

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: [Illegible]

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Secretary of the Organization named in the address

Kindly bring this before your Executive or Political

Committee at its earliest Meeting and urge them to take

immediate action thereon

[Illegible text block]

TO THE

Secretary of the Organisation named in the address:—

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immediate action thereon.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND LARGE LANDLORDS.

TO THE ELECTORS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A RARE spectacle was seen in Parliament the other day: a Liberal Front Bench uniting with a Tory Government to pass Mr. Chaplin's Bill for the creation of small landlords. Why do large landlords like Lord Salisbury and the Duke of Devonshire desire to use your money, and to pledge your credit, for creating a crowd of small landlords? It is not for the sake of the agricultural labourer. Lord Salisbury, at Exeter, on the 2nd February, 1892, said, with singular frankness, "I do not think it will operate, at least to any very great extent, in relieving the particular sufferings of the poorer classes. On the contrary, it presupposes the possession of a certain amount of money for a man to undertake a small holding." It is not for the sake of increasing our home production of food. Lord Salisbury declared, "I do not think that small holdings are the most economical way of cultivating the land." Liberal and Tory landlords do not join hands merely to benefit ploughmen, or to increase our food supplies. Lord Salisbury has let out the secret of their alliance:—"The advantage which I believe it will confer is of a wholly different kind, it being a political advantage. I believe that a small proprietary constitutes the strongest bulwark against revolutionary change, and affords the soundest support for the Conservative feeling and institutions of the country." So the people of England are asked to lend their money to aid the big landlords in creating a class of little landlords, whose votes will naturally be cast against every proposal to restore the land to the people.

Lord Derby made this clear in Liverpool two years ago. He described the plan of selling land to tenants, that is small holders, in Ireland, as "important because its adoption would be a heavy blow to all those fantastic schemes of what was called land-nationalisation, which in plain English meant robbery. The owner of 10 or 20 or 50 or 100 acres might be trusted to defend the rights of property as effectively as if he owned 1,000 or 10,000."

But the Bill has yet another benefit for the landlords, and another candid advocate in Mr. Chaplin. "There are thousands of acres," he says, "in every direction, the owners of which are only too ready to sell if they can find a market;" and so he proposes to raise ten millions of your money which will go into the pockets of the landlords, and send up the market price of their unsaleable estates.

It is a grand scheme from first to last, *for the landlords*, but you know by old experience that what is good for the landlord is bad for the landless. Will you allow your money to be used by a Tory Government to create Tory voters, and to bolster up landlordism? Are you satisfied with the Liberal members who did not even divide the House on the second reading?

It is perhaps too late now to reject the Bill, but it can be made less bad, and amendments should be moved in Committee to provide:—

- (1) That the land should not be purchased, but taken over by the Local Authority at a fixed rent.
- (2) That the Local Authority should on no account sell the land, but let it at an annual rent charge, subject to periodic revision.
- (3) That the Local Authority should have power to take the land best suited for the purpose, and should not be compelled to put up with just what the landlords choose to sell.

Fellow-Electors, send this manifesto to your Parliamentary representative. Write, urging him to move these amendments in the Committee on the Bill. Call on your Political Club to protest against its becoming law. Ask your Political Association to take the matter up. Explain this shameless electioneering dodge to your shopmates, and denounce it at your Trade Society. Make it clear that if you cannot prevent, you, as an elector, will assuredly fiercely resent this deep-laid scheme to put off the only possible final settlement of the question—the restoration of the land to its rightful owners, the People.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committees of—

THE ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION LEAGUE,

HENRY ANCKETILL, *Organising Secretary.*

FREDK. VERINDER, *General Secretary.*

8, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE FABIAN SOCIETY,

H. W. MASSINGHAM,

EDW. R. PEASE, *General Secretary,*

276, Strand, W.C.

THE LAND NATIONALISATION SOCIETY,

D'ARCY W. REEVE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

JOSEPH HYDER, *General Secretary.*

14, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.

STILL - THE DOGS AND THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN

TO THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN

The King of Great Britain, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the dogs of the Palace of St. James, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. [Name]

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