

THE LAND PROBLEM

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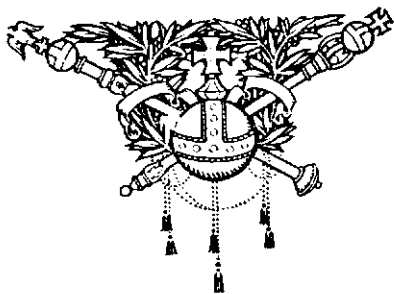


'Home Counties'
(J. W. Robertson Scott)



THE
LAND PROBLEM
(AN IMPARTIAL SURVEY)

By
"HOME COUNTIES"
(J.W. ROBERTSON SCOTT)



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PREFACE

It was no doubt a little rash to accept a proposal to write 'an impartial survey' of the Rural Problem within the limits of a little book like this.

It is of such immense importance, however, that the busy, town-dwelling newspaper reader should have something like an all-round view of what is commonly known as the Land Question, that it seemed worth while to attempt, even within limited compass, a non-party sketch of its outstanding features. Obviously, the writer has frequently been faced with the necessity of passing by matters of which account ought to be taken in discussing so large a subject.

In regard to the difficulty of steering clear of party politics, it is permissible to say, perhaps, that my writing on rural subjects has been, during a long period, constantly directed towards getting people to consider facts rather than opinions.

To those who lack the opportunity of reading even a small book at a sitting, I may suggest that they should start at Chapter VI., returning to Chapters I. to V. at their

greater leisure. The object of including the history contained in the first six Chapters is to provide a view of the beginnings and rise of our agriculture and the development of the Land Question, which is not to be had in any volume at a popular price.

Readers who are familiar with my writing may recognise, in places, passages and phrases from work of mine in *The Times*, *Quarterly Review*, *Westminster Gazette*, *World's Work*, *Daily News*, *Christian World*, and *Wallace's Farmer* (U.S.A.). I am under obligations to my editors for not being obliged to re-say some things which I have already said about as well as I know how.

At the end of several Chapters, books have been mentioned in which the reader will find further information on the subjects dealt with. Their authors sometimes take a slightly different view from that which I have expressed.

J. W. ROBERTSON SCOTT.

GREAT CANFIELD, DUNMOW,
ESSEX.

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