

artificial laws which prevent competition from doing its perfect work.

The term expressing the opposite of competition is not combination but monopoly.

Is competition or combination the beneficent law of industry? Both; for one is the complement of the other. They exist together; they effect the industrial progress of the world. But monopoly is the negation of both, since further combination or cooperation is no longer possible where monopoly is complete. And where there is competition there will be combination, healthy, rational, continuous, and competition will determine its development and direction. The defence of the so-called "trust" based upon the economic benefits resulting from the elimination of the unskilled is a defence of the principle of combination under free competition, and is in no sense a defense of monopoly of which what we know as the "trust" is the manifestation."

I do not think that I need to dwell at any greater length on this particular phase of our subject, but venture to summarize:

(1) What you condemn as competition is a one-sided competition.

(2) Real competition has never obtained—cannot obtain where natural opportunities, which we comprehend under the term "land," are held out of use.

(3) Competition cannot be other than beneficial where men are at the same time free to cooperate; the law of competition is therefore a natural law and must, if unhindered, work out to the general satisfaction of producer and consumer.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

ALLOTMENT dealers are coaxing public school teachers to sell lots during the Summer vacation. In one advertisement, a subdivision man says:

"I will never forget how, just a very few years ago, I closed my school year as a high school principal, and began to look around for something to do for the Summer. I was offered a position with a real estate firm as a part time salesman; I accepted. I made such good money that I quit school work permanently. I have never been sorry since. I have made dollars in the real estate business where I couldn't make pennies in the school business."

He adds: "You can make \$1,000 to \$2,000 this Summer vacation." And he wants "salesladies" as well as salesmen.

This is respectfully referred to the National Educational Association for thoughtful consideration, now and at their next annual meeting. Supposing some teachers do receive commissions for inducing their friends and acquaintances to buy lots at speculative prices. Will they return to their work at school with higher ideals? Or will they regard getting something without rendering any real service as quite natural and proper? Will it make them better teachers?

The Elections in Denmark

ELECTION to the Danish Folketing, corresponding to the English House of Commons, was held April 11th. There are four big political parties here, the Conservatives, the Moderate Left, the Radicals and the Social-Democrats. The Moderate Left party formed the cabinet with Minister of Finance, *Niels Neergaard*, as Premier. That cabinet was supported by the Conservatives, while the Radicals and Social-Democrats were in opposition.

The cooperation between the Conservatives and the Moderate Lefts, however, was hampered by serious disagreements. The Conservatives were protectionists, while the Moderate Lefts were free traders. The result was that the Conservatives under pretence of the low rate of exchange of the Danish crown three times got higher tariffs on "luxuries" carried by a solid majority in both Houses.

Furthermore, the Moderate Left by their programme was bound to carry through "the equal tax on equal land" proposal. A bill for the rating of land values was already worked out, but on account of opposition from the landed interests in the Conservative Party, it was laid aside.

Last but not least, on account of issue of too much paper money, the Danish crown was steadily depreciating in value. The main cause of that was the speculation in almost everything during and after the great war.

All kinds of schemes (except the real remedy, gold exchange) were proposed to keep up our money value, but of course all to no purpose.

A haphazard and crooked policy was the impression it made amongst the electors of the old Left Party. An influential Government daily *Aalborg Amtstidende* wrote: "If any member of our party once more votes for higher tariff, we are not going to support him for reelection."

The result of the election was a decisive defeat for the Government Party. It lost seven seats, and the number of the members went down to 45. The Social-Democrats gained seven seats, and it is now the biggest party in the House of Commons with 55 members. The Radicals gained two seats and the Conservatives one. The new parties, *Retspartiet* and *Landmands-partiet* (Party of Justice and Landowners Party) were according to their number of votes, 12,643 and 12,196 respectively entitled to one seat each, but on account of certain legal requirements no result ensued. For comparison it may be mentioned, that the German Party got a seat on 7,715 votes.

Premier Neergaard resigned with his cabinet and Mr. Stauning, the leader of the Social-Democratic Party, was called to the King. A few days later a Social-Democratic Cabinet was formed.

The Henry George Union before election sent out the following questionnaire to the candidates: Are you in favor of (1) that the rating of real estate be changed into rating of land values?

(2) That the local authorities be given option to rate

land values in order to reduce the taxes on consumption and incomes earned by labor?

(3) That all custom duties be abolished and full free trade introduced, while the new revenues to the state in the main be raised by increasing the tax on land values?

The candidates from the *Moderate Left* did not answer at all. The fact is, some of the candidates to some degree are in favor of taxation and rating of land values, while others are sharply in opposition.

The *Conservatives* answered No to all the questions.

The *Radicals* mostly answered Yes, though with some reservations in regard to free trade, which they wanted enforced at a later date. Some of the candidates pointed to the Radical programme, which calls for the taxation of land values. Full free trade is to be aimed at by and by.

The position of the party may be given by an utterance of a leading Radical ex-minister, Dr. P. Munch: "We advocate that the present taxation of real estate be changed into taxation of land values but we do not believe that the confiscation of the entire ground rent for the public is going to have such great social effects as the "Party of Justice" believes."

It is true, that prominent members of the Radical Party as J. E. Lange, S. Berthelsen, and a member of Parliament, Niels Fredriksen, are of different opinion in regard to the effects of taxation of land values, but the practical policy of the party has always been conducted on the lines given of Dr. P. Munch, Zahle and Rode, the leading ministers in the period 1913-20.

The *Social-Democrats* were more careful with their answers, though they all were of a positive character. The position of the party may be summed up thus: In favor of taxation of land values and against indirect taxes upon necessities of life. In *Social Demokraten*, of April 29, 1924, Mr. Dr. Bording, Minister of Agriculture, answers the question: "Is the Government going to extend the taxation of land values"? thus:

"I think so. Taxation and rating of land values in the right measure will bring down land values and facilitate the agricultural laborers of small means the access to their natural occupation, the tilling of the soil on their small holdings. I do not however agree with the Single Taxers, that the ground rent only can give enough to cover all the economic obligation of the community."

Mr. K. Steincke, an expert on social legislation, now Minister of Justice has for several years been an able advocate of taxation of land values.

Retspartiet, the new apparition in Danish politics, has taken a firm stand upon confiscation of the entire ground rent for the community, the abolition of all taxes upon the products and incomes of labor together with the limitation of state functions. Several of their candidates went further than the questions of the H. G. Union indicated.

In 1879 the Social-Democrats got 767 votes in their first

election. In 1924 it has become a Government Party. The Party of Justice got 12,643 votes, a pretty good showing, when considered that it had no daily press, no party machine, and very little money. A few thousand crowns was all that was used all over the entire country. All the funds given were published in the papers. Except some local disappointments the result is what was to be expected. Where solid work has been done, there also were votes. In Aarhus Amt the Rev. Geert Jorgensen got 1,687, and in one of the three districts in Copenhagen, a merchant, Mr. J. Brostrom, got 1,309. Of the total number of votes the Party of Justice got about 1 per cent. Many people were afraid to vote with a little Party fearing for the loss of their votes. The next thing to do is to get a daily paper in order to educate the people to our policy. Otherwise the work will be difficult. The propaganda of our present daily press in regard to protection, regulation of imports, the false doctrine of "the balance of trade," etc., is felt everywhere and is influencing the politicians in the different parties.

Still, to sum up, the election of April 11th is a little step towards liberation of the working people from the chains of land monopoly, as it is anticipated that the Government this Fall is going to propose an extension of the taxation of land values. But some of the Single Taxers are afraid that we are entering into the bondage of public administration and regulation. The last condition may be worse than the first. Still Single Taxers are prepared to fight this tendency.

ABEL BRINK.

The Single Tax In Australia

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC

THE Single Tax movement has been displaying such unwonted activity since the commencement of the year, and the newspapers generally have opened their columns so liberally to the exponents of the principle, that, with other business interfering, I have been unable to send you a budget for some time past. The news I have to record is for the most part only of an educative character. Yet it is education that will give us our final triumph over the forces of obstruction and the powers that be. We began the year with a picnic at Nielsen Park, a favorite resort on the harbor where we generally spend a few hours in each other's company once every twelve months. On this occasion we were threatened that, if we dared to open our mouths in the way of political speech making, we would be duly prosecuted according to law! The threat smacked so much of mediaevalism, and of a system of persecution that has long been played out, that it was decided to take no notice of it, and to follow our usual course of outlining the policy of the League for the ensuing year.

Hitherto the papers have not treated us very seriously and have given the minimum amount of space to our reports, but on this occasion the *Herald*, which is the lead-