

## Buenos Aires

### SIGNIFICANT DECLARATION OF THE OFFICIAL SOCIALIST ORGAN

THE official organ of the Socialist Party in the Argentine, *La Vanguardia* (The Vanguard), in the course of a controversy with the socialist deputy, Augusto Bunge, on the housing problem, made the following declaration in its issue of December 27, 1924.

"Returning ourselves to the starting point, we are pleased to see that Bunge stands firm on the tax on land free of improvements. It is the Georgist formula adopted by us to express our purpose to tax the rent of land as a privilege resulting from the private appropriation of the earth's surface, and to leave at the same time free of taxes the capitals invested in buildings, plantations and other forms of value created by man and incorporated in the soil."

It is unnecessary for us to state how gratified we are at the declaration of the Socialist organ, then under the direction of deputy Justo; and it is to be hoped that, having "adopted the Georgist formula," that organ will henceforth be its steadfast supporter, in all its purity, and that it will also combat the initiatives, so common in the Socialist Party, of progressive taxes or of taxes on increment values, which are undesirable deviations from the doctrine of Henry George.—From *Revista del Impuesto Unico*, official organ of The Argentine Single Tax League, in its issue of January, 1925, Buenos Aires.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC reproduction of Michael Angelo's statue of Moses gives unusual character to the front page of the January issue of the Argentine Single Tax League's Review. In the same issue appears also a Spanish translation of Henry George's notable address on Moses.

It seems to us that now, with the expected reorganization of Palestine as a homeland of the Jewish people and with the new hope for its entrance as a national entity once more in the world's history, a special effort should be made to put this stirring address of George's to the attention of the Jewish leaders.

Fidelity to its highest traditions should now, if ever, be the pledge of those who would seek to redeem the lost hope of that strangely inspired and persecuted race.

## The Land Question Everywhere

IT'S the land question everywhere. Investigators in the West Indies report that American financiers have established networks of large plantations and are pushing the small farmers off their land and reducing them to the condition of peons. They ask the United States to stop the exploitation. A similar condition prevails in Haiti.

The Indians in Panama have revolted and are attacking the government officials. An old Indian has been killed by the Panama police; they retaliated by attacking the

capital at Porvenir and in a battle with the police killed six and wounded a score. The cause of this uprising is the dispossessing of the Indians of their land, forcing them to work as day laborers or factory workers.

People see this as a land question clearly enough, but amid the greater complexities of more highly developed communities, the underlying cause of most of our economic and a good many of our social troubles is not so clearly discerned.

## The Federal Capital at Canberra, A No-Tax City

### LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES TO BE PAID FOR OUT OF LAND VALUES

INFLUENCED by the teachings of Henry George and Max Hirsch, and their many earnest followers throughout Australia, the Commonwealth Parliament, early in its inception, provided that the land embracing the Federal Territory, destined to accommodate the Seat of Government, should not be permanently alienated, and that the values created by the establishment of the Capital City should be conserved to the people. In accordance with this policy—happily fixed by the Commonwealth Constitution—the first sale of land-leases was held on 12th December last, when 104 business lots and 289 residential lots, on 99 years' leases, were offered by auction. The sale was conducted on Capitol Hill, at the rear of the provisional Parliament House, and the bidding was spirited, and average of £30 per foot being realized. The price merely fixes the capital value. All the purchasers have to pay is a yearly rental of 5 per cent. on the amount fixed by the accepted bid. The leases are subject to re-appraisal after twenty years, and thereafter periodically.

Altogether 150 leases were sold, of a capital value of £60,000, which will bring the Commonwealth a yearly revenue of £3000.

The good prices given for these leaseholds negative absolutely the theory that private ownership of land is necessary for settlement. Exception may be taken to re-appraisal being delayed for twenty years from now, but, at the prices, this arrangement will probably work out equitably both to the buyers and the community. These prices, obviously, cover considerable anticipatory value. Manifestly £30 per foot is too high a site value now, for land practically in the wilderness, but, as the city develops, it will increase in value year by year. Spread over the full period, the payments should represent, approximately, a fair return to the community, for the community created values which the leaseholders will enjoy. The authorities estimate that 5,000 people will be residing at Canberra in five years, and 10,000 within ten years.

—*Progress*, Melbourne, Aus.