

*SOCIAL QUESTIONS OF TO-DAY*

EDITED BY H. DE B. GIBBINS, M.A.

LAND NATIONALIZATION

# SOCIAL QUESTIONS OF TO-DAY.

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# LAND NATIONALIZATION

BY

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## PREFACE.

THE present volume does not profess to be complete. The writer started with a bias in favour of land nationalization, but at the outset of his work was obliged to recognize that no well-thought-out scheme had yet been presented to the public, and that many professed land nationalizers grounded their faith on arguments historically or economically unsound. It seemed then to him that the most important thing to be done from every point of view was to attack these mistakes;—no cause however good can make headway as long as it is encumbered by arguments that will not bear examination. Incidentally, various proposals for the reform of local taxation have been considered, and an alternative reform suggested. On the general question, the writer has limited his own initiative to a few suggestions. Underlying all of them are two main propositions—that our first steps towards land nationalization should be experimental, and that meanwhile we should improve to the uttermost the present system of individual ownership. Among the reforms suggested, the one on which the writer lays most stress, is the demand that the land-owner's present power of exclusion should be so restricted that the unoffending public may enjoy the RIGHT TO ROAM over all uncultivated land.

H. C.

1, *Field Court,*  
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