

about in England was in the ownership of land. Much of the land of the kingdom had been in the hands of a very few men, who were called lords of the manor, because they owned large farms, or manors. People living on the manors were not permitted to leave them, and were obliged to work so many days every year for the owner. When these lords wanted funds for a crusade, they were glad to accept money instead of work, and sometimes they would allow the workmen to buy a piece of land for themselves. The result was that at the end of the crusades many owned land, and, of course, these people were especially anxious to have a good government, for they began to feel that if they owned a piece of England, then what was good for England was a gain to them.

72. Edward's policy.—Although Edward had slain Earl Simon at Evesham, he continued Simon's policy of keeping foreigners out of the country, and of giving all classes of the people a share in the government. In this way he enacted many excellent laws to which the people gave a willing obedience.

The civil wars of Henry III had left the land infested by bands of robbers. A man's life was not safe if he travelled alone, and even the walled towns had to be carefully guarded. Edward ordered that every man from fifteen to sixty years of age should provide himself with arms, and all were bound to pursue and capture lawbreakers. The trees and bushes were cleared away from the sides of the roads, in order that travellers might not be waylaid by robbers, and much of this evil soon came to an end.

An important law called the Statute of Mortmain, was enacted by Edward. Lands belonging to the church were not subject to certain feudal dues, and as a large part of England was now in the hands of the church, the revenue from the land was much less than it had formerly been. The Statute of Mortmain forbade the giving of any land to the church, either by will or during the lifetime of the owner, without the consent of the king.

73. The Model Parliament.—In 1295 Edward was in need of money to carry on his wars. In order to raise this money