

of the Single Tax. At one time that idea, as the popularity of the wonderfully written Progress and Poverty showed, looked as if it would capture the whole democratic movement, leaving it, as the Crusades left Christian Europe, in a state of complete disillusion. Its final and useful function was to implant in our urban population the almost lost sense of their right to the land—that is, to its enjoyment in a properly organized State. Henry George was just the type of man to fix a moral idea such as this. All the Socialist leaders of my time and before it—Marx, Bakunin, Kropotkin, Hyndman, Shaw, even William Morris—were middle-class intellectuals, some of them sophisticated intellectuals. George, the ex-compositor, was a man of the people, a Rousseau without Rousseau's vices. He drew direct from life, expressing his thought with the simplicity of Cobden and Bastiat, but with more feeling."

Progress In Wisconsin

TAXES on land values rather than on farm values and other forms of industrial development would lighten the burden of the state and federal taxes on farming communities, Edward Nordman, state commissioner of markets, said in a statement issued today.

Assemblyman Carl Grimstad has announced that he will introduce again his "land tax" bill at the coming session of the legislature.

"Land values and farm values mean the same thing to the average person, and yet there is a big difference in the significance of these two terms," Mr. Nordman said.

MASSSES MUST BUY

"Land values are based on the net profit which bare land is capable of yielding after deducting the cost of operation. Farm values on the other hand, are the land values of a given tract plus the replacement values of the improvement thereon. However, if the land is unproductive or if it has an undesirable location, neither the land nor the improvements will have any value.

"Now it may appear paradoxical, but it is nevertheless true, that when land prices are high, farm values are low and that when land prices are low farm values are high. This apparent inconsistency is explained by the fact that in all history, high or inflated land prices have curtailed the opportunities of the masses and cut short their purchasing power.

INFLATION BASIS OF EVIL

"When the masses lack the purchasing power to buy what they produce, there is surplus production and resulting poor markets. Poor markets make poor prices and when prices for a given commodity are low, the equipment for producing that commodity is likewise low in price.

"Improvements, livestock and machinery are the equipment for producing farm wealth. There is now, and for

a number of years there has been, a poor sale for this equipment because it can not be put to profitable use and as a result farm values are low.

"The cure for this situation, and in fact the only permanent cure for it, is to remove the cause of the trouble by taking the inflation out of land values."

—*Milwaukee Sentinel*.

The Land Question In Mexico

THAT is the situation. A great and necessary and profoundly revolutionary change is steadily taking place in Mexico, though slowly and painfully and at a heavy cost. Ten million backward agricultural laborers, two-thirds of the population, have been given a very concrete hope of becoming small proprietors, and several million are already well along the road to a stable possession and the prospect of almost certain development as agriculturists. Today they still count for comparatively little, though they are beginning to count. In a generation they may be Mexico.

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So that we see the masses of the Mexican people inspired today not only by the prospect of a great and constructive and indispensable land reform, but also by a new idea of their own power—often merging into the will to seize by violence what each individual may suppose to be his.

Beyond question Calles has undertaken to train and dominate this will to power and to use it to carry through the humanitarian and constructive land reform of Soto y Gama and the agrarians. This is what Mexico needs. But has Calles the power? Possibly—if the foreign creditors and owners of Mexico give him time.

—WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING in New York *Herald-Tribune*

Land Reform Is Issue In Poland

THE question of agrarian reform is one of the most hotly debated issues in Poland today. Out of the twenty ministries which have governed the Polish Republic since the World War, a considerable number went down to defeat because of their unsympathetic attitude on this question. The generally accepted explanation for the slow progress which has been made by Poland as well as by several other governments in reaching a settlement of this problem is the catastrophic depreciation of the currency and the resulting dislocation of the economic equilibrium of the country.

It has often been stated by responsible Polish statesmen that under the present currency and general economic conditions a more radical treatment of the problem would entail government bankruptcy.

How slowly the work of the land distribution is proceed-

ng can be seen from a government compilation of the data concerning the area of the land distributed. According to his compilation, only 11,060 hectares were distributed in 1923, as contrasted with the corresponding figure for 1922, viz., 52,000 hectares. These conditions obtain despite the fact that the Polish regulations concerning the expropriation of the land are rather drastic. Generally, sixty hectares is exempt from expropriation in overwhelmingly industrial districts. The corresponding limit in purely agricultural districts is 160 hectares. Some members of the Polish Parliament charge that these low limits were fixed as a measure of political revenge against those landowners whose past or present political activities are not to the taste of the government.—*Current History Magazine*.

Defining The Unearned Increment

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS used to be plain Joynson but, like the late Prime Minister Campbell-Bannerman and the recent but still living Secretary of the Board of Trade, Sir Philip Lloyd-Graeme, he found it financially advantageous to hyphenate his name in return for a substantial legacy. He hyphenated it with Hicks.

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Nobody minded at all, because this is, after all, in queer, unexpected ways, a very free country. But the new Joynson-Hicks made the fatal mistake of rushing into politics during the height of the Lloyd-George, Henry George, By George movement, which was all about the Single Tax. He might have rushed into politics and even rushed around without harm, but he made the fatal mistake of trying to stop Lloyd-George in a similar rush around; he defied Mr. Lloyd-George to define the word "unearned increment."

The Welsh wizard paused for that fraction of a second in which he does his thinking, and then, amidst national merriment, dismissed the new Joynson-Hicks from effective British politics for a season by remarking that "the unearned increment might be defined as that which had accrued to Mr. Joynson-Hicks from the hyphen."

N. Y. World, Correspondence.

Great Words From Max Hirsch

BUT though it seems as if the fight for human freedom were unending, though it has lasted from the very dawn of history to the present day, yet we know there must come a time when victory will be achieved. From age to age the area over which this battle has been fought has become more and more contracted. From century to century the secured area of human freedom has become enlarged. As it has been in the past, so it will be in the

future. Justice will prevail at last. But stone has to be laid upon stone with infinite toil; the mortar that holds them together has to be mixed with human sweat and suffering, in order that mankind shall at last possess a fit habitation for a perfect social state. To have been a faithful soldier in this fight, a faithful soldier in the army of freedom, to have laid one stone in this glorious building, to have done so little to bring the Kingdom of God upon earth, surely to have done this—nay, even to have attempted it with all one's might—is sufficient reward for all the work, the fret and toil and the sacrifices that are involved in it." —Extract from Max Hirsch's farewell Melbourne address.

Belgium

THE efforts made to establish a new revenue system based on collective ownership of the land have resulted in very satisfactory results in certain countries. Nevertheless, there are some countries which remain refractory and even hostile to the ideas so eloquently presented by their own authors as well as by foreign socialists among whom I will mention only your countryman Henry George and my compatriot the Belgian, de Colins.

In Belgium as in France, some years before the war, small groups of intellectuals, with the best intentions sought to interest the public in the land question and in the solution which it offered of the problems of revenue reform. Particularly in France, aided by the liberality of an enthusiastic American supporter, Georges Darien launched a vigorous campaign in behalf of the Single Tax and there was reason to hope that the public would finally wake up to the economic and moral importance of the policy proposed and that it would accept the solution offered by Darien at that time (1910-1914). Unfortunately the war intervened and as he no longer controlled the necessary financial resources, Darien remained inactive until his death in 1922. Since then the most complete silence on this subject has settled down on France.

As for Belgium, the followers of de Colins gave no sign of life and exercise no influence on the economic life of the country. In spite of this discouraging situation, and stimulated by activities in England and Germany, I have thought that it was our duty to make one more trial. For this reason the Tax Reform League has been started and it has been decided to publish a bulletin to be known as *The Land (La Terre)*. If our league had the disposal of adequate funds there seems no good reason why, in a small country like Belgium, we should not be able to overcome the ignorance and indifference of the masses, as has been done in Denmark. We have already pointed out in *Land and Liberty*, of London, that it was not astounding that no one here knew the theories of Henry George. The edition of the two works which were published in French were exhausted twenty-five years ago. Hence our League has undertaken to republish "Progress and Poverty" in