

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-