

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Mr. ABEL BRINK, Gentofte, Denmark: I am not able to measure the value of the Conference to the movement in the international sense of the word, but I have already experienced that it has been of very great value to the movement here in this country.

In the first place, the newspapers have been very eager to take the articles we have sent them about the Conference. For example, I may mention the dailies FYNS VENSTREBLAD, BRONDERSLEV FOLKEBLAD, and VENSTREBLADET FOR DET SYDLIGE JYLLAND.

In the second place, the Message to the Rulers in All Lands has been published in the greater part of the Press—in all the dailies, as far as I can learn.

In the third place, the Conference has given many of our friends the opportunity of dealing with the question of the Taxation of Land Values and the untaxing of the products of labour. I have before me typical articles printed in the KRISTILIGT DAGBLAD and the SKANDERBORG AMTSTIDENDE, both daily papers.

Although it has no actual connection with the Conference, it is worth while mentioning that the dailies, LOLLAND-FALSTER VENSTREBLAD, KALUNDBORG DAGBLAD and VENDSYSSEL VENSTREBLAD have had articles advocating the Taxation of Land Values. Also, the Citizens' League held its annual convention in August and adopted a resolution in which the Taxation of Land Values is demanded. The Social Democratic Party has framed an election programme and the policy includes the untaxing of improvements, and land value taxation and rating. Within our own ranks the Conference at Oxford has created new hope and new interest. For my own part, in the matter of policy I see more and more clearly that it is necessary to stick to our original programme of the Henry George Union.

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Mr. ANTONIO ALBENDIN, Cadiz, Spain: To my mind the Conference has been the most important event in the history of the Single Tax movement. I am most satisfied in the proceedings, from which I have derived untold strength to continue our common work. I think that in this memorable Conference, the right way for obtaining our goal has been marked out. It only remains to follow it.

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Mrs. SIGNE BJØRNER, Copenhagen, Denmark: My sincerest thanks to all those good friends in England to whom we are indebted for the most beautiful week in our lives. It was a glorious experience to meet and have the benefit of hearing all those fine people—and just to have lived the week in such surroundings as Oxford offers would have made the journey worth while. You have made us richer, soul and mind. We telegraphed to Esbjerg from the sea, and they had a meeting ready for us on Tuesday evening (August 21st), so that we gave them fresh impressions from the big event. That seemed to wind up the trip so delightfully; the folks were just as eager to hear and ask as we were to talk and answer. Please accept the gratitude of Mr. Bjørner and myself to friends on the Committee each and all.

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Mr. ALEX PALETTA, and Mr. O. KARUTZ, Greifswald, and Dr. A. SCHWARZ, Berlin, Germany: The German members of the Conference, like all the members, got plenty of information about the Single Tax movement, its aims, methods and successes throughout the world, and this was very important; for the War had interrupted the communications even among the Allied and Neutral nations. Success is enormously accelerated by emulation. The pre-requisite in a peaceful competition for such a high aim as is ours, is a knowledge of how far the movement has developed in other countries and by this everyone's efforts are stimulated. That work the Conference did success-

fully achieve to the fullest possible extent. One learns how each national league proceeds and discovers the reasons given for a given line of campaign. Sometimes it seemed to us that we were all one great family; or, as was often said, the true League of Nations.

We were most gratified at the kind reception and hearty welcome the Conference gave us. The happy week we spent will always remain in our memory, encouraging us and our people in the desperate days to come, and in the association of our great common cause, filling us with a new hope of a better and brighter future. Let us finally express the hope that a Conference of such immense value may not be the last for a long time, but may become a frequent institution within the movement.

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Mrs. HENRY GEORGE, JUNR., writing from Paris: I would like very much to express to you my deep sense of gratitude for having called together the International Conference at Oxford. It has been of the utmost value to me and to my children in disclosing to us through the reports of the various papers, representing the different countries, how the opposition to the Taxation of Land Values by the vested interests has brought the education of the people to a realization of their rights in the land; how it has been only by persistent effort that the doctrine of Henry George has been kept before the public. I believe there should be frequent gatherings of this kind, so that those who are in the front may receive support from those behind; while those who are behind, not seeing the emerging dawn, may get new hope and inspiration from those in the front. The Conference has given great impetus to us all for renewed endeavour and more faithful adherence to those principles laid down by Henry George. In writing I cannot too fully express my appreciation of the valuable work Tothill Street has done for our people.

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Dr. J. J. PIKLER (Budapest): No one, I am sure, has experienced more than I, in an immediate way, that there is a great number of worthy, earnest men and women who are deeply attached to our cause of elementary justice and wholesome expediency. The faith of the members was too deep-rooted to require confirmation at the Conference. But what has been confirmed was their determination to carry on, assured of ultimate success. In that respect the Conference was a mighty and extraordinary event for all of us.

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Mr. S. WIELGOLASKI, Christiania, Norway: What most impressed me was the serious enthusiasm which filled the members of the Conference, giving the best promise for the progress of the cause all over the world. It will, I hope, have given more force and strength of will to those who like myself have shown little of their belief in their deeds. But such a Conference not only strengthens the will by being infected with the enthusiasm of others; it also enables the one to teach the other through discussion, criticism and in accounts of successes and failures. England is especially a good school for such learning, because long political experience and training has given the British a keen sense for what is practicable and what is barren theory. I am sure the result has been a fair wind for your sails. The NORSK TELEGRAMBUREAU tells me that the Manifesto to the Rulers in All Lands has been sent to the papers and has been printed in many of them.

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Mrs. JOHN C. CAMPBELL (of Massachusetts), writing from Glasgow: For the three of us who were present, Miss Butler, Miss Caterbury and myself, we were deeply impressed with the scope of the Conference, the insight it gave into the movement in many countries, its idealism

and withal its honest facing of the difficulties to be overcome. There can be no doubt about its value. You may be interested in a small experience of mine which illustrates this. I was anxious after the Conference to give a copy of PROGRESS AND POVERTY to a friend who knew it only by name, and had the vague report that it was "socialistic." At one bookstore I visited, the salesman said: "Please tell me why so many people are reading this book. I have had a great many demands for it lately and have sold out my stock."

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E. J. McMANUS (Liverpool): Notwithstanding the attractions of the City of Oxford, the members showed their great interest in the sessions, 19 in all, including those informally arranged. They could not afford to miss anything, so great was the pleasure and profit derived from the speeches of the enthusiastic and experienced members from our own country, United States, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, etc. The Conference closed with feelings of gratitude to those who have the worries, anxieties and responsibilities of directing the movement in Great Britain. In the memorable closing sessions on the Sunday evening that sentiment was most warmly exhibited.

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Mr. A. W. METCALFE, Belfast: I thoroughly enjoyed all of it. I only wish there had been more time for personal talks with many of the members. One of the most important sessions was that of Dr. Pikler; a full report of it will be of considerable value as a contribution to the valuation question now so much before the public. I have only one regret regarding the last meeting, when we passed a resolution of greeting to all Single Tax workers, that I

did not make a special reference to Dr. Macklin of Nanking (the translator of PROGRESS AND POVERTY into Chinese), who really inspired the rating policy of Kiao Chau as established by Dr. Schrameier. I have heard from several who have met Dr. Macklin that he is an indefatigable worker in our cause, in season and out of season. I should like Dr. Macklin to have a special note of recognition for his splendid work in such a distant outpost.

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Miss CAROLINE HASLETT, London (Secretary, Women's Engineering Society): I returned to London with renewed vigour as a result of the rousing meeting on the Tuesday morning (14th August). It was perhaps a little unfortunate that such a "heady mixture" had come to the meeting with base intentions, but as an organizer I would far rather have a meeting of that sort than an apathetic one. I should like to congratulate you on the wonderful Press you had. It seems to me as an outsider, although I think I shall soon be inside now, that your movement is full of promise and energy and that you have enough potential power to do great things. I again thank you for your kindness in inviting me to your gathering.

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Mr. H. G. CHANCELLOR, London: Of course, the Conference was a great success. Differences as to method are natural and healthy in movement like ours. These differences quite properly got full ventilation and the Declaration of Principles and Policy was agreed by a majority not only adequate, but overwhelming. Georgeists the world over have got a lead that must stimulate the movement everywhere. But the most delightful feature

A RENEWED APPEAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY CONTRIBUTED.

*To the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values,
11, Tothill Street, London, S. W. 1, England.*

Appreciating the commanding success of the International Conference, the value of the work it has accomplished and the mandate it has given the United Committee, I wish to make a special contribution to the expenses you have incurred as conveners and to have copies of the Official Report of Proceedings, with text of the papers read and addresses delivered.

£ s. d.

I therefore enclose a sum of : :

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(This Form may be cut out and sent with your contribution. If desired, a fresh copy of the paper will be supplied.)

of the Conference was the meeting and forming friendships with men and women from many lands, who from being traditions have become comrades. We have learned more than would have been possible by any other method, and above all of the *personnel* of the movement, on which depends so largely its rate of progress. And by the welcome given to citizens of countries lately at strife, we have shown the world that lovers of liberty have no enemies except its enemies, and that race and nationality are no bar to comradeship in the war on injustice and tyranny of land monopoly.

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Miss BEATRICE GEORGE, writing from Paris: The International Conference was of tremendous practical value to the movement because of its three-fold service. (1) It provided a threshing-floor, thus clarifying ideas; (2) it established an exchange with comparison and discussion of methods employed and progress of the movement; and (3) it sent forth a new wave of enthusiasm, understanding and inspiration. I consider it one of my greatest privileges and pleasures to have been present at the meetings, and feel sure that the conveners and all those who did such unselfish and untiring work are more than worthy of our loyal support and gratitude.

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Councillor JAMES MACDONALD, Inverness: I attended the Conference with the greatest pleasure and found the discussions most educative. It has been the best propaganda that the movement has ever had, because it has given world-wide publicity to the Henry George doctrines. I feel sure there is a grand future in store for our progress. Here in the Highlands we have already felt the effects of the Conference in encouraging new men to speak on the subject. I think we owe our heartfelt thanks to the United Committee for having brought such a congress together as that at Oxford.

L. P. J., London: The Conference was the best I have ever attended. I enjoyed every moment of it. I think its great value lay in showing how alive our cause is in so many lands. We all owe you our gratitude for having planned and organized it so well.

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Mr. ASHLEY MITCHELL, Huddersfield: I think the Conference at Oxford was a wonderful and inspiring success. It was a great tribute to the organization, which must have gratified you and the Committee for the work you had put in. It was most helpful to know others of the movement actually in the flesh and to feel that the cause is supported by so many ardent spirits. It makes one realize that the movement is world-wide when one sees and hears men and women from so many countries, and it must have done our friends from overseas good to discover how strong is the movement in Great Britain after the deadlock of 1914-18. To deprive our overseas friends of the opportunity of hearing Mr. Asquith was one of the worst features of the bad behaviour of a small clique. When one grasps the fulness of Henry George's doctrine, the next thing necessary is to preserve one's balance. It might help some people to do so if they stopped to think that if Henry George had not lived and written his great works, they would be even as those others whom they regard as in utter darkness.

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Mr. A. H. PEAKE, Cambridge: The memory of the Oxford Conference is an abiding joy. It was a pure pleasure to meet so many choice spirits, people who have found a cause in which they can spend themselves wholeheartedly. I am more than ever convinced that our movement is at once ideal and practical, and is essentially the first political reform. The experience gained abroad, in the "enclaves" and notably in Budapest, should prove of great aid to us.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES

OXFORD, ENGLAND, 13TH TO 20TH AUGUST, 1923

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