

# The Single Tax Review

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## Current Comment

THE most important news of the bi-month is the speech delivered by Lloyd George at Manchester, on April 28th. In it he said:

"The first duty of Liberalism is to undertake the task of so reforming our land system that the inheritance of the people in the soil should be utilized for the benefit of the people to the fullest extent."

Equally illuminating and almost reassuring, if the ex-Premier had always shown a disposition to pursue his announced policies to their conclusion, was his reference to Mussolini and Fascism. He said: "In the words of Mussolini the people are tired of liberty. Are they? If they are, then God help them and their children will live to regret it." Turning then to Socialism which looms as a specter over Britain, the ex-Premier continued: "But the immediate danger is from Socialism. Socialism has its attractions, but there is one thing that it would be fatal to, and that is liberty."

LOYD GEORGE is still a great name in Britain. It would be easy for him to regain his lost power, and with it the leadership of the Liberal forces. There is no other man in British politics who possesses the power to turn back the Socialistic tide and raise the standard of a living issue. No other man can wrest the reins of government from the Conservatives now falling into the hands of the Labor Party, with its wild horses. And the rallying cry of "the land for the people" would call back all the wandering political tribes to the leadership of this Moses. It all depends on his courage to assume the leadership. He has the opportunity. No political leader has had it in anything like the same measure, in all history.

A SERIES of articles on the British Labor Party, by John L. Balderston, has been running in the *New York World*. The writer without any correction puts forth the views of the party on what he calls "the eternal land problem:"

"The Labor Party holds that the whole value of land—that is, whatever cannot be shown to be due to actual expenditure of money or labor by the owner or occupier—ought to be public revenue; but until this can be secured by public ownership the party favors a carefully devised scheme for the rating and taxation of the owners of land values, in relief of the occupiers, provided that adequate steps are taken to prevent the owner from securing for himself, either by raising the rent or the selling price of land, the benefits that are intended to accrue to the occupier or the community."

IT IS to be regretted that the makers of this platform are without even the most elementary knowledge of economics. If the receivers of economic rent can take more than such economic rent it will puzzle most people to understand why they do not take it now, and how a tax on it will enable them to take more of it. Just a little reflection on the part of these amateur formulators of platforms would make this problem clear.