

# **THE LAND AND ITS PROBLEMS**

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The land and its problems by Christopher Turnor

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**CHRISTOPHER TURNOR**

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By CHRISTOPHER TURNOK.

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# THE LAND AND ITS PROBLEMS

BY  
CHRISTOPHER TURNOR

WITH TEN DIAGRAMS

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## PREFACE

**W**E have been a land-ignorant race—and yet we are all dependent upon the land, the townsman as well as the countryman. It is not a question requiring the consideration and the votes of only the rural population; the urban population holds the predominant voting power. Therefore a sound land policy can only be hoped for when, in the first place, the townsman understands something about the land, and, secondly, when he is capable of thinking correctly about it. So this book is not intended in any way as a technical treatise on Agriculture; rather is the object to lay stress upon the vast importance of Land as our greatest Imperial and National asset, and to show that if the permanent consolidation of the Empire is to be achieved this can only be effected by giving the necessary care and thought to the development of our land resources. It is then essential for this purpose to consider the land of the Empire as a whole, rather than piecemeal in its different geographical parts. And inseparably interwoven with the Land problem is the human side—the question of the cultivator of the soil and the conditions under which he should live.

This great twofold problem of the land and the people has never really received the consideration it should by the people of the Anglo-Saxon race. And herein lies the root of the evil.

In other civilized countries the townspeople realize



## 6 THE LAND AND ITS PROBLEMS

much more definitely than we do their direct dependence upon the land, because for many years it has been customary to give the rising generations instruction concerning land, just as instruction in history or mathematics is given.

One of the aims of this book is to show the national importance of maintaining the area of land under the plough, and of increasing that area where it is wise to do so.

Another aim is to lay stress upon the national and social importance of maintaining the number of small holdings (i.e. farms of fifty acres and under) and upon the need of improving the living and business conditions of the smallholders.

It is not suggested for one moment that the United Kingdom should become entirely a country of small holdings, nor is it suggested that all grass land should be ploughed up.

There must always be a large proportion of grass land ; but this should be well farmed, and put to the best economic use, which it is not at the present moment.

The one hope of the writer of this book is that it may serve in some small degree to interest people, not definitely connected with the land, in the land problem ; and induce them as voters to insist upon our land being put to its fullest national use, that the cultivators of the land shall live under the best possible conditions, and that their children be given educational opportunities equal to those enjoyed by the town child.

Since Chapter IX was written, the Government has repealed Part I of the Agriculture Act.

C. T.

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