

STATE SOCIALISM

AND

LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN ANTI-
PODEAN BRITAIN.BY THE RIGHT HON. EARL ONSLOW,
G. C. M. G., ETC.

(Continued from last issue.)

THE LABOURER AND THE LAND.

Another of New Zealand's Socialistic experiments more easily carried out where large tracts of land belong to the State than here is that of village settlements.

Acting on the doctrine that the State should not permanently alienate the public domain, the land is let for a lease in perpetuity, that is, for 999 years, at a rental equal to 4 per cent. on the value of the land. No rent is payable for the first two years. No man may have more than 100 acres, and his application is not entertained if it be shown that he possesses land elsewhere in the Colony. When he has built a house on his plot the Government advances him a sum not exceeding £20 on the security of it, and a further sum not exceeding £50 at the rate £2 10s. an acre for the first 20 acres cleared and cropped. Upon these advances interest at the rate of 5 per cent. is charged. Married men are given a preference. In the province of Auckland the scheme was inaugurated at a time of great pressure from the unemployed, and it has been extensively tried. Although some of the sections taken up have been abandoned, where the improvements have been effected and advances made, the government have readily found other tenants to take them up, showing that the security for the outlay is sufficient. The government further assist the village settlers by employing them as much as possible on road-making, and where it was found necessary to build schools for them (which under the Education Act is done wherever ten or more children are beyond the reach of an existing school) the settlers are employed upon the building.

I visited two of these settlements in similar circumstances and in the same district; one formed by a voluntary association of earnest industrious men under a capable leader, the other by a mixed band of unemployed—settlers rather from necessity than from choice—who met for the first time on the steamer that took them from the town to see the settlement. The latter were making a living indeed out of the settlement, but had expended much of the money advanced by the Government at the nearest store on articles most of which they could quite well have grown themselves, and were clamoring to the Government to take them out of the "hole" they had brought them to. The voluntary association, on the other hand, appeared thoroughly contented. Under a spreading puriri tree they gave us a luncheon of bread, milk, cheese, honey, vegetables, and fruit, all grown on their own plots. A laughing crowd of children played round, and their only complaints were that the winter rain played havoc with the roads, while they had no chance to have their plots by purchase "for their very own," as the children say. Up to the present time 900 men in 85 settlements have availed themselves of the provisions of the Act, holding 22,677 acres, an average of 25 acres each man; £24,625 have been advanced; the total amount receivable for rent and interest has been £10,522, of which about £2,000 is in arrear; but the value of the land upon the security of which this advance has been made as improved by the settlers is estimated at £61,000.

The opinion which I formed was that in any case the State had good security for its advances, but that only careful selection both of the land and of the men, with a real desire on the part of the settlers to become small farmers, would ensure success.

To empower them to obtain their freeholds would no doubt bring with it a temptation to become encumbered by mortgage, but the power to sell or charge a long lease is not far removed from that of effecting a mortgage.

Associations of not less than twelve persons may take up land on the same terms in blocks of from 1,000 to 11,000 acres, provided there be not less than one selector for every 200 acres. I pointed out to General Booth that this land law appeared to be specially suited to the purposes of his Over-sea Colony, but considerations of distance and want of funds hitherto deterred him from attempting it.

About sixteen years ago a large party of Scandinavians took up land on this system. Each family was allowed 40 acres. At the time the settlement was formed it was all dense bush, and there was no European within twenty miles,

but the Government were constructing a road forty miles long to pierce the bush. The settlers were employed on this. Now the bush is cleared, the land laid down to pasture which will carry four sheep to the acre. All the original settlers save two are still in the settlement; those two cut up their farms to form what is now a flourishing township.

The establishment of State farms for the employment of elderly men who should live rent free on the property, and cultivate the land under co-operative contract, has been contemplated. As yet, however, the Government have not succeeded in combining circumstances of soil, access, &c., on any site sufficiently suitable for the purpose.

The Cabinet of New South Wales has set aside £20,000 for advances to village settlers under conditions similar to those in force in New Zealand.

New Zealand, notwithstanding the fertility of some of its soil and the extraordinary amount of produce exported in proportion to its population, is rich only in patches. In the North Island there is one huge area all covered with the pumice and scoriae of volcanic eruptions, and another area still in the hands of the Maories; in the South Island are found range upon range of rocky snow-crowned mountains which so close in upon the sea in parts of the west and south of the island as to leave hardly any land available for cultivation.

RESUMPTION OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE.

The present Government entertain very strongly the opinion that a huge mistake was made in the early days of the Colony when land was sold in large blocks at low rates with the view of expending the proceeds in opening up the Colony, and that the result has been, while increasing to an enormous extent the export of frozen mutton grown on the extensive pasture lands, to diminish the demand for agricultural labour and to restrict the amount of land available for the plough and "petite culture." In the words of Tennyson respecting England before the coming of Arthur—

"And so there grew great tracts of wilderness
Wherein the beast was ever more and more,

But man was less and less."

The Labour party in imposing a progressive land tax made no secret of their hostility to large estates. The policy of this tax is usually known as the "bursting-up" policy, and the leader of the Labour party, the Minister for Labour, said:—"The graduated tax is a finger of warning held up to remind them that the Colony does not want these large estates. I think, whether partly or almost entirely unimproved, they are a social pest, an industrial obstacle, and a bar to progress." This is strong language, and was bitterly resented; but it no doubt embodied the views of the Labour party at the meeting of Parliament. Much has happened since to modify those expressions. It was found, for instance, that a very large proportion of the inhabitants of the Colony were shareholders in banks and financial institutions which are interested either by way of ownership or advances in these large estates. The advocates of land taxation wished to tax the unearned increment, and not the product of industry; it was consequently thought advisable to deduct from the value of all estates that of the improvements effected upon them.

I wonder whether rural landowners in England would not jump at the chance to exchange the income tax they now pay for a land tax based on the value of their land after deducting from it the value of all buildings, fences, hedges, ditches, gates, and acts of husbandry.

Moreover, there is a provision in the Taxation Act which I commend to distressed landowners who can find no market for their property, but are trembling lest the advancing wave of democracy sweep away the little that is left to them. Under that provision where an owner is dissatisfied with the valuation of the Land Tax Department, and puts in a declaration that his land is not worth the amount of the departmental valuation, he may call upon the Government to bring the valuation to his figure and if they decline to do so they must purchase the estate at the owner's valuation. It is recognised that to take land except for the public advantage would be tyrannical, while to give less than its value, at least as estimated by the owner, would constitute robbery.

In 1881 English ships brought to the bone factories of England 30,000 skeletons of Turkish and Russian soldiers who had perished in the Crimean war. They were to be utilized as powder material, after being ground to powder in the mills

AN AUCTIONEER'S STORY.

MUCH EXPOSURE BROUGHT ON
A SEVERE ATTACK OF RHEUMATISM.

Bed-fast For Weeks at a Time—His Trouble Aggravated by an Outbreak of Salt-rheum—An Experience of Interest to Others.

From the Stayner Sun.

There are few people in Simcoe County who do not know Mr. Thos. Furlong. For twenty-eight years Mr. Furlong has been a resident of the county; for twenty-two years has been a travelling agent and auctioneer, and it is safe to say that he is just as popular as he is well known. In a business of his kind Mr. Furlong is naturally exposed to all kinds of weather, and the result has been that for some years past he has been badly crippled with rheumatism and has suffered great pain and inconvenience. Happily, however, Mr. Furlong has found a release from this suffering, and his recovery has excited so much interest in and about Stayner that "The Sun" determined to secure the particulars of his cure and give them for the benefit of others. Mr. Furlong expressed the greatest willingness to make public the particulars of his cure in the belief that it might be of benefit to some other sufferer.

"You are of course aware," said Mr. Furlong, "that my calling subjects me to more or less inclement weather, and this was the main cause of my suffering. Some nine years ago I first felt the symptoms of rheumatism. I did not pay much attention to it at first, but gradually it became so severe that it was with difficulty that I could hobble around, and my business really became a burden to me. I consulted several physicians who did all they could for me, but without giving me any relief. During a part of the year I was bed-fast for weeks at a time and as the remedies I tried did me no good I began to believe that there was no cure for me, and you will readily understand how dependent I was. To add to my distress I became afflicted with salt-rheum of the hands, and had to keep my hands covered with cloths from one year's end to the other. I had read of some remarkable cures of rheumatism by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and at last I made up my mind to try them, though I must admit that it was with a doubting heart, for I had spent a great deal of money for other medicines without obtaining any benefit. However, they say that a drowning man will clutch at a straw, and it was with much of this feeling that I purchased the first box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Before that box was all gone I experienced some relief which warranted me in continuing the treatment, and from that out I steadily progressed toward complete recovery.

I have used in all eight boxes with the result that I am to-day free from pain and ache, and not only did Pink Pills relieve me of the rheumatism, but they also drove out the salt-rheum, and as you see to-day the hands which had been covered with cracks, fissures and scabs are now completely well. This splendid result is due entirely to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and you may be sure that it gives me the greatest pleasure to warmly recommend them to others.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a perfect blood builder and nerve restorer, curing such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, nervous prostration and the tired feeling therefrom, the after effects of la grippe, diseases depending on humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. Pink Pills give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions and are a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, and in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork, or excesses of any nature.

These Pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N.Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Ask your dealer for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and refuse all imitations and substitutes.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company from either address. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment.

SMITH'S FALLS, ONT.

GUELPH LODGE, NO. 124, HAVE AN ENJOYABLE ENTERTAINMENT.

On Thursday evening, the 18th inst., the installation of officers for the ensuing year was conducted by the D.D. A. E. Bacon, of Brockville;—Past-president, W. Newton; president, G. T. Martin; vice-president, A. W. Chester; secretary, W. Horton; asst.-sec., J. W. Phillips; chaplain, R. J. Waterman; treasurer, G. Fisher; committee, G. Dart, W. Ronington, Bros. Bixby, Bradford, Bradshaw and Edwards, jr.; inner guard, J. Moreland; outer guard, G. Bradford; surgeon, Dr. W. J. Anderson; trustees, G. T. Martin and G. Dart; auditors, J. Lane and R. C. Townsend; G. L. delegate, G. T. Martin.

The installation of officers being concluded a very social and interesting event occurred, in the form of an in-

itation to a supper, which was fully appreciated by 60 to 70 members, their wives and friends; the hall decorations were very pleasing, with a liberal display of bunting, the Union Jack, Old England's pride, being prominent, the whole being tastefully arranged, and with the inviting appearance of the well supplied tables, which were a credit to our Bro. G. Dart, by whom the whole of the arrangements, were made.

Among the many guests were D. D. A. E. Bacon, G. K. McDowell, of Ottawa, Prof. Allen, of our town, W. H. Pearson, of the C.P.R. After a judicious manipulation of cutlery, and the disappearance of fluids and solids, within cavities surrounded with ivory and pink, the repast was brought to a close for "want of space," and we were inclined to cry, with a sigh of satisfaction, "hold, enough."

The second part of the evening's entertainment was then entered into, comprising a somewhat lengthy programme. After a short address by the chairman, G. T. Martin, Prof. Allen brought forth some sweet strains of music in a masterly manner, showing to the members that their late purchase of an organ was money well invested.

The toast "Our Queen" being duly honoured, "Our Country," "Our Order," "Our Visitors," "Our Lodge," were all ably responded to.

THE GROWTH OF OUR ORDER is phenomenal, the official returns showing that since the opening of Guelph Lodge, No. 124, in October, 1890, there has been on an average "one lodge" opened in every seventeen days during the past three years. This must be a source of great satisfaction to those men of large heart, and in many cases very prominent men, who have labored in the cause of our order, not for personal gain, but from pure love of our countrymen, and their mutual welfare, those who are advanced in the social scale giving a helping hand to their less fortunate brethren, and by sympathy for each others failings, and friendly intercourse, creating that bond of brotherly love that is so essential

for the development and advancement of a cause so noble and commendable as we know our Order to be. May we go on and prosper in the right, and may every individual member of our Order, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Africa and elsewhere, take unto himself our watchword, and with one united voice, cry, "Excelsior," and act accordingly, with great zeal during the coming years, that our Order may reach that point to which we aim.

There's a theme our poets have sung o'er and o'er,

And artists have painted, as if inspired from above,

The same "here" we must practice, and on every shore,

If we wish to live nobly—show brotherly love.

A most enjoyable evening's entertainment was brought to a close by all heartily singing, about 12 p.m., God Save the Queen.

ORANGEVILLE, ONT.

NORTHAMPTON LODGE, NO. 95.

January 15th.—At the request of the D. D., Bro. A. Collier, I enclose you a list of the officers installed at our regular meeting on January 9th inst: President, R. Swinton; past-president, G. Endacott; vice-president, W. M. Green; treasurer, T. W. Chapman; chaplain, T. Parsons; secretary, D. May; surgeon, Dr. Simpson; committee, W. T. Bailey, A. Turner, Frank Marshall, G. Gray, Lewis Martin, H. Savage; inner guard, E. Field; outer guard, James Pickering; auditors, T. Parsons, H. Savage, H. Browning; trustees, H. Endacott, A. Turner.

A unanimous vote of thanks was sent to Mr. B. Ward, Alton, for his generous gift of \$10 to this lodge. This is not the first time Mr. Ward has shown his generosity to our beloved society by such munificent gifts, although not a member of the Order.

D. MAY, Sec.

The British ironclad *Vulcan* must be monster if its rudder be taken as the criterion. That useful adjunct weighs 22 tons.

READ A LETTER FROM MOTHER.

Speaking in warm terms of how

E. J. LE DAIN'S

Ready Made Clothing is wearing the Boys, likewise the Caps and Boots. Mother writes that all the neighbours have bought from Oak Hall, 332 Wellington street, cor. Wellington and Lyon streets, (cars stop at the door). In every case the Father's and Mother's have been delighted in the way the clothing wear, also the Overcoats bought from him two years ago. Not so the

BOYS FOR THEM THEY WEAR TOO LONG. Since the War with the South there has seldom been such value in Clothing and Boots as E. J. Le Dain is giving. The beauty of Oak Hall's Clothing is: it is all made by Union Hands, and as a man must be an artist to belong to the Union, it is needless to say the fit, finish and workmanship is all any critic can desire, and the principal item. The prices are low. We will not be beaten in price and cannot. We are on top of the Mountain and intend remaining there and you will find we can please you and will try.

Overcoats that were \$10.00 for \$8.00; those that were \$8.00 \$6.25; those that were \$6.00 for \$4.50. Suits, Pants, Underwear, Caps, etc., all at reduced prices. Boots, Shoes, Rubbers. Gum-shoes, Overshoes, etc., all at much reduced prices.

Before going elsewhere o me round and see,

E. J. LE DAIN.

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