

our circulars that were sent to foreign countries we received, almost in the one mail, orders for a number of our books from a Belgian baron, a member of the Persian Legation, and an American vice-consul in France.

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary.

Memphis Will Have Congress

FOLLOWING a very aggressive and persistent campaign on the part of Memphis Single Taxers and civic organizations, the Seventh Annual Henry George Congress was unanimously awarded to Memphis by the Executive Committee of the Henry George Foundation. Competition was especially keen this year for the honor of entertaining the national Single Tax gathering, a strong case also having been presented in behalf of Toronto, with the result that the decision was delayed somewhat longer than usual. But sentiment seemed to crystallize very definitely in favor of holding this year's Congress in the South, and the very cordial and enthusiastic invitation from Memphis proved to be irresistible.

The dates of October 10 to 12 have been selected as most suitable for this year's gathering, and the Hotel Peabody, one of the finest hotels in the South, has been chosen as the official headquarters, as it affords admirable facilities for conventions at moderate rates, comparing favorably with any heretofore offered in other convention cities.

In anticipation of the convention, the Memphis Single Tax Club was reorganized within the past few months, and is already actively at work. Memphis has always been one of the bright spots of the Single Tax movement in the South, and even in the early days had a very active and influential group of local workers, but, as in many other communities, the local group disintegrated during the days of the World War. Under the stimulus of recent national activities of the Henry George Foundation, a reorganization of the Memphis Club has now been accomplished, the Hon. A. B. Pittman, Judge of the Circuit Court, having been chosen president, and P. M. Birmingham, secretary.

A strong convention committee is being formed, Judge Pittman having been appointed chairman of this committee, Judge D. Waldauer, assistant city attorney of Memphis, vice chairman, and P. M. Birmingham, secretary. The Convention Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce has given assurance of its whole-hearted cooperation and is ready at work on plans to stimulate interest and enlarge the attendance.

No Single Tax convention of a national character has ever been held in the South, and it was felt that this great section of the country is deserving of recognition and of a larger share of attention at this stage in the development of the national movement. Memphis is geographically the center of the nation, and is served by ten trunk line railroads leading in every direction, not to mention splendid

automobile roads available for those traveling in that manner.

No effort will be spared to provide a strong programme for this year's Congress, as it is believed that it will attract unusual attention, owing to the rapidly growing interest in economic problems which has developed out of the severe industrial depression with which the world is now afflicted. Every newspaper in Memphis has pledged full cooperation in giving the convention proceedings adequate publicity, and there have already been some excellent advance notices in the press, including a strong editorial of welcome recently published in the *Memphis Labor Review*. A city-wide radio hook-up will be arranged for at least part of the programme, enabling the Congress to convey its message direct to the general public.

A Single Taxer Answers

IN a report of a speech by Charles N. Edge, Mr. Edge is quoted as saying that the problem that confronts society at present is "the displacement of man by machine," and the solution that he suggests for this problem, according to the report, is "a shift in taxation from land to machine."

As justification for this solution the report quotes Mr. Edge as offering: (a) "The true value of a worker depends upon the value of the land;" (b) "as far back as records go, the basic value and obtainable wage of a man has been half of the produce from the land he rents and can work," and (c) "the transfer of taxation from land to the machine would have the immediate effect of increasing the value of land throughout the country."

In statement (a) Mr. Edge places himself at variance with all correct economic reasoning from Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill and David Ricardo down. It is an axiom in economics that the value of land arises out of, and depends upon, the community's presence, its activities, its needs and effective demand for land, and on its productivity, thrift and law-abiding qualities. Thus, if we were to more correctly state the case, we would have to reverse Mr. Edge's form to read: "the true value of land depends on labor itself"—labor, of course, including all who come by their wealth or earnings by rendering value or services in return for it.

If statement (b) is analyzed, it merely tells us that land, without itself producing anything, is able to exact half of all that labor produces; for in production, land is a passive factor, merely permitting production, while labor and capital are the active factors, producing everything.

Statement (c) is correct, and that is why Mr. Edge's proposed remedy is wrong. The value of land represents the amount of the product land is able to exact from the producer for the mere privilege it grants him to produce. The higher land value is, the more it absorbs of the product; therefore, the higher land value is the less is left to the producer.

We have already reversed Mr. Edge's findings; let us