

**SOCIALISM IN ACTION**

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**THE LAND  
AND THE  
NATIONAL PLANNING  
OF  
AGRICULTURE**

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**PRICE TWOPENCE**

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## The Land and the National Planning of Agriculture

**T**HE official Labour Party Policy on Agriculture is set out in the following Report. The Resolution, which embodies the main principles of the Report, was adopted by the Annual Conference of the Party held at Leicester in October, 1932.

TRANSPORT HOUSE,  
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## RESOLUTION

This 1932 Annual Conference of the Labour Party, believing that it is of the utmost importance that the fullest use consistent with sound methods should be made of the Land for food production and for the provision of employment under good conditions, whilst at the same time administering with efficiency to the needs of the consumer; and being convinced that this can only be achieved by a comprehensive National Planning of Agriculture, and that only through the National Ownership and Control of the Land can such Planning be effectively ensured, proposes:

(1) That Agricultural Land should be brought under National Ownership.

(2) That a National Agricultural Commission should be established, which would be responsible to the Minister of Agriculture for the planning of orderly development in Agriculture and for the administration of the nationally-owned agricultural land.

(3) That in carrying out its functions in relation to the management of the nationally-owned land and to securing the best use of the soil generally, the National Agricultural Commission should work as far as possible through County Agricultural Committees specially appointed by the Minister of Agriculture; and that the National Agricultural Commission should promote Public Farming Corporations for direct public farming.

(4) That it should be a primary aim to raise the standard of life and the status of the farm-worker, in particular by giving the executive decision on minimum rates of wages to the National Agricultural Wages Board, which should also provide for a progressive increase of wages over a period of years; by providing for a special scheme of unemployment insurance; by abolishing the tied cottage system and providing, in conformity with a national plan, a sufficient supply of new rural cottages; and, in addition, by giving the farm-worker full opportunity for the co-operative cultivation of land, and for obtaining the necessary financial and other assistance.

(5) That in carrying out its functions in relation to marketing, the National Agricultural Commission should work through National Commodity Boards for different products or groups of products; that these Boards should be charged with promoting efficient production, treatment and marketing, subject to the general control of the National Agricultural Commission; and that so far as may be necessary Local Commodity Boards should also be constituted under the National Commodity Boards.

(6) That since there is a strong case for defending against short-term price fluctuations any commodity whose production is shown to be efficient in organisation and quality, and for the proper planning of imports as a necessary part both of the national plan for agriculture and of international plans for the proper distribution of world supplies and the stabilisation of world prices, National Commodity Boards should have full power for purchasing or otherwise regulating imports; and that this should be coupled with adequate control over prices in the interests of the consumer.

(7) That in the administrative machinery outlined above, provision should be made for the representation of producers, workers, and consumers on the National Agricultural Commission and the National and Local Commodity Boards; and for the representation of producers and workers on the County Agricultural Committees.