

SWEDEN

Progress and Poverty was first translated into Swedish in 1886 by Concordia Lofving and H. Wennerstrom, and was followed in 1888 by a translation of *Social Problems*, by K. Frolander. The movement for social reform was further strengthened by writings of native authors, among whom was August Strindberg. The Georgian theory was controverted in learned essays from Prof. D. Davidson, of Upsala and Prof. E. P. Fahlbeck, of Lund.

But spite of opposition the movement advanced step by step in the thought of a growing number of people. In Parliament all measures looking in our direction were constantly rejected, though an increasing interest began to be manifested by the Liberals and Social Democrats.

Henry George's *Protection or Free Trade* was also translated by Concordia Lofving. Had the teachings of this work been earlier apprehended it might have prevented the customs imposts of 1891, which were a new burden on the working classes, the nature of which is now coming to be perceived, in part at least.

In 1907 the mayor of Stockholm, Mr. Carl Lindhagen, who is also a member of Parliament, introduced into the House a bill providing for a rational system of taxation of land values. Each year he has presented bills of a similar nature, but without success. To create a public sentiment for these measures organizations for land reforms were begun, and in these movements were active such men as G. H. von Koch, Baron Erik Pahnstjerna, Gustaf Cassel and others. Mr. Johan Hansson, who has lately been the recipient of all the criticism directed against the Georgites, was active in all these movements to arouse public interest in the land question. His pen was constantly active. He published a translation of George's *Answer to the Pope* and original works on "The Homestead Question," "Taxation of Land Values Instead of the Taxation of Alcohol," "Wars and the Battles of Money-Powers Throughout the World,"

and a number of tracts and periodicals and newspaper contributions.

In 1909 was formed through the influence and labors of Mr. Hansson, after his return from a two years' study of social conditions in foreign countries, the League of Economic Freedom. The new league was formed strictly for propaganda purposes, its educational programme consisting of the study of social economy and social ethics, the socializing of land values and the abolition of taxes, especially customs taxes, opposition to all forms of private monopoly, and finally aids to co-operation.

Since 1909 the Swedish movement was aided by the late Joseph Fels, and under his inspiring example much useful work was undertaken. Mr. and Mrs. Fels made a number of visits to the cities of Scandinavian countries, Mr. Fels making many speeches. In 1909 Mr. Hansson began the publication of a monthly periodical to popularize the new movement. A few years later he also published new editions of *Progress and Poverty* and *Protection or Free Trade*.

In 1911 was opened headquarters in Stockholm to bring the work of the League more prominently before the public, and in the same year letters of inquiry were addressed to every candidate for parliament to ascertain his views on our economic reform. Of 285 answers received 189 were sympathetic, 38 negative and 58 hesitating or indifferent.

Mr. Lindhagen continued to present bills in parliament embodying our reforms. He was finally rewarded by the recommendation from the then Liberal government for the appointment of a commission to devise methods for a rational system of the taxation of land values. The work came, like so much else, to an abrupt ending by the pressing need of providing for the defences of the country in the breaking out of the war in 1914.

No mention of individuals prominent in the work of popularizing the teachings of Henry George would be complete without a brief recital of the self-sacrificing labors of Dr. Karl Elander, of Goteborg. In order to render the agitation more effective he started a newspaper in Goteborg and brought out a daily paper at Stockholm in 1913 in which he strongly supported the move-

ment. He also served the League faithfully as its president. His journalistic venture ending disastrously he lost a great part of his property, and was obliged to transfer the paper to other hands.

In 1914 the League for Economic Freedom was merged into a new organization, the League of the Democracy of Justice, which adopted as its working programme economic freedom on the basis of moral justice. In it were included women's rights and the insistence that in dealings with foreign governments the problems arising be settled by international arbitration determined by an international order of justice, in which free trade between the nations is recognized as a cardinal principle. In January, 1915, three members of the League of the Democracy of Justice, Messrs. Lindhagen, Hansson, and Ekenstrom met with others at the Hague the representatives from the neutral nations and submitted their programme for the consideration of Mr. Ford's neutral conference.

The League for the Democracy of Justice, which now has a branch organization in Denmark, met in Lund, on October 28 and 29, 1916. Of the two hundred present, twenty were teachers in Scandinavian universities. The conference was characterized by great enthusiasm.—N. E.