

NEWS—FOREIGN

A Single Tax Advance in the Argentine—Mendoza A Single Tax City

THE May issue of the *Impuesto Unico*, official organ of the Argentine Single Tax League, makes the following important announcement:

The City Council of Mendoza, at its meeting of May 18th, voted a measure presented by the Socialistic member, Santiago Castroman. This measure establishes for next year the payment of municipal services by a tax on land values apart from improvements.

The land values of the City of Mendoza are not less than 130,000,000 pesos.* The tax rate is fixed at 8 mills, so that the revenue therefrom will not be less than one million pesos per annum. That is to say, the revenue will be about 80% of the amount collected last year, which was 1,300,000 pesos.

The new ordinance has already been signed by the Mayor, and it is well to state here that both the Mayor, as well as the Radical councillors, who form the majority in the Council, supported this measure, by which the important Western Capital begins an era of real economic liberty.

The Argentine Single Tax League, through its Executive Committee, sent the following note of congratulation to the author of the measure, Councillor Santiago Castroman:

“BUENOS AIRES, May 18, 1923

Senor Santiago Castroman
City Councillor
City of Mendoza

SIR:

The Argentine Single Tax League, which I have the honor of presiding over, has noted with very special satisfaction your Council's approval of the measure presented by you with a view to establishing the system of taxing land values apart from improvements in the City of Mendoza.

By the sanction of this timely and patriotic initiative, your important and progressive City of the West offers a salutary example to the other municipalities of the Republic. We hope it will be quickly imitated. And when the effects of the adoption of just taxation in your Capital City are known, no one will be able to hold back the final victory of the ideals for which the followers of Henry George are fighting.

Mr. Councillor, in offering you our most cordial congratulations on the success of your initiative, may I ask you to extend them to all who have stood by you in your noble purpose.

We congratulate our Argentine Single Taxers on this tangible and conspicuous fruit of their campaign. The Western province of Mendoza, of which the City of Mendoza is the Capital, is the center of the wine industry and may be called the Argentine California.”

*The peso = 44cts. gold.

As we advised our readers before, the Argentine Socialist does not seem to be cast in the Marxian mould. In Buenos Aires, Mendoza and other Argentine cities, we find the Socialist leaders striving to free industry and enterprise, instead of deadening and shackling them. That is the true American spirit. But our North American Socialists still cling to retrograde German ideals.

It may also have some significance that the Radicals, mentioned in the above announcement of the Argentine Single Tax League, belong to the Radical Party, which actually sustains the present Government of the Argentine.

A Lost Ideal

THE *Wilmington Star*, of Sunday, July 15, gives a page to the story of Arden and its founder, Frank Stephens, on Mr. Stephens' departure for the Single Tax Conference at Oxford. It says “attention is being directed to the wonderful development of Arden as the center in Delaware of literary and artistic activity.”

An interesting part of the interview with Frank Stephens is the following:

“In retrospect, Mr. Stephens, can you say that the colony has been an unqualified success?” was the query.

ARDEN SUCCESSFUL MATERIALLY

“No, I cannot say that,” was the reply. “From a material point of view, it is a great success. The rentals have raised until now they total \$6,600 yearly, out of which \$2,500 is paid in taxes. We have various community enterprises which represent considerable capital, such as the water works, the Raffeisen Guild, the Building and Loan Association, and so on. The colony has grown and prospered without doubt from a material standpoint.

“But that it has been a success from the point of view of the ideals of the founders, I cannot say with a degree of truth. Arden was founded as a Single Tax colony, and based on the idea that the colonists would follow the example of William Morris and make their living by craftsmanship and from the soil.”

SHATTERED IDEALS

“As I stated some time ago, it is true that many people have come here, and coming here have returned to live here, first for the Summer and then the year through, until for years past there has been no land upon which newcomers could settle. True, they have forced up land values until it is easier for the Trustees to lease an acre for ninety dollars than it was to lease it for six at the beginning. But the pity of it is that people have not come here for that which Will Price fondly hoped, a better opportunity to give. They have come because there is a better opportunity to get, come for the most part because there is no purchase price demanded for the land, come because of low rents and low taxes, of cultural advantages to be had, as one of the most cultured scholars in Wilmington said to me, more cheaply than in any other place in the United States.

“But for the vision of the founders, for the ideal, for the old-time high and knightly quest, ‘But I, Sir Galahad, saw the Holy Grail,’ they do no longer come for that. They come for Economic Determinism, not as we at first came, believing, as I still believe, that we were taking the first faltering steps along the road that should some day lead