn.—I don't think it is properly worked, will yield exactly as much whether purchase money has been paid for it or not.

HON. HORATIO GULLER, M.P., THE PRACTICAL POLITICIAN.



Men! working men! and—ah—hem— fellow-citizens! Yes, fellow-citizens; I am not ashamed of calling you by that name, and I am not ashamed to come forward to speak to you; although, as you must be aware, it is not the common practice for—hem—honourable members to come amongst the people, excepting at election times, of course. Then it is our duty to come to you and—hem—promise all we can think of. (But do you keep it!) Of course we keep—hem—we always keep

—hem—whatever it is, and when we've got it, stick to it. But there are people who wish to rob us of—hem—our ancient privilege, our most dignified institution, the pride of the noble British race. (What is that?) That which makes our hearts swell with pride, which constitutes the back-bone of our aristocracy—the bulwark of our constitution, (What's it?) speak out, old man! they want to do away with property. (Property is land only.) Yes, I was going to say property in land, and that is what makes it the more monstrous. As the Advertiser philosopher so beautifully says:—"The desire for a little bit of freehold is just as strong as ever in the bosom of John Bull, and now these demagogues try to rob you of it. (They can't, for we haven't got it.) Hem! I didn't hear exactly what our friend said. There is nothing that makes the British breast swell more than the words "my land," "my estate," "my tenants." How I do like these words! How deep-rooted they are in the British heart! Don't you feel how cruel it were to rob us of our dearest sentiments? (Much too dear, and therefore can't afford it any longer.) Ah, my good man, then you have never been a landlord yourself. Now shouldn't you like to be able to say "this is my land?" (We'll nationalize it and then all of us can say so.) I see you have been led away by those socialists, those spoliators, those agitators, who think all of us ought to be rich, who would do away with everything that is grand, good, noble, glorious, sacred,—(stop! there's not much glory in poverty and crime.) Well, it is sad to reflect that there must be poverty (it must not but for you vulgar.) Beg pardon? I only wish—hem—my pockets were large enough to give every poor man a good dinner. When I sit down to dinner and have perhaps a nice turkey, I often wish it was large enough to feed all of you. My heart is bleeding sometimes—(that won't catch any more, and Jellies.) Well, I will only warn you against those freeholders now, I have no input enough to publish a paper of their own, I mean the Commonwealth, (Our Commonwealth) well, I can't call it ours, for I will have nothing in common with them. They will only make capital out of your poverty, while we, we do your work for the sake of—hem—we do it only for honor. Yes, we deem it an honor and a duty to ourselves to manage your business. (In the law-courts, the banks, or the exchanges?) Everywhere, wherever there is anything worth managing. Next week we shall meet in Parliament again, and as I know that you want work—I know you are fond of work—we shall find you plenty to do to keep your spirits up. You know we must be economical, and it is our duty to keep strict accounts of what public money is expended. But Mr. Downer, I think, is too easily moved by your poverty, and he is so lavish as to offer you now four and sixpence a day. Yes, twenty-seven shillings a week! If the weather is fine, of course. My friend, Mr. Downer, says a man can live comfortably at that, and he must know it. Poor Premier! how overworked he is, and yet those demagogues would bother him with deputations to assemble Parliament. (Why didn't he?) Ah, why indeed? This shows you do not know the burden of being a public man. You know that, excepting a paltry £1,000 a year, he does your work only for the honor and the glory of his country. But what if he neglects his own business? How can he be in Parliament during the busiest season of the courts? He must think of his family and his children, (wiping a tear), poor little children, he cannot let them starve. You must have some regards for them, and then consider, it is not Mr. Downer alone. There are others besides him, all busy to earn a respectable living, so that they might be able to do your business in Parliament free of charge. (How about the depression?) Oh, yes, the depression—hem—I am sorry to say it is still here, but we are doing our best to get over it. This can be best done by finding employment for you and reviving trade. It is therefore with the greatest satisfaction that I announce to you that His Excellency has decided to give a ball on the birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and instead of using one of the many saloons he has at his disposal, he must generously ordered the creation of a large marquee, to be used as a supper-room on the occasion. This will mean plenty of work, as the tent which is to be

much, only a few hundred pounds, and we can easily save that by retrenching a few pupil teachers. My friend, Mr. Bignator, is quite right when he says we spend too much on education. We don't want that, it makes people dissatisfied with the position it has pleased Prov—(That's enough, old fellow; be off, or we'll look for your hat; noise, hissing and hooting; gas is turned off, and Mr. Guller leaves the hall through a back door.)

CHINESE LABOUR IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The Trade's Hall Council, Sydney, adopted a resolution protesting against the employment of Chinese in making the railway in the Northern Territory, and sympathizing with the Adelaide Working Men's Political Association in opposing the idea. They also resolved to ask the Victorian Government to expatriate with the South Australian Government on the subject an one that affected the working classes of the colonies generally. At a meeting of the Trades' Hall Council, Melbourne, a resolution was carried expressing on behalf of the Associated Trades of Victoria great regret at the action of the South Australian Government in giving their assent to the employment of Chinese labor in the construction of railways in that colony, to the detriment of European labor, and tendering their warmest sympathy with the Trades and Labor Council of South Australia in their struggle to obtain justice for their fellow-laborers. A resolution was also carried urging the Victorian Government, on behalf of the people of this colony, to strongly protest against the wholesale introduction of Chinese labor by the Government of South Australia. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Premier and lay the resolution before him.

TO THE SECRETARIES OF TRADES UNIONS, POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, &c.

Special attention is called to our column headed The Gazetteer, in which any official announcement of such societies may be inserted free of charge. Such announcements need not necessarily be in harmony with the politics of this paper. Our object is to admit the expression of all shades of opinions, as touching political or social matters, as it is by the freest discussion only that unity of purpose and action can be established amongst the industrial classes.

GROUND RENTS IN LONDON.

The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian writes:—Mr. Stander's motion on the taxation of ground rents, which was discussed last night, will no doubt bring into prominence the enormous figures of the ground rents of the great Duke and others in London. It is assumed that the present ground rents of the Duke of Westminster in London are £150,000 per annum as a minimum, with a reversion to an income of £1,300,000 a year; that the Duke of Bedford's in possession are at least £100,000 a year, with a reversion to £700,000; while the Duke of Portland's are estimated at £80,000 a year today, with a reversion of £700,000. It is believed that Lord Portman has over £100,000 a year in possession, rising as the lease expires to £350,000.

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Who is to decide who is to utilize it?
Q.—Tenancy should be the only land tenure.
A.—Tenancy—but from whom? who is to be landlord?
Q.—Ourselves or rather our representatives, the State.
A.—And how is the rent to be fixed?
Q.—By differ men in natural advantages of fertility and situation; in short, the laws of supply and demand.
Q.—You maintain then that all revenue required for state purposes should come from the land; could not that increase the burden of the farmers?
A.—Not if we abolish other taxes at the same time, which now weigh heaviest on our rural population.
Q.—Explain yourself.
A.—First, by the abolition of our customs we could at once reduce the amount to be taken out of the people's pockets by about fifty per cent.
Q.—You mean by what we have to pay in the shape of merchant's profits, collecting, &c. over and above the amount that finds its way into the treasury?
A.—Yes, and that is a very heavy item, I assure you. In the second place, the £800,000 which the State yield, are paid almost wholly by working men, whether farmer or artisan.
Q.—And by substituting a land tax you would reduce the farmers' pay the whole.
A.—Not at all, my dear Practical. It is not a land tax, but a tax on land values we advocate, and as the highest land values are to be found in the cities and townships, by far the greatest part of which is held by speculators, resident or absentee, who escape taxation altogether, a large amount of the £800,000 will have to be paid by them, and thus lessen again the burden on the toilers.
Q.—Well, that is true; we have a good many homes who reap where others have sown, and if they live abroad, they do not contribute one farthing towards our public expenditure.
A.—Which has increased the value of their land.
Q.—But the farmer would have to pay more too.
A.—No, he would not, he would pay much less.
Q.—I can not see how.
A.—He now pays, if he has a wife and four children, nearly twenty five pounds per annum in duties on articles they consume. Suppose that a tax of 3d. in the pound on land values were substituted for this, he could own for that amount land to the extent of £2,000 unimproved value; and there are few farmers indeed who would have to pay that, while many will have to pay nothing at all.
Q.—That is that?
A.—Many farmers have paid for their land to the owner out a price, which is more than its present value. And as capital laid out is in every sense equal to "improvements," you would have to deduct that amount, and there will be little left to be taxed.
Q.—In this you assume that values of country lands have not advanced so rapidly as town lands.
A.—Exactly. The increase in the unimproved value of most farms is not much, and is not likely to be for some time; the increase is nearly entirely in town lands, and such advantageously situated near city ways which we have built.
Q.—Well, taking the unimproved value of an average holding at six hundred pounds he would pay seven pounds ten shillings towards the revenue.
A.—And so save about seventeen pounds ten shillings.
Q.—I suppose he would—and all he now has to support as—cornsacks, fencing wire, tea, kerosene, sugar, tobacco etc., he has to pay heavy duties.
A.—And none of which articles can be produced here just now.
Q.—No, but we will discuss Free Trade and Protection some other time; but this I do know that if we wish to protect an industry you must soon cease levying any customs revenue from it.
Q.—The owners of the some hundred acres on the Adelaide and suburbs are built, would pay about one hundred and twenty five thousand pounds.
A.—What! a fifth of the whole amount!
Q.—Yes, and the owners of other town lands would pay another fifth, and as the country became more prosperous, they would and could justly pay more.
Q.—How can you say justly?
A.—Simply because it is not the individual but the community that increases the value of the land, and such increase in value should be appropriated to the benefit of those who created it.
Q.—And if you nationalized the land altogether?
A.—The whole working community would be still benefited, the farmer, of course, included.
Q.—But would the appropriation by the state of the national increment not be a robbery?
A.—My dear sir, how can a man be said to be robbed if a nation can be never produced himself? Is

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