

## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

(See also p. 178)

G. A. POWELL (Broadway, Worcester): It was the first time I attended a conference on the question of Land Value Taxation, and I was very much impressed by the enthusiasm and determination I witnessed. Whatever political party has been in power in the past, the present deplorable state of the country now cries aloud for a complete change in legislative effort; but deplorable as the state of the country is, it is more deplorable to have a Government in power whose policy is reaction. Not how the country may be brought to a higher level of peace, content and civilization, but how immediate class interests may be served; and, let it be borne in mind, served at the expense of other countries. The Taxation of Land Values is a safe, simple, speedy and sure remedy and can be quickly applied. The International Conference has given impulse and "go" to the movement.

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Councillor AUSTIN BROOK (Burslem): At all other Conferences I have attended, mostly connected with the Labour Party, I have been struck by the obvious desire of a large percentage of the members to display their oratorical powers and secure "the floor" on every possible occasion, no matter what subject was under discussion. Not so at Oxford. It was manifest that the members had attended to listen rather than to preach to others. Very little time was wasted, and the purpose of the Conference was most successfully attained. To me the most valuable evidence of the progress of our reform is the unmistakable awakening of the Labour Party to its importance. Mr. Henderson's letter was an eloquent witness to that. Personally, impressed as I was by all who gave addresses, I especially admired the practical work being done by Dr. Pikler, and the imagination and breadth of view displayed in the short speeches of Mr. Frank Stephens of Delaware.

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Mr. CHAS. BEVAN, Forest Gate: Let me congratulate you and all concerned on the splendid organization and management of a great Conference. Most of the members must have left Oxford with renewed faith and a more determined devotion; for "we are surer that we see a star when we know that others also see it."

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Mrs. C. McLEAN, GLASGOW: I must tell you that the Conference was a big inspiration to me. I feel sure it has been of the greatest advantage to our propaganda. From the personal point of view, it was a great privilege to be present and to hear the uplifting truths uttered.

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Mr. ISAAC MACKENZIE, Inverness: I came to the Conference in a hopeful mood, and came away still more hopeful for the future. As an American member said on the platform while waiting for the London train: "We may safely leave the movement in the hands of our British friends," so we who are domiciled in these islands have a duty to perform. The Conference marks the beginning of a truly International League of Nations. We now know better than our forbears that if poverty were banished from the land through the abolition of the monopoly of natural resources, there would be no more war, nor necessity for it. That is the lesson one learns from Oxford. The members present from fourteen different countries will war against poverty, not by the forceful methods of the militarists, but by the spread of economic truths; methods that may be slower but they are surer in the long run.

The speakers at the Conference in the main recognized the fact that no great reform was ever brought about by governments. Any measure of justice in the interests of the whole people that has reached the statute book has been placed there not because governments wished it, but

because they had no alternative, it being the wish of the whole people. In other words, public opinion had reached the ripening stage and no government could say nay. Just another word. I should mention the very important resolution sent out to the various governments and pay a tribute to the high level of the speeches delivered at the Conference. I think a similar Conference ought to be held at least once in every two years either in America or in Europe. The students of the New Political Economy ought to get frequently together from all parts of the world to discuss ways and means of ripening public opinion for the great change in social conditions.

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EUSTACE DAVIES (Cardiff): The Conference was a great experience. The meetings were of a high standard and engendered an atmosphere congenial to the stirring of spiritual impulses, the revivifying of hope and the fortifying of the will. In his heartening address at the last meeting, Mr. Paul said: "The spirit of Henry George is there." Everyone felt that. Not to have been at the Oxford would have been a heavy loss indeed. When difficulties confront us and dismay and disappointment encompass us about, and hostile vested interests and public apathy have to be fought, we shall have the impressions of our great experience to urge us, one and all, to take heart and bid defiance to our fears.

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Mr. ALEX. MACKENDRICK: It is impossible to measure spiritual force either in terms of foot-pounds of energy or in those of money-value; but in so far as I may be permitted to make tentative calculations, I should say with conviction that more real power for righteousness was generated during that week we met at Oxford than the country has ever known since Mr. George himself stirred our souls and set our hearts aflame forty years ago.

My impression of the Conference is of a huge success, and that quite apart from its social aspect, on which much might be said separately. The discussions upon method and the straightening out of detail-differences of opinion, the resolutions passed, the white passion for economic justice on the part of the members that was revealed to the public through the Press—these constitute the visible results of the week's work at the Conference. But in addition there is the reflex influence emanating from each of the newly-baptized souls upon whom the fire of a new enthusiasm has descended. More than two hundred missionaries are now abroad with a dynamic energy within them seeking expression in word and deed, accompanied by a new clarity of vision, and supported by the consciousness of the fellowship guaranteed to each of the members of that great Conference.

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Mr. FRED SKIRROW, Keighley: Single Tax friends from abroad will go back to their countries with a fuller and better knowledge of the British movement. Everything went through in splendid fashion. You have every reason to be gratified.

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Mr. JOHN NEIL, Glasgow: The Conference fully carried out the purpose for which it was convened. It was excellent as an opportunity for the exchange of views; for criticism of methods and procedure; for explanation of experiences at home and in many lands differing in languages, laws and existing conditions; and for the better understanding between men and women of diverse nationalities which could best be brought about by personal association. It seemed to breathe the hope of Burns:—

"That man to man the world o'er  
Shall brothers be for a' that."