

**LAND NATIONALISATION, ITS NECESSITY AND
ITS AIMS; BEING A COMPARISON OF THE
SYSTEM OF LANDLORD AND TENANT WITH
THAT OF OCCUPYING OWNERSHIP IN THEIR
INFLUENCE ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE
PEOPLE; WITH APPENDIX ON THE
NATIONALISATION OF HOUSE PROPERTY**

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Land nationalisation, its necessity and its aims; being a comparison of the system of landlord and tenant with that of occupying ownership in their influence on the well-being of the people; with appendix on the nationalisation of house property by Alfred Russel Wallace

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ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

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LAND NATIONALISATION.

YE friends to truth, ye statesmen who survey
The rich man's joys increase, the poor's decay—
'Tis yours to judge how wide the limits stand
Between a splendid and a happy land.

GOLDSMITH.

~~50377~~
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LAND NATIONALISATION

ITS NECESSITY AND ITS AIMS.

BEING A COMPARISON OF THE
SYSTEM OF LANDLORD AND TENANT
WITH THAT OF
OCCUPYING OWNERSHIP

In Their Influence on the Well-Being of the People.

BY

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE,

AUTHOR OF "THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO," "ISLAND LIFE," ETC., ETC.

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TO THE
WORKING MEN OF ENGLAND

THIS BOOK IS

DEDICATED,

IN THE HOPE THAT IT MAY REVEAL TO THEM THE CHIEF CAUSE OF SO MUCH POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF THE EVER-INCREASING WEALTH WHICH THEY CREATE, AND POINT OUT TO THEM THE GREAT REFORM WHICH WILL ENABLE LABOUR TO REAP ITS JUST REWARD, WHICH WILL SURELY TEND TO ABOLISH PAUPERISM, AND WHICH WILL GIVE TO ALL WHO INDUSTRIOUSLY SEEK IT A FAIR SHARE IN THE INCREASED PROSPERITY OF THEIR NATIVE LAND.

"Land is not, and cannot be property in the sense that moveable things are property. Every human being born into this planet must live upon the land if he lives at all. The land in any country is really the property of the nation which occupies it; and the tenure of it by individuals is ordered differently in different places, according to the habits of the people and the general convenience."—FROUDE.

"The land of Ireland, the land of every country, belongs to the people of that country."—JOHN STUART MILL.

"As land is necessary to the exertion of labour in the production of wealth, to command the land which is necessary to labour is to command all the fruits of labour save enough to enable the labourer to exist."—HENRY GEORGE.

"To make away into mercenary hands, as an article of trade, the whole solid area on which a nation lives, is astonishing as an idea of statesmanship."—PROF. F. W. NEWMAN.

"It may by-and-by be perceived that equity utters dictates to which we have not yet listened; and men may then learn that to deprive others of their rights to the use of the earth is to commit a crime inferior only in wickedness to the crime of taking away their lives or personal liberties."—HERBERT SPENCER.

"In my opinion, if it is known to be for the welfare of the community at large, the Legislature is perfectly entitled to buy out the landed proprietors. . . . Those persons who possess large portions of the earth's space are not altogether in the same position as the possessors of mere personalty. Personalty does not impose limitations on the action and the industry of man and the well-being of the community as possession of land does, and therefore, I freely own that compulsory expropriation is admissible, and even sound in principle."—W. E. GLADSTONE. (Speech at West Calder.)

P R E F A C E.

THE present work has been written with two main objects. In the first place, it is intended to demonstrate by a sufficient, though condensed, body of evidence, the widespread and crying evils—political and social, material and moral—which are not only the actual, but the necessary results of the system of Landlordism, while at the same time it shows, by a complementary series of facts, that a properly guarded system of Occupying Ownership under the State would afford a complete remedy for the evils thus caused. In the second place, it demonstrates that the proposed solution is a practicable one, by explaining in detail how the change may be effected with no real injury to existing landowners, and also how the scheme will actually work without producing any one of the evil results generally thought to be inseparable from a system of land-nationalisation.

It will be seen from this outline that the subjects here treated are of vast and momentous importance. So abundant are the available materials that it would have been easy to compile a work of several bulky volumes without exhausting the theme. To have done so might