

are formed by methods of political propaganda and action, it has been an absurdity to keep Georgism isolated and to prevent it from using the very instrument best fitted for its realization. It is as if some sportsmen set out on a hunting excursion, but with the declared intention of not using guns or any other of the weapons most suitable for their purpose.....'

"Georgism must come to pass by law. And who best qualified for the task but Georgist legislators?"

"But, apart from mere considerations of an executive character, and keeping in view only the preparation of the electorate by propaganda, there is no doubt at all that, for the work of diffusing a doctrine, a political party has an immense advantage over every kind of purely doctrinal associations.

"The action and excitement of electoral competition rouses passion and attracts the attention of the masses. Every elector, having to choose between various parties, would be obliged to take more or less into account the Georgist party. (And this should be its name, so that there should be no misunderstanding as to what it stood for.)

"We, who have lived till the day when the prophesies of George are beginning to be fulfilled, should let Georgism be attacked. That need not worry us. Georgism is the truth, and can only gain by opposition.

"Every Georgist must endeavor to grasp the vast, profound and irresistible sweep of George's doctrine, and exhibit it and teach it in all its amplitude, thus satisfying the universal yearning for a solution of the social problems, since whatever anyone may say, from nowhere else can that solution come. A good many intellectuals are beginning to suspect *there is something* in this George theory; something which they think they understand, but do not, because as yet they have not taken the trouble to study it; and they are inclined to suppose Georgism to be a kind of semi-socialism or a semi-bourgeois compromise for fear of an avalanche of communism."

## Argentine

**L**A NACION, an important daily of Buenos Aires, in its issue of August 24, gives the following account of an interview with Mr. E. T. Bell, member of the Queensland Parliament, who was at that time on a visit to the Argentine:

"Mr. Bell stated to us that for some years he had been interested in the similarity of climate and products between Australia and the Argentine Republic. There is however, he added, one great difference in the matter of landed property.

"In Australia, only 4% of the land is private property; the rest belongs to the State, which, for terms varying between seven and twenty-one years, lets it out on lease. This lease is conditional, and the government reserves the right of total or partial annulment, whenever the growth of population may require it, so that it is not possible for large areas, even if leased, to prevent the better use of land.

"At first, the large leaseholders protested against this official right of cancellation, which is frequently put in force; but then the curious case was seen of leaseholders, who found themselves obliged to surrender voluntarily a third of the land they occupied and which, owing to its extent, they could not properly exploit. From the balance remaining in their hands they managed, by more intensive development, to earn greater profits than before. A further result is that the land, by more intensive working, is improved and increased in value, so that an estate, which before gave a certain return to one person, now gives double to two persons.

"In my opinion, this system should be applied to all countries where large landed estates hinder the best possible development of the land."

The *Revista del Impuesto Unico*, Buenos Aires, announces a Spanish version of "Progress and Poverty," edited by the Association Pro League of Nations. The League of Nations, itself, could build on no sounder economic foundations the permanent peace and goodfellowship of the world.

Our Argentine friends have appropriated very neatly, in a good cause, one of our most conspicuous national monuments. On the subscription coupon of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico*, official organ of the Argentine Single Tax League, appears a striking and suggestive emblem: The Statue of Liberty holding aloft her flaming torch. The beam of light radiating therefrom is seen to be the *Single Tax* and, as it falls, it sheds *Justice* over the Earth. Our artists seem to have been caught napping.

## The Single Tax Before The Housing Congress In The Argentine

**T**HE closing session of the Housing Congress, which has been conducted so successfully in the Federal Capital, was fittingly crowned by a resolution which, as the declaration of principles of a numerous body of educated citizens, and as the vote of a convention highly versed in social questions, will have consequences well worthy of attention.

"A motion had been submitted to the Housing Congress, according to which the Single Tax system had been proposed as the most effective means of solving important labor and economic problems. The debate was prolonged, but the members of the Commission of Social Action finally gave out their report, which was then submitted to the Congress in full session and approved with slight modifications.

"The Resolution adopted reads as follows:

- "1 Tax land according to its assessed value, free from improvements and incorporated capitals.
- "2 Reduce gradually the taxes on food products and replace them by an increase in the amount of the tax on land values.
- "3 Establish a tax on the increment land values produced by social action.

"4 Creation of a tax on land rentals which do not result from labor.

"5 A heavy tax on vacant lots.

"A motion by Sr. Cometta, delegate of the National Polytechnic Centre, was also approved, declaring that the Housing Congress would welcome the approval by the City Council of Avellaneda, of the Expense and Revenue Budget submitted to it by the Mayor, according to which the taxes on food and buildings are entirely suppressed.

"These resolutions of the Housing Congress signify a notable triumph of the economic doctrine of the Single Tax, which already counts its partisans in this country by the thousands. As is known, a short time ago there was founded in this city the Reform Party, an advocate of the Single Tax.

"Beyond question, the advocates of the Single Tax will feel encouraged and redouble their efforts, in view of the splendid triumph achieved by their delegates at the Housing Congress, just closed."

(From *La Capital*, Rosario, Argentine, Sept. 15, 1920, quoted in the September issue of *Revista del Impuesto Unico*.)

In its special correspondence from Germany, the *El Impuesto Unico*, of Spain, in its issue of November, has the following interesting anecdote:

"Carranza, the President of Mexico, had asked Damaschke, the leader of German Georgism, to let him have his portrait with the following inscription: 'The chief of the German League for Georgism dedicates this portrait to the leader of agrarian reform in Latin America.'

"As Carranza had already been killed, Damaschke added to the inscription the following words:

"The grave in the cemetery of the poor in Mexico will not inter the agrarian reform forever."

Carranza was buried in the cemetery of the poor. The land reform lives in the heart of the Mexican people, where it had its birth. It is the vital driving force of the Mexican revolution—the main hope of the nation's future.

## Brazil

THE Single Tax movement in Brazil is to be congratulated upon the election of Dr. Washington Luis to the presidency of the State of Sao Paulo. Dr. Luis had previously served as Mayor of the City of Sao Paulo and during his term of office had ordered a valuation of the land within the city in order to demonstrate that the municipal budget could be easily sustained by a moderate tax on land values alone. Constitutional difficulties were raised at the time against the proposal, and its execution had to be deferred. But now, as President of the State, it is expected that Dr. Washington Luis will press the reform upon the State Legislature. An instructive series of articles appearing in *Estado de Sao Paulo*, the leading daily newspaper of Sao Paulo, written by Dr. Cincinnato Braza, member of the State Legislature and a publicist of considerable weight,

probably represents the government's tax policy fairly accurately. It is substantially a Single Tax programme for State and municipal purposes.

"The foreign trade (import and export) of Uruguay, in 1919, was 553,527 contos; that of Sao Paulo, 1,468,480 contos. Uruguay has neither water power nor coffee, which are an important source of wealth in Sao Paulo. Uruguay has scarcely yet passed the pastoral stage of its civilization; whereas we have advanced in the agricultural stage and have already begun to make our mark in the industrial stage. For while Uruguay has in cultivation barely 500,000 hectares, we have no less than 2,000,000 hectares. Well, the official valuation of land, apart from improvements, in Uruguay is about 6,000,000 contos, so that it is no exaggeration to concede to Sao Paulo barely 4,000,000 contos.

"A tax, therefore, of 1.9 per cent. on land values in Sao Paulo would produce the 75,000 contos which are today exacted from coffee culture alone. This culture thus, instead of 27 per cent. on its hectare of coffee plantation, would pay less than 2 per cent. The establishment of this land tax (imposed on the land alone, and never upon the coffee plants and improvements) would permit of the immediate abolition of the following anti-economic taxes which to the shame of Sao Paulo make up the bulk of its budget: the export tax, the super-export tax, the excise tax and the inhabited house tax in the Capital. The land tax as above proposed would fully meet the demands of the Treasury, that is to say, it would supply a revenue equal or superior to that derived from the taxes abolished."

Dr. Braga further argues that, until land values have been entirely absorbed by taxation, it is advisable to differentiate against large holdings of rural land. In this he follows the model offered by the Australian Federal Land Tax. The object aimed at in both cases is to break up the large estates.

## Bulgaria

THE first advent of the Single Tax movement in Bulgaria was due to the Society Vosrajane, which sprang up first as an agricultural colony on the outskirts of Strandja Mountain. The colony having been dissolved some time after, its members founded a publishing company with its own review under the name *Vosrajane*.

Those who collaborate on it are devoted converts of Leo Tolstoi, and their task aims at the regeneration (*vosrajane*) of both social and individual life in the spirit of the true religion of the common brotherhood and the rights of man.

Since the first year of their common labors, they have been interested in Henry George's philosophy, which was preached with enthusiasm by Tolstoi in Russia. George's works have been industriously propagated by the society. It is the candle of the new light.

Even before the outbreak of the world war the editor of *Vosrajane*, Mr. Andreitchine, had begun a translation of "Progress and Poverty." Meanwhile he received promise