

"God helps those that help themselves."

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LAND COMPANY.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

There is not in any language a truer maxim to be found than that which says—"If you want to have your business done, GO; if not, SEND;" and the meaning of which is, that no one can do a man's business as well as a man can do his own. And what I have endeavoured to teach both the English and the Irish people since I entered public life is, that in one year they could accomplish for themselves every act of grace for which they have been begging in vain throughout all time. And therefore I have ascribed every act which they call tyrannical to their own indifference, disunion, and want of confidence; in fact, all classes, except the people, are thoroughly united—not only as classes, but farther, those several classes—sinking their own differences—are amalgamated into one great anti-popular association.

This is so evident that it requires not the repetition of a single fact to prove it; and we see this concentration of class power most unequivocally manifested in the House of Commons. The rule of Whigs and Tories is to suppress the voice of their party, to magnify their virtues if they have any, and if they have not, to work up an amiable weakness (though it should only amount to a recommendation) to slaughter 20,000 promptly in the hope of saving a much greater number of lives) into profound philanthropy, dictated by the purest Christian feeling. Upon the other hand, the practice of that class called "the people" is, to suppress the virtues and magnify the vices of their own party; always entertaining suspicion, hatred, or jealousy towards each other. There is not, then, I contend, one single grievance of which the producing classes have to complain, that they may not remedy by the appliances at their own disposal. Nay, I go further, and contend, that it needs no trouble—that it requires no expense—that, far from incurring danger in the prosecution of their labours in this direction, every step they take secures and strengthens their protection.

The Whigs are not the Government of the middle classes, no of the old Whig aristocracy. They are the Government of the people's adoption, acceptance, and protection; because the very existence of a Government is the strongest evidence of the popularity of that Government inasmuch as it is in the power of a united people to displace any Government in less than six months, however strong it might be in class support. Now, there is not a working man who reads this paper who does not know that there is a working man who has abstained from taking his fair share in those social and political movements which have been agitated for the purpose of securing social and political equality for the working classes, who has a right to complain of any grievance, injustice, or injury he may suffer at the hands of those who hold power by his indifference. I have frequently told the working classes, that if they struggled for political power for one month as I have struggled for twenty-five years, they would long since have achieved their object.

Having said so much by way of preface, I shall now call your attention to the subject matter of this letter. I suppose that every member of the Land Company has read the resolutions of the Select Committee, and I presume, that, in moral as in physical struggles, the people will support the leader who surrounds himself and strengthens himself in a defensive, as well as in an offensive position, best discharges his duty to his followers; as nothing can be more foolish, or indeed more unjust, than to strengthen the hands of the enemy by weakening your own; and, therefore, that Committee having resolved unanimously that we may or may not wind up the affairs of the Company, or still prosecute our operations, looking to Parliament for legal protection under altered circumstances, and also seeing that that committee expunged the word "impracticable," as embodied in one of the resolutions proposed by the chairman, and finding the words, "as at present constituted," embodied in another resolution, every shareholder who has invested his money in the transaction will at once understand not only the pains and penalties, but the indignity to which I should subject myself, were I, in the teeth of those resolutions—drawn up in the best spirit, and leaving the largest possible latitude for the prosecution of our objects, even in the present form—I say, were I to refuse compliance with those resolutions—which must be rather taken in the spirit of kind remonstrance and advice, than as the slightest attempt to injure the Land Plan—I should not only be guilty of ingratitude to the Committee, but of treachery to the members.

I shall now point out the two monster illegalities relied upon by the Chairman, by Mr. Lawes, the barrister, and, in fact, which I admitted myself, before any committee was appointed, and to correct which I introduced my Bill—namely, the Bank, in connexion with the Land Plan, being in violation of the several Banking Acts; and, secondly, the Ballot, which is in violation of the several Lottery Acts.

Now you must always bear in mind, these illegalities have been forced upon me by the growth of the monster, as the outset I had contemplated an infant scheme; but, like Frankenstein, if I had not observed the strictest honour in the administration of your funds, my monster would have destroyed both you and me.

The question of the Bank I can easily dispose of, by separating its connexion altogether from the Land Company. In this there is no difficulty, as it is my intention to issue a circular to every depositor, giving him the option to withdraw his money, with interest up to the day of withdrawal, or to continue his deposit under the new arrangement, which is as follows:—

That the Bank is wholly severed from the Land Company, and henceforth will stand solely in my name. With this question the Land members have nothing to do, and the depositors have the option of withdrawing their money, with interest, or of allowing it to remain upon the following terms and security:—

At an interest of four per cent., paid half-yearly, money to be advanced by me except upon the deposit of the title deeds, representing the amount of money advanced, or vested in Exchequer Bills, or other Government Security.

That not a fraction of the money shall be otherwise applied. That I owe no money—that I will contract no debts which could in any way make any portion of the property liable to my creditors, as I have none, and will have none.

That I pledge my word and honour that money to any amount so lodged in the Bank, shall be protected for the benefit of the depositors.

That in order to disentangle the whole concern, I will, upon the adoption of the propositions which I am about to submit, make leases to the several occupants now located upon the several estates of the Company, charging no more than four per cent. as rent upon the outlay; and I will the assignation of the property to trustees, upon condition that I shall appoint one, and that that one shall be Mr. Sharman Crawford; and I believe to him no man in the National Land Company will make a single objection, inasmuch as I believe he would be the first man to expose any injustice, come from what quarter it might; and what I have always courted is, the most strict and rigid management of the Company's affairs.

The members themselves will take care to nominate two other trustees of acknowledged character and integrity, and in the names of those trustees all future properties will be purchased. As far, therefore, as getting rid

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of the Bank illegality, and the suspicion attached to all the property now standing in my name, I can relieve the Company of those two objections in less than a month, and no depositor can complain, in case of dissent, of having twenty shillings in the pound and interest returned to him. Every other bank has not acted so. Thus I discharge myself of this monster illegality, and now I come to the twin monster—the Ballot—which is professedly in violation of all the Lottery Acts; and releasing the Company from which, and the banking irregularities, there can be no possible objection urged against the recommendation of the committee, that Parliament should legalise the Company in its altered form.

Now, my friends, you must critically understand that every member of the Company is directly interested in seeing to its legalisation, and you will now admit that I had by far the largest stake in the hedge, and that stake I will leave in the hedge, adding to it if necessary, until by my own energy I place (the Land Company) in a situation never achieved by any Company before; in fact, if you are never able to pay me, and if failure is caused either through my enthusiasm or indiscretion, I will be satisfied to pay the penalty by relinquishing my claim to repayment.

I established the Land Purchase Department with the view to making the funds of the more wealthy aid to the poorer class; but two Land purchasers having given me more trouble and bother than all the other members of the Company, I abolish the Land Purchase Department altogether; and, indeed, the premium required from those men was much too small to compensate for the great advantages afforded them. And the substitute that I now propose, instead of the Ballot, is this:—

That when an estate is ready for location, instead of selecting members by the ballot, those locations—that is the right to occupancy—shall be divided by purchase amongst those paid up members thus:—I will presume a hundred allotments to be ready for location, and instead of balloting for those amongst the shareholders, the paid-up members henceforth shall bid for priority; and this mode of disposing of the Ballot, so far from injuring the poorer shareholders or postponing their time of location, will, upon the contrary, hasten the event, and leave a large surplus upon the winding up of the affairs of the Company for every one of its members. And this is a portion of the subject to which I would especially draw their attention, namely—that the Company, as I now seek to constitute it, will be a Benefit Society and a Savings Bank for the funds of the poor, in truth and reality. And there is also another question to which I wish to draw the attention of the members, and it is this:—

That, if the Company is based upon those principles which I mean to submit, and if the property is vested in Trustees, the affairs could be carried on as successfully, as rapidly, and as securely, as if the Company was protected by a thousand Acts of Parliament. However, under its altered form—not altered in essence or in spirit—there will be no difficulty in securing legal protection. Now, the ballot we must get rid of—location by priority of payments would stop the receipt of funds altogether, and would give the richer an advantage over the poorer members, whereas location by purchase secures the most favourable circumstances for the development of our future prospects, as well as the further means for securing the location of the poorer members, and will also stamp the properties of the Company with the best marketable value, and thus release us from all difficulty as to mortgage or sale. But, as this is a vital question, like the several other changes that I am about to propound—will be submitted to the consideration of all the members, and upon them all will have to decide.

The other alterations, which I submit to the consideration of the several members, are as follows:—

That the price of allotments shall be raised to £5, £7 10s., and £10s.

That the title shall be a lease for any life the occupant chooses to select, and ninety-nine years in reversion—that is, that the occupant shall have a freehold and ninety-nine years after the death of the person named in the lease. This has been a matter much mooted, and the necessity for the change will be seen at once when I tell you that the expense of conveyance would average over £10 a man, while the expense of the lease that I propose will not exceed £1 5s.; and I think that one life and ninety-nine years after its expiration, will be just as good as a tenure as a lease for ever. However, the matter of expense is one that cannot be lost sight of, especially when you understand that the expense upon a hundred conveyances alone would locate four more members upon three acres each. The expense of Mr. Sillett's conveyance of two acres was £14.

The next alteration is, that those located, as well as those not located, shall also pay up the additional amount of shares.

The next is, that every two-acre shareholder shall pay twopence per week; every three-acre shareholder threepence; and every four-acre shareholder fourpence; as a reserve fund, out of which aid money shall be paid, and which will revert to the members upon the winding up of the affairs of the Company.

The next is, that the occupants, after the first three years, shall commence to repay the aid money, in such half-yearly instalments as will not distress them, and, according to the repayment of those instalments, the rent will become reduced—thus discharging the land of the Company from an incubus that may be considered capricious, and, at the same time, securing the earlier benefit to those who had subscribed to it in the first instance.

The next is, the reduction of rent from five to four per cent. upon the outlay; and in this last proposition, I think every member will not only acquiesce, but, further, he will find more than compensation for every single additional impost. So much so, that it might with safety be left optional with the several members, whether they would allow the Company to remain as at present constituted—paying five per cent. as interest upon the outlay, or submit to the several alterations proposed, reducing the rent to four per cent.; and, perhaps, I may best illustrate this by the altered condition of the occupants at present located.

By the rules, as they now stand, a man, whose allotment cost £350, would have to pay £17 10s. rent; whereas, by the proposed alteration, he would have to pay £14 rent, saving £3 10s. upon him the necessity of paying £5 additional for his share, and giving him a reduction of 3s. 10s. in his rent during his occupancy—that is, for 5s. and once, he receives what is equivalent to 100s., at three and a half per cent. However, I think we may leave the question at the option of the occupants, and not a man amongst them who would not cheerfully pay 50s. instead of 5s. for the reduction of rent from five to four per cent. Their shares must be increased by weekly payments of sixpence two-acre men; ninepence three-acre men; and one shilling four-acre men; and what is a benefit to those located, will turn be equally a benefit to those to be located.

I have now stated the several alterations necessary,

Firstly.—To bring the Land Plan within the protection of the law, and—

Secondly.—To secure its safer and more speedy working.

And in order to separate the chaff from the corn, and to drive the vermin from amongst them, who merely joined for the purpose of hampering and annoying us, I submit to the further consideration of the members the absolute necessity of winding up the affairs of the Company, as far as concerns the vermin, by passing a resolution, that all who shall not have paid up two-thirds of the amount payable upon their shares, on the 29th of September, 1849, shall be paid off and driven from amongst us. This step you will see is absolutely necessary to secure the peace, the well-being, and safe working of the Company; as my object is only to secure the comfort and happiness of those who subscribed their pence upon good faith, and not to insure the annoyance of ruffians, not a few of whom have admitted that they merely paid their deposits to secure a licence to complain.

Now, if the Land Plan is based upon the proposed footing, with the consent of the members, I will undertake to say, that it will be the largest, most remunerative, and best conducted benefit society in the world. But the working classes must always bear in mind, that unless they are prepared to assist those who undertake to do their work that the work cannot be done; and the members of the Company, to whose service I have devoted every hour of my time since its formation, must bear in mind that this is not, like other companies, established for the purpose of securing profit to the promoter, but, on the contrary, that it so far differs from all other companies that the promoter is satisfied with the lion's share of trouble—the lion's share of abuse—and the lion's share of loss. It is a curious fact, that upon the very day upon which the Land Company made its report, the House of Commons passed the Farmer's Estates (Ireland) Bill, the avowed and confessed object of which is to realise a profit for the promoter, and that not allows the promoters a period of seven years to wind up the Company's affairs, if they shall so think fit; whereas I require little more than a year to wind up, as far as the vermin is concerned; and what is still more, if the members in their several localities shall decide upon winding up the affairs of the Company altogether, I will undertake to pay off every single member every farthing that he subscribed on the 29th of September, 1849.

Another proposition is, that two and three acre shareholders may increase the amount of their shares, if they shall think proper, by paying the difference, and I should much rather, as was my original intention, that the shares were uniform.

Another advantage that we may derive is, that in the form which I propose we may still continue to admit new members and allow the Company to extend its operations. But the still greater advantage will be found in the fact, that when a man receives his lease he will have no difficulty in raising money when the rent is fixed at four per cent., if he should be fool enough to do so; and as the original rules make no mention of loans, and as the promoters of the Company have violated those rules, and subjected themselves to penalties, henceforth the directors have no power to make loans. And, as a matter of fact, it must be stated that every man located, with few exceptions, would demand both aid money and loan, whatever their circumstances were. The loans were established for the benefit of the poorer occupants; whereas, it will scarcely be believed, that almost without an exception every occupant has required the loan, thus depriving the poorer occupants of an advantage which might have been made beneficial. However, when they receive their leases they will have no difficulty in raising money; but I venture to say that many of them, under the altered circumstances, will not want it.

Let me now show how, under the present rules, a four-acre occupant would stand at the present moment either on O'Connorville or Lowlands. There would be due upon his farm 30s. aid money, 20s. loan, and a year's rent, make 100s. Of course, this year's rent will not be an item affecting it after the first year; but the aid and loan money will, and this I consider a great injustice to the poor members by whose subscriptions the more fortunate have been located. And if any hardship is urged, my answer is this—that, by the reduction of rent from five four to four per cent., every four-acre allotment is made worth 70s. bonus over and above what it was worth when the rent stood at five per cent.—that is, that every four-acre allotment, for which 90s. was previously offered, is now worth 160s., and even at 100s., the man neither juggled nor cheated who receives 100s. in hard cash for 5s. 4s. paid.

On Saturday last I received 29s. 10s. aid money, 15s. loan money, and a year's rent from the purchaser of a three-acre allotment, at Lowlands, and the occupant received the difference between that and 90s. for his allotment, so that he was not much damaged by his connexion with the bubble scheme; and as soon as it is known that rents are to be reduced from five to four per cent., upon the outlay, the bonuses for allotments will rise in proportion—so that every change that has been made has been for the benefit of the located and expectant members; and every alteration that is now proposed will tend to the security and speedy location of the members of the Company.

This Company has been established for the benefit of the members, and not for the profit of the promoters, I, in common with the other directors, have felt it to be our imperative duty to call as extensive a representation of the members together as possible, and as speedily as possible; and as that object can be better effected by consultation with all who wish to take a part in the proceedings, we have considered that that object will be best effected by calling immediate district meetings in the several localities most convenient to the shareholders, and at which the directors can attend; and the time respectively for holding those district meetings will be found in another part of the paper. And here I will recapitulate the several propositions to be submitted:—

Firstly.—The propriety of substituting location by bonus, instead of by ballot, and that the occupant so located is to purchase the land and house, but that he is to pay, according to his will, a certain amount for being located without the ballot.

Secondly.—The propriety of raising the price of the shares from 2s. 12s. 4d. to 5s., from 3s. 18s. to 7s. 10s., and from 5s. 4s. to 10s.

Thirdly.—The propriety of requiring repayment of the aid money in half-yearly instalments, after three years' occupation.

Fourthly.—The propriety of abolishing the Expense Fund, and substituting an Aid Fund, at the rate of twopence per week for two-acre allotments, threepence for three-acre members, and fourpence for four-acre members.

Fifthly.—The necessity of winding up the affairs of the Company as far as the refractory are concerned.

Sixthly.—Whether the affairs of the Company shall be wound up.

Seventhly.—Whether it is prudent to substitute a lease for a life and ninety-nine years in reversion, which will cost about 15s., for a conveyance in fee, which will cost over 10s.

Eighthly.—The nomination of trustees, to

whom the several estates purchased shall be assigned, and in whose names all future estates shall be purchased.

Ninthly, and Lastly.—Whether the rents shall be reduced to four per cent. upon the outlay.

Now such are the propositions upon which the several districts will have to decide. They are wholly free to act, and in the event of their acquiescence in these propositions, I shall be quite ready to continue my unpaid services; all the monies being henceforth paid to the credit of the trustees.

These propositions are plain and simple, and I may now briefly state an astounding fact. This Company has been in existence three years and three months, and according to the calculation of the accountant and actuary the amount to be paid upon the number of shares taken is 273,000l., while not more than 90,000l., or one-third of that amount, has been paid up; and yet those who are sanguine about being located are constantly asking, why the operations have not been more speedy? But, perhaps, they will be astonished when they learn that the average amount paid by the 70,000 shareholders does not reach two-pence per week; whereas, if the whole amount had been paid up, instead of now starting with 90,000l. worth of property, we should have started with 273,000l. worth; but still there is no instance upon record of any company carrying out so gigantic a scheme to a similar extent, within a similar period; and while many men, without brains, rely upon the calculations of actuaries, let me now show you by plain figures the amount of money that would be realised at compound interest in one hundred and fifty-four years; while the accountant states, that it would require one hundred and fifty years to locate all the members, either by sale or mortgage. If we start with 273,000l. as a capital, at the end of one hundred and fifty-four years we should stand thus:—

First year	273,000
14 —	1,446,000
28 —	1,092,000
42 —	2,184,000
56 —	4,368,000
70 —	8,736,000
84 —	17,472,000
98 —	34,944,000
112 —	69,888,000
126 —	139,776,000
140 —	279,552,000
154 —	559,104,000

Now all that I dissolve in that period is 770 days; as money, at compound interest, doubles itself in fourteen years and seventy days; so that in little more than 150 years the present capital of the Company paid up, would amount to FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE MILLIONS, ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS; or, in other words, at 250s. for each location, would, at the end of 150 years, locate two millions two hundred and thirty-five thousand four hundred and sixteen occupants.

Now what will the accountant and the actuary say to their dissolving views? But I will now take the Company at the proposed alteration of doubling the shares, and the result we arrive at is, that in the 156 years the Company would have a capital of one thousand one hundred and eighteen millions two hundred and eighty thousand pounds; or, at 250s. to each location, could locate four millions four hundred and seventy-two thousand eight hundred and thirty-two families. Now this cannot be disputed. I defy accountant or actuary to dispute it. Let me explain what compound interest is. It means that if a man lets out 100s. at interest at five per cent., and if he does not draw the interest, but allows it to accumulate, in fourteen years and seventy days his 100s. will be converted into 200s., and you must always bear in mind, that our plan is based upon compound interest, for the moment the money comes in it is applied to reproduction, and the credit which I get, though short, for the articles of the greatest expense—namely, timber, bricks, oats, and beans—enables me to calculate the interest as reproductive from the day it is paid.

You must always bear in mind, that the accountant's and actuary's data were based upon five per cent. rent charged upon the capital, and now I will show you the period at which one year's rent alone upon the presumed capital of the company, increasing the shares to double their present amount, would locate all the members. The amount produced by one year's rent, which would be 27,300l., would in the one hundred and fifty-four years, amount to fifty-three millions three hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and thirteen thousand four hundred and one families. Now, that, from one year's rent alone, making the magicians a present of the whole of the capital of the Company, and the houses, lands, and everything else for ever—that is, that the first year's rent of the Company alone would locate within the given time five hundred and forty-five thousand four hundred and thirteen thousand four hundred and one families.

Now, although it is an elaborate calculation, yet I undertake to make you understand it. Estimating the original capital of the Company at the proposed price of shares, it will amount to five hundred and forty-six thousand pounds; and estimating land at 35s. an acre, a house at 12s. and aid money for three acres at 20s., and taking a three-acre allotment as an average, the price of each location would be 250s.; and if you divide that into five hundred and forty-six thousand, you will find that, upon the first turning of the capital, I could locate two thousand one hundred and eighty-four occupants; and if the Company were either protected by law or placed in the hands of trustees, without being chargeable with any illegality, I could turn the capital over five times in the year, or locate over ten thousand persons in the year.

Now I will request of the scribes with their goose-quills, not even to presume to smile at this calculation, and for this simple reason; because I could build ten thousand houses just as expeditiously as I could build one hundred. I could get land enough to purchase to build a million of houses upon, and when the rent was reduced to four per cent., and the purchaser had the advantage of tenants of their labour and skill applied to the land to make it more profitable, and still more the advantage of making the purchase wholesale for everything—building materials, labour, and all—they would have a good security for their money at four per cent., which would be the exact amount that I have paid for it; and after a short time, so far from there being a difficulty in selling such estates, the agents of speculators would be on the watch for the opportunity; and for this reason, because from twenty-eight to thirty years' purchase is the usual price of land, and three-and-a-half per cent. is considered good security for landed property, while I fix the purchase at twenty years' purchase, and allow him four per cent. for his money; and I would wager my existence that there would not be one occupant a defaulter in fifty years, but that, on the contrary, if the occupant did not suit his taste or his health, he would always be sure of a large bonus for his holding; and it would not matter to him three straws whether the purchaser or the trustees of the Land Company were his landlord, as,

having his lease, he would be independent of both; and if the payment of aid money is used as giving a capricious additional value to the land, my answer is, that the man who pays a bonus for that land, instead of getting it by ballot, will very speedily expend more than the amount upon his allotment; and if from idleness or dissipation, he should fall in arrears, the landlord would have no difficulty in realising more than the amount the land is charged with as aid money from another and a willing purchaser.

I will now estimate the amount that bonus for location would fetch at 20s., and I think I estimate it lowly, and I will tell you why? I have sold this house at Bromsgrove and ten acres of land for 1,000s.; the purchaser had drawn a family ticket, which entitled him to two four-acre allotments upon the estate, and he has given me 50s. merely for attaching his eight acres to the other ten acres, rather than stand the ballot, which might have placed him upon another part of the estate, and might, by good fortune, have secured him the adjoining eight acres; however, he gives the 50s., not as a bonus for not standing the ballot, because he is entitled to location by ballot on this estate; he does not require me to build two houses for him, neither will he require the aid money, so that I do not think I estimate the difference of location by purchase, and location by ballot extravagantly, when I put it down at 20s., especially when it is understood that I have received a bonus of 90s. for four acres from paid-up shareholders, and 67s. 10s. for three-acre allotments, and all of which is net profit to the Company, and goes to insure the more speedy location for the poorer members, and in the end will become assets to divide amongst the shareholders. If, then, I receive 20s. bonus by doing away with the ballot upon the first two thousand one hundred and eighty-four locations out of the original capital of the Company, I would realise forty-three thousand six hundred and eighty pounds, and if I only turned the capital three times in the year, instead of five, the Company would realise from this source alone, one hundred and thirty-one thousand and forty pounds, or sufficient capital within the year to locate 524 more members.

Now, I ask, if this would not be a bonus and a blessing to the poorer members, and I further ask if any of the alterations could be considered to their disadvantage; does not the fact of the rent being reduced to four per cent. compensate a thousand fold? I now come to another source of wealth, namely—the weekly subscriptions of twopence, threepence, and fourpence; and averaging those payments by the three-acre standard, although the four-acre class is much more numerous, the weekly payments from this source alone would amount to 87s. 4s. a week, or forty-five thousand five hundred and twenty-four pounds, and would enable me to locate 182 annually.

And now, perhaps, you will be astonished to learn, that, if my propositions are acquiesced in, I am satisfied to put every single farthing of my own money and property into this concern, living upon one meal a day; and in the seven years I estimate that I will be able to put twenty thousand pounds into the concern, not once, but averaging those payments by the three-acre standard, and as long as I live, and if I do not locate every man of the 70,000 within the seven years, I will relinquish my claim to any money that is due to me, or that may be due to me, at the end of that period; and I will work like a horse. I will not spend 10s. in the seven years upon anything but this Land Company. I will not ask to handle a farthing of the money. I will work like a horse, and show you what energy, perseverance, philanthropy, and vanity may accomplish. The greatest friends to this Company have been the Judge-Advocate-General and Sir B. Hall, who have both known the effect the suspicion of rogues can have upon a proud man. My whole desire, and the whole desire of my life, has been to ameliorate the condition of the working classes, by fair and honourable means; and God knows, if I have not evinced sufficient energy and perseverance in the pursuit—if I have not borne calumny and insult, as well from those I have endeavoured to serve, as from those to whom my services are gall and wormwood, that would turn a bold man from his undertaking. But when I set myself a task, I am not easily turned out of my course. Should any doubt the result that I calculate, the experiment is worth the trial—it is a Benefit Society on a national scale, and as long as I live, none shall make merchandise of it, so that, should it fail for want of their confidence, their abstinence and support, the worst that can happen is to receive their contributions back again, and they will have but themselves to blame for perpetuating their own ruin. The funds of all other societies have been gobbled up by vultures, who have never been called to account for their plunder. Your funds have not been pocketed by any one, and shall not be, and if I should make my escape to America, as your friends predicted, I cannot take the houses and land upon my back, while I would be the largest claimant upon them; but I ask neither mortgage nor security for my money, while the best security that you can have, is the assurance that yours shall be economically expended. If I commenced with what you owe me now, in purchasing land in the wholesale, and selling in the retail, market, in the course of ten years I should be one of the richest men in England, and, as soon as our funds warrant it, I will set 10,000s. of the Bank money apart for speculation in that market, and you will then see the amount of property that I can realise in seven years from that source, one-half of which I will give to the Land Company, and the other half as bonus to the depositors.

Before I conclude, I will meet the assertion of the Chairman and the Actuary, that every acre of land belonging to the Company will bear a rent of 5s. per annum—whereas the fact stands thus, and I take the most unfavourable of the lot—namely, Herringsgate—where we commenced operations in our youth, and where we built five-roomed and four-roomed houses. Now, the whole cost of Herringsgate, including aid money and law expenses, amounts to 9,736l. I made profit upon faggots and other things—314s.; and a man who purchased the wheat owes me about 36s., making about 400l., which, deducted from 9,736l., leaves an expenditure of 9,336l., which I will estimate at 9,000l., and which, at four per cent., should realise a rent of 376l., and which would leave the rents to average as follows:—

Two-acre allotments	8s.
Three-acre do.	11s.
Four-acre do. with school	13s.

That would make within three pounds a year of the whole rent. Now, take the interest of the aid money from the four-acre allotments, and it leaves them 11s. 10s. a year. Take it from the three-acre allotments, and it leaves the rent 9s. 17s. 6d. a year; and take it from the two-acre allotments, and it leaves 7s. 8s. a year. The aid money I have put down at five per cent.

Now, then, what will the Actuary, and what will the Chairman say to their calculations, when I tell them that those will be within a fraction of the rents, including aid money, between 300l. and 400l. for London dwellers and cartage, seeds, cultivation of the land, making of roads, and every other expenditure; and when they know that all was day labour (horse labour and all), and that a great many of the tradesmen who worked there, cheated, the

Company, and which decided me against doing work by the day in future. However, so the account stands—and what will philanthropists say, when they learn that in the same neighbourhood working men pay 7s. 10s. a year for two rooms and a bit of a garden; while upon our experimental estate the occupant will pay 8s. for a whole house and out-buildings, for 15s. capital, manure and seeds found for him, and his labour henceforth his own property.

Now, I ask you, working men, if such a plan as that is not worth living for and worth dying for. Ay, and so little daunted am I by the recent apathy created by the French revolution, and continental wars, in which speculating kings are playing for empires at the expense of the blood of their dupes, making widows and orphans in thousands for their own aggrandisement, that I am now in treaty for one of the finest estates in England, and in the best district, capable of locating 500 occupants, and I need not your subscriptions for your own benefit to enable me to conclude many such purchases.

I will now give you some notion of the justice of the impartial Chairman of your Committee from the following fact. In the last report of the Committee the list of expenses of witnesses is given:—

Cullingham, master builder	£1 17 0
Doyle	5 17 0
Hornby	5 2 0
Sillett	8 8 0
Hobson	10 15 0

Now, observe, Hobson was not examined at all—the date of his arrival is the 14th of June, the date of his discharge is the 14th, so for his day's work he receives 10s. 15s. The date of Sillett's arrival is the 14th, the date of his discharge is the 14th, he comes about sixty miles each way, and receives 8s. The number of days that each remain in town is in another column. "Sillett and Hobson, one day, expenses in London 5s. 5s. each," in the same column Cullingham is stated to be two days in London, Doyle two days, and Hornby two days, while the expenses allowed for them is, Cullingham, 1s. 1s. a day; Doyle, 1s. 1s. a day; Hornby, 10s. 6d. a day; and Hobson 5s. 5s. a day. Now what will the impartial reader say of the impartial Chairman of the Land Committee?

Now, my friends, trusting that you will give the several propositions submitted to you your cool, calm, and deliberate consideration, and that you will not allow yourselves to waver in allegiance to your order; but seeing that you have not been used, juggled, or cheated, it is now my earnest prayer, appeal, and entreaty to you, that you will revive in your minds the image that has been offered to you as fools and to me as a plunderer of the poor man's fund. Heed not the Press, it is your bitter enemy, it is the caterer for the lust and enmity of your task-masters; cast off the mantle of slavery; purchase your freedom by temperance, perseverance, and confidence, and believe me, from your improved social position will arise that political emancipation and grandeur which may defy the oppressor, and you can thus purchase your liberty without the shedding of a drop of human blood. A word and I have done. Place the requisite means at my disposal, and while I am acting upon my operations I will thin the artificial labour market by employing thousands who are now destitute, and constituting an idle reserve to enable capitalists to live and make fortunes upon reduction of wages.

I am, your faithful Friend and unpaid Bailiff,
FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

Bromsgrove,
August 9th, 1848.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

BROMSGROVE.—A camp meeting will be held on Sunday next, the 13th of August, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when the local lecturers and a friend from Bradford will address the meeting.

MANCHESTER.—The Manchester meeting of the Manchester branch of the National Land Company will be held in the People's Institute, on Sunday morning, August 13th. Chair to be taken at nine o'clock.

SCARSDALE.—The members of this branch of the National Land Company are requested to meet at the People's Institute, on Sunday (to-morrow), at one o'clock, to receive the secretary's balance sheet, and elect the officers for the ensuing six months.

GLASGOW.—The members of the members of this branch of the National Land Company will be held on Sunday, August 13th, at half-past five o'clock, at Mr. John Biddon's, Robinson-lane.

GLASGOW.—The paid-up shareholders of this branch of the National Land Company are requested to meet at the New Inn, on Thursday next, at six o'clock.

MOTTRAM.—The monthly meeting will be held in the lecture room, Mottram, on Sunday, August 13th, at one o'clock. At the close of business public lectures will be delivered.

MOTTRAM.—Mr. Robert Wild

THE LONDON AND PARIS SPRING AND SUMMER
1946 by MRS. BENJAMIN BEAD

HE should remain in jail or prison. **HARRISBURG**.—On Sunday afternoon last, a man named HARRISBURG met his wife, with whom he was constantly quarrelling, in Co.-wheel-alley, St. Luke's, and having inquired the reason of her not being at home cooking his dinner, he gave her a violent blow under the left ear, which knocked her to the ground. In falling her head came in contact with the pailings facing one of the tenements in the court. The woman, after making two or three convulsive struggles, was seen to turn black in the face, and was immediately carried into one of the adjoining houses, and a surgeon was sent for, who pronounced life extinct. The woman, who obtained his living by jobbing at the Post-office, was taken into custody, and removed to Featherstone-street station-house. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

national discontent. Landlords lying, trade
standing still, money scarce, food destroyed,
and disaffection raging, will place that country
in such a position that nothing but the timely
interference of some great and resolute states-
man can avert. But is it not over the case with
the strong, and especially with the strong Whigs,
to use vengeance and force, instead of timely
and prudent concession? Is it not a fact that
the weakest ministry that ever held office now
holds it upon the bare tenure of the fears of
their opponents, rather than upon confidence
in themselves? Is this a state of things that
can last? Will the English trader, with the
Continent of the world against him, and old
England against his consent to the sacrifice of
his neighbour countryman, who, by justice and
conciliation, might be made a substitute for
those colonies which are to be pampered or
populated as consumers of British produce?

Will the English landlord consent to in-
creased taxation, to increased poor rates, to
increased insecurity, to increased degradation,
in order that a degenerate Whig government
should substitute the bloody sword for the
British constitution in Ireland? and will they
submit to the further tax upon their land and

But what, in reality, will be the impression left upon the minds of the working classes by this long and protracted inquiry? Will it not be to invest their poor savings in any undertaking recommended by Mr O'Connor without too minutely scanning details upon which the whole Press of the kingdom has been unable to come to anything like a conclusion? The plan submitted by Mr O'Connor in this week's paper, is one which, if carried out with spirit, will be the best answer to the assaults of the Land Company; and while poor Bradbury and Evans writhe and wriggle at the notion of the Land Company being paid the

Dea Sir, - A fact has just come to my knowledge, which may perhaps be interesting to you, and which will some measure explain how all the daily papers on Monday last, stated that there were only 15,000 persons sent at the meeting on Monday last; which somewhat surprised me, as I am certain there were upwards of 20,000.

The Commissioners of Police, on Monday evening last, returned to the papers a document marked *private*, requesting them to state that there were only 15,000 persons present at the meeting. Now, I think you might not be the worse Secretary, whether the police are paid for or not, of supplying the newspapers with the following notice: - I have no wish to mention my name in connection with the meeting, but you may place the ground on which I stand upon my information.

I remain, dear Sir, faithfully yours,
R. F. Rowlin.

ed against an extension of the Suffrage, who has so resolutely taken his stand upon principle of finality. But truth is truth, and comes from what quarter it may, and we are prepared to concur in adding new privileges to those already conferred upon a privileged class. If the electoral class find that the exercise of that privilege exposes them to domination and to consequent loss, if they do not submit to the corrupt and unconstitutional influences brought to bear upon them—this remedy is in their own hands. Let them do justice to the parties whom they are said virtually to represent, instead of holding any longer a trust vested in them, and which entails upon them such numerous annoyances; let them exercise it at once, and effectively, by sending to Parliament men pledged to give the franchise to the people at large; when that is done let the Ballot accompany the Suffrage.

The other questions before Parliament have on both numerous and varied—among them Ewart made a show motion on the subject, taxation, which was "nipped in the bud"—the chilling pest of the lateness of the Session, and put carefully by to be brought forth some more convenient season. Mr. Cairnes has pushed forward his amended Poor Law Income Charges Bill, and succeeded in getting as far as the Committee with another, which has for its object the creation of new liabilities for pauper education. The bill was rejected by several Members, on the score of expense—and we observe that it was also intimated against from Ashton, on the ground that the children in workhouses were better educated than the children of the labouring classes, and those of mechanics, "to were brought up out of the workhouses." This is a *non sequitur*. The petitioners should have prayed, not that the children in workhouses should have less education, but that the children of the mechanics and labouring classes, brought up out of the workhouses, should have more. On the mere ground of economy, apart entirely from the moral and social bearings of the questions, it would be infinitely superior to replace our costly criminal and repressive machinery by a more preventive and effective system of intellectual and industrial training. Ministers and Parliament are doing their utmost to hurry the Session to a close. The sitting may be said to be almost literally an *emergency*—for they continue night and day, with the intermission of a very few hours scarcely sufficient for sleep and meals. Whether legislation which results from this species of overwork will be of the best and most useful description, may be fairly doubted.

Mr. THOMAS POWELL, secretary of the late Venezuela Emigration Company, is requested to send his address to Allen Sutcliffe, Lover-moor, Ripponden, near Halifax.

144, High Holborn, has not been handed over to the defence of the victims. I have received it, it would have been acknowledged in our last.

Shall I ask you to send me the names of the American prisoners captured in Ireland are hung or transported, what the Yankees say or do? (We have a list of names in New York, Ed. N. S.)

Mr O'CONNOR and THE SONS of Mr O'CONNOR. Perhaps my enthusiastic friends of Somers Town will now be satisfied, when they learn that the insertion of Mr O'CONNOR in the Standard, cost me £25, paid to that man, a sum which I trust will be refunded by the country, as if I was to pay for every body's enthusiasm, I should soon become a pauper.

F. O'CONNOR.

S. Davis, Motherwell. — Write, and enclose a postage

FROM & TO: IN THE NAME OF: —

STATE OF WATERFORD.
WATERFORD, Aug. 2.—There is an encampment of five tents on Bilberry-hill, which commands the bridge and the river above it, while three armed steamers, and two ships of war are moored below, opposite the town, and another vessel is immediately expected. The police are searching for arms, and

smallest great excitement. A few minutes ago they arrived here, and were lodged in the county gaol. A large number of cavalry, infantry, and constabularia from Clonmel joined the Carrick escort on the way, and the whole formed a most imposing array as they accompanied their prisoners through Clonmel. Some troops left this last night, at twelve o'clock for Slievenamuck, to search for arms and ammunition.

ru feelings and reconciliations. During a whole night Smith O'Brien escaped the hot and vigilant pursuit of power, and his ten thousand armed men found safety and refuge in the cottage of the peasant. But when he discovered that to 'harbour,' shelter 'aid,' William Smith O'Brien, would involve the extending such 'aid, shelter, or harbour,' in the meritorious penalties of high treason, he at once reco-

proceeded to Tipperary. The 85th Light Infantry, commanded by Major-General Smith O'Brien, were ordered to march to the railway yesterday evening. The men have been provided with canteens and blankets, and have suffered from the rain and cold of the ground in camp, but are, notwithstanding, in good health, and in great spirits. The 75th Regiment, commanded by Major-General Macdonald, were ordered to march to Tipperary yesterday evening.

I saw of the people, I am fully convinced that no attempt at rescue.

I had nigh forgot to mention that, on the day discovered that Mr O'Brien, drove in an out-muffled in his cloak, through Thurlies, to the neighbourhood of the station, from a village from that town about three miles, and lying between Keeper Hill.

of Wood, Sir G. Grey, the Home Secretary, taking to procure her Majesty's free pardon, and to accomplish not being the person who actually fired or ignited the gunpowder, for such information shall lead to the discovery of the parties who were intended to blow up the premises of Messrs P. & Co. Lomax, in King-street, Bolton, on Wednesday last.

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