

more things for the cause—but we can assure those who have given books in times past, that this happens very often. We know because we keep an index card of everyone who receives these gift books.

**FOREIGN CONTACTS.** The Foundation had a large foreign correspondence. It endeavors to maintain an international acquaintance, and it has always rendered an international book service. It supplies people in out-of-the-way parts of the world, and keeps them advised through its mailings of what is new in books and activities.

**EXHIBITS.** Every so often there comes an opportunity to arrange an exhibit, or to cooperate with a Book Fair or an Exposition, or the work some large publisher is doing, in displaying books and pamphlets. These opportunities are seized, and the resulting publicity and interest stimulated is valuable.

**WORK IN THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.** Twice a year professors and teachers receive letters from the Foundation telling them of the new books and pamphlets that can be used in history, economics and social science courses. The work that Mr. Walter Fairchild, a trustee, accomplished in 1931 and 1932 has been of greatest value in establishing the books in the assigned reading courses in leading colleges throughout the nation. A letter from a student explains how well integrated with the general economics course is this material from the Foundation:

"I am a student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. It was just last fall that I carried on a course in Taxation under Professor E. H. Hahne. The requirement in this course was to compile our class notes and reading assignments into one. This bulk was to be bound into a book in order to receive credit for the course. Reading assignment sheets were handed out, and upon one of them there appeared "H. G. Brown, Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty," from Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 11 Park Place, New York. Cloth, 90 pages, 50 cents."

From our file of 2,000 university professors who are in touch with our offerings, evidence often comes to us long after the initial service is rendered by the supply of books or pamphlets, that they are indeed using our material each semester. Regularly 60 copies go to Princeton, University of Illinois, and many other colleges receive quantities of the unabridged "Progress and Poverty" for class work. After a recent mailing of a general letter seeking to increase the use of George's books in the courses, we received the following typical response:

"I have noticed that you published at very reasonable rates some years ago, various works of Henry George. I am going to give a course here next year in which we will make a fairly detailed study of this thinker. Is there any such thing from your press as the collected works of Henry George?"

In conclusion may I say that all this emphasis upon the books is for two purposes:

1. To carry out the express wishes of our Founder.
2. To keep Henry George's message before the world, with the hope that from the books and the reading thereof, some day a great forward political "push" can be made that will bring forth land value taxation in both Canada and the United States.

We believe that in making the books readily accessible we are truly the Foundation upon which others can build a firm structure for the future security and economic welfare of mankind.

ANTOINETTE WAMBOUGH,  
Executive Secretary,  
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation,  
11 Park Place, New York.

## A World Survey

ADDRESS BY MISS MARGARET E. BATEMAN AT  
THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS IN  
TORONTO, CANADA, SEPTEMBER 8, 1938

WHEN your committee invited me to speak to this assembly, they suggested that my subject be "A World Survey." I should never have had the courage to choose such an imposing topic myself! I was glad to find, however, in preparing this survey that there were many sources from which I could obtain authentic information, and that there are numerous publications advocating land value taxation and the Henry George philosophy in various parts of the world. I should like to mention especially:

*Land and Liberty*, published in London, England.  
*LAND AND FREEDOM*, published in New York.  
*The Freeman*, published in New York.  
*Democracy*, published in New York.  
*No Taxes*, published in California.  
*The Square Deal*, published in Toronto, Canada.  
*Progress*, published in Melbourne, Australia.  
*The Standard*, published in Sydney, Australia.  
*The Liberator*, published in Western Australia.  
*The People's Advocate*, published in South Australia.  
*The New Commonwealth of New Zealand*, published in Auckland, N. Z.  
*The Free People*, published in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Many other publications are devoted to the same cause, but those mentioned are published in English, and I found their articles very excellent indeed. The publicity afforded through these papers is extending the Henry George philosophy to large numbers of people throughout the world.

May I say, that in spite of my hesitancy to deal with such an all-inclusive subject, "A World Survey," seems

to me to be particularly appropriate to this Henry George Congress, because if there ever was a man whose sympathies and viewpoint were world-wide, that man was Henry George! One cannot read or study his work, without a realization of his world-outlook, his desire to make a contribution, not only to one nation, race or creed, but to mankind.

Another reason that I find this world outlook (or "World Survey") particularly interesting, is that when my friends asked me to explain what this Henry George Movement or Philosophy really means, my first impulse is to remind them that this world or planet we call the earth is a spinning ball on which we travel some 68,000 miles per hour (and can still admire Mr. Hughes for his average of 250!) and that inhabiting this earth there are a fairly small number of human beings (probably less than two billions), but they are entirely dependent upon the earth for food, clothing and shelter, no matter on what part of it they live, and regardless of their color, race, creed, speech or customs.

The resources of this earth are so remarkable that with the aid of science these few human beings are now able to produce far more than the necessities of life. They can have luxuries as well. Our needs can be lavishly provided for, if only mankind has freedom of access to the earth.

It is only a step then to the problem of why millions of people cannot procure everything they need, and why they are so shut out from the resources of the earth that they cannot feed or cloth themselves, but must depend upon the charity of others or starve to death.

We are then face to face with the question raised by Henry George, the question of progress and poverty—of poverty in the midst of plenty!

Let us look around the earth today. Our material progress has been amazing. The radio flashes news around the earth in a matter of minutes. An aeroplane dashes around the globe in four-and-a-half days. Human beings seem to have conquered the sea and the air, and yet they have not conquered unemployment—poverty—strikes—and wars. We know that whatever may be the cause, happiness, peace and plenty are utterly impossible of attainment by the majority of the two billion human beings inhabiting this earth.

We believe that Henry George opened the way to a correction of this state of world affairs. We also believe that the monopoly of the natural resources of this earth, and the unnatural trade barriers, are fundamentally responsible for the present world economic situation. As a writer in one of the Henry George publications recently put it, "We know that private ownership of a single acre of land gives to the title-holder the power to say who may come on this acre, how long he may stay there, what he may do while there, as well as how much of his production he must part with for the permission

to be there and work. It is obvious that if one man owned all the earth, he would have the power to regulate the lives of all the rest of humanity."

If we may look backward for a moment, I should like to quote and emphasize a passage from a speech by the late Sir George Fowlds of New Zealand. It seems to throw much light on the danger of the present world land monopoly. Sir George said: "It is estimated that when Persia perished, 1 per cent of the people owned all the land; Egypt went down when 2 per cent owned 97 per cent of all the wealth; Babylon died when 2 per cent owned all the wealth and Rome expired when 1,800 men possessed all the then known world." What do we find in the Twentieth Century A.D.?

### GREAT BRITAIN

Mr. Graham Peace in his book, "The Great Robbery," published in 1933, shows that when the last survey was made, some 40,000 people in Great Britain (one-tenth of 1 per cent) owned nearly three-quarters of the country. The remaining one-quarter was held by about 2 per cent while the remainder of the people (some 44 million) owned no land whatever.

In Scotland, 96.4 per cent of the people owned no land. It was held by 3.6 per cent of the population.

In Ireland, the same survey showed that 1.4 per cent of the population owned all the land (some 20 million acres), while about five million people held not a single inch of land that they could call their own.

Mr. Peace further states: "Small wonder that between May, 1851 and December, 1920, no less than 4,338,199 natives—the real owners of Irish soil—emigrated for permanent residence abroad. The great majority went to America—and increased the rental value of that country for the landlords there."

May I recall again the figures?—Scotland, 3.6 per cent owning the land; Ireland, 1.4 per cent; Great Britain, 2 per cent; and then go back to Egypt, 2 per cent; Persia, 1 per cent; Rome, 2 per cent. These figures have a very startling significance.

Those who hold titles to land in Great Britain seem to have been quite successful in escaping taxation on their holdings. Land that is held out of use, even today, is exempt from taxation. (And yet there is a tax of 10 cents a pound on tea!) In London and many other cities buildings are also exempt from taxation if they are not producing a revenue. Is it any wonder that industry and business, food and clothing, gasoline and tea and almost all commodities are taxed so heavily that people are finding it almost impossible to carry the load?

I am sure that many of you are familiar with the history of the large estates in Great Britain and how they were acquired. This year, the Marquess of Bute sold his estates, said to be valued at £40,000,000, and which



included half the City of Cardiff—some 20,000 houses, 1,000 shops, several theatres, a huge steel works and numerous factories. The estates are said to cover 117,000 acres and from his coal royalties alone, the Marquess' income amounted to £109,277 or over half a million dollars a year! In testifying before the Coal Commission, the Marquess said that the property had been granted to his ancestor in 1547-1550. One of the commissioners pointed out that King Edward VI died at the age of fifteen, and that this "ancestor" who was one of the guardians of the King, had in effect granted himself enormous areas of land which were at the time in possession of the Crown.

One of the leading newspapers commented on the sale of these estates as follows: "While every Welshman sings 'Land of My Fathers,' a Scots Marquess, with a long and doubtful pedigree, sells half their proudest city to an English syndicate which expects to find the enterprise a good investment. A good investment it will be but not for Wales!"

I should like to say here that we are not condemning landlords as individuals. Landlords are not any more responsible in this matter than are other members of society. The private appropriation of rent and the monopoly of the earth's resources is not an individual wrong, it is a social wrong.

Last year a bill was passed, providing for £66,000,000 to be paid to owners of titles to the coal mines of Great Britain. One Member of Parliament pointed out that in the last ten years, royalty owners, or those holding title to properties, had received over £50,000,000; and the mine operators, £19,000,000. This man said that he himself had worked in the mines for 22 years, and during that period had faced great dangers, run great risks, and was sometimes brought home brutally injured. He drew during that whole period, less than £2,000. (This would average about \$450 a year—less than \$40 a month.) He pointed out that the mine operators furnished capital and labor, the coal miner used his labor in the production of coal, and the landlord, who did nothing, was awarded this huge sum for ceasing to rob the people! (I wonder if the people realize that they themselves must pay this £66,000,000, and so the robbery does not cease—but is continued!)

In Scotland, twenty-five landowners claim to own one-third of all the land of their country. It was said that in one glen from the inhabitants of which Wolfe in the 18th century raised a whole regiment of fighting men for Quebec, there is now only one family—that of a game-keeper. Is it any wonder that there is unemployment in Great Britain or anywhere else, when men are shut out from the earth, the source of all wealth?

In fairness to these landowners, I want to say that some of them (or at least one of them) is apparently unselfish and foresighted enough to see the injustice of the land

system, and to make an effort to correct it. I was told by an Englishman just a few weeks ago, that a Scottish laird who owns some thirty or forty thousand acres, had the courage to broadcast a speech the other day, in which he told his listeners that he was definitely in favor of land value taxation, as he realized that the large estates in Scotland must be released again to the people.

There is really much hope that Great Britain will before long institute a better system. The question of land value taxation is again becoming a very live one, and among other organizations and schools throughout the country where the Henry George philosophy is being taught, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and various Leagues in England and Scotland, are doing good work. A recently elected Member of the House of Commons, Mr. R. R. Stokes, is adding weight to the movement, and has recently organized among the members of the Labor Party in the House of Commons, a committee to extend the campaign for the taxation of land values, and to promote the policy through all the available Parliamentary channels. The very excellent journal, *Land and Liberty* of London, is constantly urging the taxation of land values, and at the present time the London County Council as well as some 230 municipalities have petitioned Parliament for the right to tax land value for the public revenue.

A man who is following the progress of the Henry George Movement in Great Britain said to me the other day, "I believe you will see the application of this system in England before any other place." (I have been betting on California, but I may have to change my mind!)

An Englishman who was in Montreal recently told me that I could definitely state at this Congress that if the next Government in Great Britain is in any sense a "Leftist" one (provided their platform is not too radically extreme), there is certain to be some measure of land value taxation put into effect. He went on to say that this will be due to the persistent and untiring efforts of Henry Georgeists in Great Britain.

## GERMANY

In our "World Survey," let us turn now from Great Britain to Germany. In 1933 about 400 people owned an average of 13,000 acres each. One million owned only 6½ acres each. Mr. Hitler has repeatedly stated that the land of Germany must be released for use, but at present it would seem that nothing of a really constructive nature is being done. In fact legislation has recently been adopted to prevent the free sale and purchase of land holdings. This law will restrict the number of owners of land.

## ITALY

Italy is in about the same position as Germany. More than two-thirds of all the land is owned by less than 4

per cent of the land owners. There has been an extension of "share-cropping" and an enormous growth in rural unemployment. Peasant ownership of the land has been decreasing during the last ten years.

For the year 1935 official Roman statistics show that about one-half of 1 per cent of the landowners possess 47 per cent of all the cultivated land—some 12,000 men possess almost as much as the remaining 2,465,922 put together. And this situation exists in a country where there are some 350 people per square mile—a total of 43,000,000 people, with about 40,000,000 owing no land whatever!

### HUNGARY

In Hungary, in spite of so-called "Land Reform" in 1920, 30.3 per cent of all cultivated land consists of estates of more than 1,400 acres, owned by about 1,200 proprietors. The biggest of these is the Esterhazy Estate, its area of 223,287 acres including not less than 159 villages.

In contrast to these figures, there are 1,500,000 small holdings up to five acres, totalling 11.9 per cent of the cultivated area owned by 864,403 people and 1,250,349 farm hands (including their families, in all, about 3,000,000 people) or one-third of the population, own no land whatever.

### POLAND

And now, we turn to Poland. Of Poland's 34,000,000 people, 70 per cent are peasants. These unfortunate people live, or rather exist, in appalling conditions. Their poverty is incredible.

On the other hand, one Polish aristocrat has an estate of 100,000 acres, and it takes him three weeks to travel around his property on a tour of inspection. Another noble owns 340,000 acres.

When we think of these tremendous estates, and the great need of the people for land, we know that Poland, too, needs the philosophy of Henry George.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A land reform administration was appointed to function until 1936, when it was absorbed by the Department of Agriculture, having completed its work of rendering small farms more important in the National economy. Between 1921 and 1930 this administration had increased the number of small farm owners (5 to 25 acres) by 12 per cent. The 25 to 125 acre farm owners had increased 8 per cent, and the number of owners of 200 to 1,250 acres had increased by 69 persons, but their total acreage was reduced by 775,000 acres or 27 per cent.

### RUSSIA

We hear a good deal about progress in Russia. The citizens of Russia are now guaranteed freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and meetings,

freedom of street processions and demonstrations; women have equal rights with men, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. These are all provided by the Constitution. Whether in practice these high principles will be maintained, time will prove, but since the Constitution was written there have been more executions, more political imprisonments, more dismissals and degradation of officials in Soviet Russia, than in any country in the world.

The new Constitution is in certain respects a challenge to our so-called Democratic form of government, and although as in British law the land is declared to be the property of the State, there is apparently in Russia no systematic assessment and just collection of the community-crated land rent for revenue. Free trade has not been instituted, and our own principles of taxation are in full swing.

Prior to 1930 small peasant farming predominated in Russian agricultural economy. By 1936, however, more than 18 million peasant households or 89 per cent were combined into 250,000 collective farms. In 1928 collective and state farms accounted for 3 per cent of farm acreage. By 1935 they included over 90 per cent.

### SPAIN

And now we come to Spain. Before the recent invasion 1 per cent of the people owned 51.5 per cent of the land 14 per cent of the people owned 33.2 per cent of the land 20 per cent of the people owned 11.1 per cent of the land 25 per cent (85 per cent of the people 2.2 per cent of the land).

40 per cent of the people owned none of the land.

One writer says: "Three million agricultural workers toiling for absentee landlords worked from 12 to 16 hours a day for miserably low wages. More than half of the country was owned by big landlords numbering scarcely 50,000 in a land of 24,000,000 people—9,600,000 people (40 per cent) had no land, and a total of 15,600,000 (64 per cent) owned only 2.2 per cent."

The *London Evening Standard* recently said: "There will be no peace in Spain until the land problem has been satisfactorily solved."

Last summer I met a young woman whose family had lost everything in Spain (some of them their lives), and we talked about the Henry George philosophy. She had never heard of it before, but she said to me: "If only we had had that system, my country would not be in the position it is today."

The Henry George Movement was progressing well in Spain before the present war—George's works were translated into Spanish and a splendid monthly paper was published—but the effort was too late. We can only hope that other countries will take warning!

### JAPAN AND CHINA

From Spain we look towards Japan and China.



A system of survey and valuation of land was in progress in China in 1936, but for centuries this country has been held by a comparatively few landowners. The *Voice of China*, a journal devoted to the support of ground rent revenue and the abolition of taxation, stated in July 1937, that a committee had been at work for four years and had produced a policy for socializing the economic rent and the abolition of taxation. Some 1,200 delegates were to have met at Nanking last September. The Japanese invasion frustrated this, and the first building destroyed was the publication headquarters of the *Voice of China*, but if I know anything of Henry Georgeists, I am sure that some of these 1,200 people will revive the programme when the war is over.

In regard to Japan a recent article states, "It is claimed that Japan must have foreign outlets for its people. Actually, the density of population in Japan is little more than half that of Belgium and only half that of England. But the Japan Year Book, 1936, shows that one-half the arable land in Japan (7½ million acres) is owned by 1,000,000 people or about 1½ per cent of the total population, while some 33,000,000 get their living on rented agricultural land. Of these, 22,000,000 are trying to exist on approximately one acre per household. Not only must they pay a high rent for that small area, but they are also heavily taxed. It is this that causes the poverty and all the so-called over-crowding or over-population. The cure for these evils and the lack of markets for the Japanese people lies in remedying that situation."

The other day I talked with a woman who has spent the last twenty-five years in Japan. She is a social worker, and she said this: "We used to think that Japan needed more colonies—that she had more people than could be supported on that small area of the earth. Then for a time we thought it was a matter of birth control—the population was growing too rapidly; but lately most of us have decided that the real trouble in Japan is economic—and when we see whole families trying to exist on an acre of land upon which they must pay rent and taxes, we have felt that this awful war may be a blessing in disguise, because it will so increase the taxes that the people cannot submit, but will take steps to obtain more land for themselves, not in China, but in their own country!"

Someone said, "More can be made out of man by owning the land he lives on, than by owning the man." Think of twenty-two million people, twice the population of Canada—living on one acre of land per family, and paying rent and taxes on that.

In January, 1938, there was an average indebtedness of \$290 on every farm in Japan.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

The picture in South Africa is somewhat brighter. At the present time, Johannesburg, the largest city,

levies the whole of its local taxes on land values alone. Pretoria, the Capital, takes all but a small part of its revenue from the same source. In the City of Durban, the rate on buildings and improvements is half that on land values.

A newspaper item in the *Montreal Star*, in February of this year, stated that in 1937, ten million dollars worth of new buildings were erected in Durban, with the rush to build still continuing into 1938. It was pointed out in one of our classes, that as Montreal has about seven times the population of Durban, if we were under the same system which encourages building and improvements, we should have a seventy million dollar programme of building this year—and needless to say—no unemployment.

Mr. F. A. W. Lucas of Johannesburg is an ardent advocate of the Henry George philosophy, and his paper, *The Free People*, celebrated its first birthday in June, this year. There seems to be no question that the movement for land value taxation is making progress in South Africa.

In noting the conditions in:

#### NORTHERN NIGERIA (West Africa)

We Canadians are rather proud of the fact that the man who succeeded in instituting what the *London Times* described as "the most far-seeing measure of conservative statesmanship West African has ever known," was the Canadian-born High Commissioner, Sir Percu Girard. (I think we should have kept him here in Canada.) This gentleman recommended "a declaration in favor of the nationalization of the lands of the Protectorate." This was incorporated with native laws—that the land is the property of the people—held in trust for them by the chiefs, who have not the power of alienation.

This policy was adopted by the Colonial office, and the natives were secured in the possession of their land, the Government imposing land rents, which are the equivalent of taxes.

One of the newspapers stated that, "The exclusion of the European land speculator and the denial of the right to buy and sell land, and of freehold tenure, was held by the authorities to be essential for the moral and material welfare of the inhabitants." I wonder why other British High Commissioners, or Statesmen, fail to deal with the land question in this way?

Shall we go across now to—

#### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

From this part of the world, I was interested in the following report: "Throughout all Queensland, all New South Wales (including Sydney) 14 Victorian Municipalities, parts of South Australia and West Australia, also a great part of New Zealand including Wellington,

they have adopted municipally this reformed system of raising their revenue (that is, Land Value Taxation). All improvements on the land are therefore free from taxation, and so building can go on unrestricted.

The report further states, "In every case the system was adopted without friction except from land speculators, and so just and beneficial is it in practice, that all attempts to revert to the old system of rating improvements have been overwhelmingly defeated by the votes of the ratepayers."

Louis Wallis, in his recent book, "Burning Question," refers to the progress of land value taxation in Australia, and states, "The new method has not been put into exclusive use on a National scale, but it has been employed far enough to prove that it functions effectively, and that the principle is sound." Forty-three per cent of New Zealand's municipalities which include 57 per cent of the population, raise all their revenues from land value.

And now across the Atlantic to—

#### SOUTH AMERICA

Some progress in land value taxation has been made in Brazil, where although the rate is very moderate in amount, a number of states have adopted some measure of the policy. There is a strong public support for the Land Value Policy in the Capital City of Rio de Janeiro, where a systematic valuation of land has been made in all areas.

In Argentina definite progress has been made in the Province of Cordoba, and Cordoba City introduced a land value rate of taxation in 1927. A number of towns in the northern part of the country have also adopted this policy.

In his book, "Latin America," published in 1936, Stephen Duggan, Director of the Institute of International Education has this to say: "Estates of from 100,000 acres to 500,000 acres exist today in some of the Latin American countries. The owners of many of these estates spend most of their time in the capital or in Europe, many of them visiting their estates only at intervals. The more progressive statesmen look forward to their break-up as a result of increasing taxation and advanced legislation."

In North America, may we look for a moment at—

#### MEXICO

An article written by the Reverend John O'Brien, Chaplain of the Catholic Students, University of Illinois, gives us some very pointed truths about the situation in Mexico. It says: "Mexico, too, has an important lesson and warning for us in America. At the beginning of the 19th century the wealth of the church was truly enormous. Such an eminent Catholic historian as Aleman states that the church then owned more than half of all the land in Mexico, while her holdings in urban property

and in money, was tremendous. She was the chief money-lending agency of the age. Meanwhile, the natives were living in abject poverty, working as peons for a few pennies a day. The National Revolutionary Party now in control of the government makes its appeal to the workers, promising to secure for them a living wage and a fair division of the land among the natives.

Let it be remembered that as late as 1910, 2 per cent of the population owned 70 per cent of the land, while in the State of Morelos, 2 per cent owned 98 per cent of the land.

The facts of history, past and present, give added emphasis to the words of Pius XI, as to the only effective method of combating Communism, namely, by correcting the gross inequalities of distribution of the goods of life."

And now to speak of our own countries—

#### THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

The United States has one-twentieth of the land area of this planet. Canada has another one-twentieth—that together, one-tenth of the land area of the world is in these two countries.

Up to the present, we have adopted the land tenure systems of the European countries and Great Britain. No such thing as unemployment was known here as long as the frontiers reasonably accessible to markets were still open, but we have reached the time now where we must either find a way in which our vacant lands and natural resources can be made available for use, or continue to make the same mistakes that other countries have made, following their course, towards wars, poverty, and national decay.

In a current publication, I found this comment which I think describes the situation rather well: "When the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America in 1620, they didn't have to run around looking for a boss. They found jobs for themselves with a few simple tools, on the free land, which the Lord their God had provided for that very purpose. There is plenty of land left, and all our unemployed could do the same today, were it not for the fact that the land speculators had got in ahead of them." As an instance of this, we have only to look at Manhattan Island, where less than 1 per cent own 95 per cent of the land.

In a recent issue of LAND AND FREEDOM it is stated that, "in the United States three-quarters of the farmers do not own their own farms. The farms are mortgaged, or the farmers are tenants. Among the one-quarter 'owning' are millionaires and poor farmers on land below the normal rent line." I came across in a Minneapolis newspaper a few months ago, a table showing that between 1880 and 1935, the number of farm owners in the United States had increased 33 per cent while the number of tenants increased 300 per cent.



I know that you will hear in detail at this Congress reports of the various activities for the advancement of the Henry George philosophy, and the introduction of a larger measure of Land Value Taxation in the United States and Canada.

Let us keep in mind that if we could institute a just and equitable system of Land Value Taxation in these two countries which make up one-tenth of the land area of the world, we could prove that there is a sane and satisfactory solution to the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty!

### DENMARK

May I complete this "World Tour" with just a word about Denmark? (I am sure my friends are wondering how I have restrained myself so long!) This country had practically the same history of landlords and large estates that we find in Great Britain. The people have known feudalism in its worst sense; they have been through wars, unemployment, discouragement and wretched poverty, but apparently some of their noblemen were wise enough to see that their country could not survive under the old system of land ownership. They realized that if the privileges they themselves held were continued their little country was doomed, and be it said to their honor, they were the first to urge the King and the government to institute land reforms, which meant breaking up the large estates and releasing the natural resources of the country to the people.

This year there was celebrated in Copenhagen, the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of the peasants, through the abolition of the feudal system. During those 150 years the country has taken slow and gradual steps toward a better social system, and I can best sum up their progress in the words of their former Minister of Home Affairs, an ardent Henry Georgeist, who in 1926 said this: "From social freedom arose in Denmark, political freedom; and out of that will grow one day, for society, the economic liberty under which free and independent citizens will enjoy the full fruits of their labor, while the community will receive what it creates."

The Henry George philosophy has been taught in Denmark through the folk schools, and at one of these schools last summer I heard the principal, during a lecture to the class, state that the ideas of Henry George had influenced Denmark more than any country in the world. At the present time there is a large measure of land value taxation in effect, with a gradual reduction in the taxation of buildings and improvements.

I have not time to tell you more than a small fraction of the things I should like to mention about this country. Land Value Taxation has completely eliminated the slum problem in Copenhagen. People are building homes in suburbs where they can have a little garden, and there is no tax on the buildings up to 10,000 kroner, or about

\$2,500. A small home can be built for \$3,000, so the taxes are very low.

The general state of happiness and well-being among the people is very noticeable. They know how to cooperate with one another—they know that when the government spends money it doesn't come from Santa Claus, but they themselves must pay it. Their educational system is such that there is absolutely no illiteracy in the whole country—85 per cent of the farm homes are electrified—there are paved roads all over the country (with a little special narrow strip for bicycles). Practically every home has a good library; there is a radio to every six or seven persons—a motor car to every thirty—(I should say a bicycle for every one)—a telephone to every ten persons, and there is absolutely no poverty (as we know poverty) in all of Denmark.

At a meeting in Montreal last winter, I was speaking of these things, and when I had finished, an old Danish gentleman in the audience said to me, "I am so glad to hear all these things about my country. I left Denmark fifty-three years ago (1884) and at that time thousands of people were leaving because they couldn't find work. The unemployment and poverty were terrible." He went on to say: "At that time there were only a million and a half people in Denmark, and now with three and a half millions, everyone can make a living." I said, "Do you remember the large estates there?"—and he replied—"Oh yes, indeed. The country was all in big estates at that time." To me, this was just another proof of what a better land system giving the people access to the earth has accomplished. Instead of large estates, 65 per cent of the farms are now less than 37 acres—32 per cent are between 37 and 150, while only 2 per cent are over 150 acres. Only 5 per cent of the farms are held by tenants. (In the United States, 75 per cent do not own their own farms.)

I know that many of the Henry Georgeists in Denmark feel that there is still so much to be accomplished that they cannot be satisfied with what has been done, but I can assure you that much has been done, and the country (or the people) have benefitted from it.

A man in Copenhagen said to me last summer, "So many people come over here from America to study our cooperatives, but do not forget that if it had not been for our land reforms the cooperatives would never have come into being."

I know of no greater inspiration than a believer in the Henry George philosophy could possibly have, than a visit to Denmark to observe at first hand, the results of their land reforms, and of land value taxation. True, they have only gone part of the way, but compared with most other countries, they have gone a long, long way.

There is a little book called "Democracy in Denmark," which can be bought for only 25 cents (it is published in



Washington, D. C.), and which gives an excellent outline of the progress this country has made.

### CONCLUSION

And so, as we look around the world today, we find many encouraging happenings, and also many discouragements, but we remember the warning and also the assurance of Henry George—"The truth which I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance—but it will find friends—Will it eventually prevail? Ultimately—Yes."

It is good to know that in Denmark, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Nigeria, South America, the United States and Canada, as well as some other parts of the world, definite progress is being made, and there are people who are willing to sacrifice something that this great truth may ultimately prevail.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many people who, in spite of discouragements and disappointments, have kept the light of this great truth before them, and handed it on to others.

It is evident that there is much to be done before the natural resources of this planet will once more be available in justice and equity to all human beings who inhabit the earth, but the achievements of many people who are working towards this end in various countries, are an inspiration to us all, because as Henry George said:

"We are surer that we see a star, when we know—that others also see it."

## The California Campaign

**I**MPORTANT events have happened in California since I made the last report. Our opponents pursued the tactics they followed two years ago. After we had had certified to the Secretary of State more than sufficient names to place us on the ballot, two separate agencies caused suits to be brought in the Supreme Court to have us excluded. In a general way the suits were alike. They alleged that the Attorney General's summary of one hundred words failed adequately to state the "chief purpose and points" of our amendment as constitutionally required. This objection was much like that of two years ago except that then we were charged with the similar duty to be performed within a limit of twenty words.

After full argument the court held that the Attorney-General's title was sufficient, and now there is no earthly power that can prevent the people from voting on the amendment. Thus ends a protracted struggle, and the contest before the people formally begins.

Needless to say—except as a matter of suggestion for help—that we are to all intents and purposes without money. We were compelled to raise more than \$20,000 to get on the ballot—that is, for the circulation of petitions and incidentals—and our pocketbooks are exhausted. We must have your help to the last penny.

Meanwhile the discussion in the State is proceeding rapidly. Against us the campaign is largely being managed by the Chamber of Commerce, which doesn't realize that it is fighting to maintain shackles upon commerce when resisting the amendment. It has secured the powerful aid of the Parent-Teachers Association, on the specious pretense that if the sales tax is abolished the revenues for the schools will be endangered. Of course this is not so, but in the opinion of our opponents and using a simile of an earlier day "it is a good-enough Morgan till after the election."

Home owners are being assured, contrary to the fact, that if the

amendment is adopted, taxes on homes will be so high that they will be forfeited to the State.

In one breath and with a sober face the voters are told that the amendment means that rents will be advanced to stupendous heights and that all lands will be taken over by the State. And with many the absurdity is not perceived.

The dailies are now blossoming out with three-column advertisements a quarter column in length telling the public that the State wide Council against the Single Tax wants "you to know why we oppose the Single Tax proposition No. 20 on the November ballot and why we believe you, too, will want to vote no. It will not raise the funds to keep our schools open, provide aid for the needy or for the aged. Chaos in business, agriculture and government will result. No argument, only this statement, purporting apparently to have the support of a number of business organizations fighting against the real interests of business.

But there is another side. Having the support of the AFL we are justified in expecting in this instance the equal support of the CIO. These two bodies must number not less than 400,000 voters favorably inclined toward us. A number of the business men, notwithstanding the action of their organizations, take the same view. Ferrell from Los Angeles writes me that he has more calls for speakers than he can fill. In San Francisco the situation tends in the same direction.

We cannot doubt the educational importance of our work. A slight illustration is that the morning's mail brings me requests from representatives of two high schools for information that they can use in support of what they term "Single Tax."

We are preparing for the circulation generally of two documents introduced in the last Congress by Senator Shipstead and Representative Eckert, and directly bearing upon our campaign. These promise to be effective.

One of the most important civic organizations in San Francisco is the Commonwealth Club, numbering about 4,000 business and professional men. Tomorrow night is set for the discussion of the amendment before it. I shall lead for the affirmative and Chester H. Rowell, probably the most widely-known man in the State in a public way, will represent the negative. It will be interesting, I am confident.

This is the last appeal I can make through your columns before election. There is little to be added to what I have said before. May the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM do not appreciate the importance of the California issue upon the history of the movement and the tremendous significance that will attach to success, rest assured that the people of California do. For all assistance so far rendered, many thanks. But we want to be still more grateful.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

**A**ND whoever will look may see that though our civilization is apparently advancing with greater rapidity than ever, the same cause which turned Roman progress into retrogression is operating now.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

**M**R. ROOSEVELT would abolish the poll taxes that still are levied in some of the states, and we agree with him. If Mr. Roosevelt can think of any other tax he would abolish, we will agree with him on that, too.

Kansas City Times.

**I**NCOMPETENT officials seem to regard the government as only a tax collecting agency, designed solely for the purpose of taxing the life out of every line of industry and human activity.—*Cause and Effect*, Foley, Ala.