

of help from the late Joseph Fels in the publication of Henry George's masterpiece. This undertaking, however, could not be achieved for lack of means. The proposed subsidy never arrived.

During 1903 there was published "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "The Single Tax," and Herbert Spencer's "Social Statics." In 1910 the debate between Henry George and H. M. Hyndman was published by the Socialistic Library at Sliven. But the solid basis for the spread of George's doctrines was established by some young and fervent admirers of his who founded the Henry George Fund at Plovdiv in 1917. As the great war was being waged the times were little propitious for action, and activities were devoted to securing the necessary funds for future work. In this they found great difficulty but nevertheless made a good beginning.

When the war ended this fund was applied to the publication of "Henry George, His Life and Teachings," "Thy Kingdom Come," "The Land Question," and other works of Henry George. It augmented this activity by editing its own Review, publishing tracts, organizing meetings, etc.

Hitherto the propaganda was limited to the written word, but speeches have been made in several centers of the country by Mr. St. Peneloff, the President of the Association and Mr. Yanko Todoroff, one of its most active members. During the year the Association had the opportunity of establishing relations with Single Tax organizations in the United States, England and Germany.

On the 29th of August the Association held its first annual convention which took place in Sofia. Mr. Yanko Todoroff addressed the convention on the development of the movement abroad. Mr. Karaivanove, the Secretary of the Fund, made a report of the Fund's activity, and the convention closed with a warm appeal for action by the President, Mr. St. Peneloff.

The future is ours.

LASAR KARAIVANOVE

## Germany

**I**N the July number of *Impuesto Unico*, Spain, a German correspondent, August Wittstein, gives the following proclamation, which he states was issued by the combined German organizations of workmen and employees representing about fifteen million members. It was published in almost all important newspapers:

### WHERE FIND SALVATION?

"Men and women of the people! Do not allow yourselves to be fooled any longer by misleading words and phrases! We have got to live! We demand food and a chance for the future!

"What have we got up to the present?

"Workmen, clerks and employees demanded higher wages, better salaries. Then the paper money printing machine began to work faster, and more money was distributed among the people—paper money! And, as a result, there was an equivalent rise in prices. Then again

discontent and strikes. Once more, an increase in wages; and again a rise in prices. And so on without end!

"Are we always to go on like this?

"No, a thousand times, no! We must take the road to a real reconstruction, a reconstruction in terms of fraternity and justice. An indispensable condition for this is that the soil shall be free from unjust appropriation. The soil, source of all life and object of all labor, has been degraded to usurious exploitation. The first important and decisive step should be a Housing Law, giving to each of our fellow countrymen the chance of having a safe and sure home, himself and family.

"Then there will be employment for thousands and millions of hands, for around the homes there will be gardens and orchards.

"In the future, the soil must be cultivated on a larger scale in gardens and orchards, strictly excluding all speculation. Every city and town must be encircled by a wide area of gardens.

"At the present moment, the building of new houses is extremely difficult, owing to the lack of materials and the enormous rise in prices. But, as a minimum, we demand the soil, in order to put it to profitable use. Thus it will produce two or three times more food, as much land until now has served only for speculative gambling. And this greater production will be brought about by workmen who, perforce, had to work no more than eight hours a day.

"The most important products—food and houses—will be increased; and of course, at the same time, their offer in exchange increased. Workmen, clerks and employees will have, besides their wages and salaries, the products of their gardens and domestic animals.

"Henceforth, let us not tolerate speculation in our country's soil, which, after this tremendous war, lies under blood mortgage to the best of our sons! Do not let us tolerate any speculation in the food derived from our country's soil! Let us not tolerate usurious trafficking in the materials necessary for home-building.

"Land speculation has ruined our nation.

"Dear land brings about 'tenement districts,' where in crowded conditions the physical and spiritual health of our children is ruined. Homes can be built only on cheap land, free from speculation and usury.

"Only a government that at once takes the necessary steps for the salvation of the people can have our support.

"What we demand as the first social step is the liberation of the soil, so as to prevent speculation.

"We demand a radical Housing Law.

"In order to assure the efficacy of that law, there must be a Government Bureau having the right and obligation to handle all such questions from a uniform social point of view, with ample powers to impose its decisions; a department whose head shall be responsible before the nation and its representatives for the honest and resolute performance of this important task.

"Therefore, we demand the immediate creation of an *Imperial Housing Bureau*.

"In the future, land must serve exclusively for production and nevermore as a source of profit made without labor.

"The land of Germany must belong in usufruct to those who wish to employ it for homes. He who already has a plot of land leased from the State or Municipality may retain free title thereto under this law, if he so desires.

"Anyone desirous may obtain a similar plot of land.

"The welfare of the people is superior to the profit of speculators!

"Only in this way shall we attain to respect for honest labor and to internal peace."

The above proclamation, says Mr. Wittstein, is an historical document in the history of German labor and in that of the Georgist movement. He further announces that, since the 29th of April, 1920, the Housing Bureau Law is an accomplished fact, and predicts that Herr Damaschke, president of the Georgist League, will be first head of the Bureau.

Mr. Wittstein also makes the statement that the Duke and Duchess of Hesse, and Marshals Hindenburg and Ludendorff are Georgists, which is interesting if true.

## Great Britain\*

THE Finance Bill, which passed the House of Commons, repeals the Land Values Duties, stops the work of land valuation, and excuses the payment of duties in arrears. Thus comes to an end, temporarily at least, the work begun by the Liberals in the famous Budget contest of 1910. The drama, of which Churchill declared theatrically, in accordance with the histrionic habit of the gentleman, "We are ringing up the curtain on a play that is going to have a long run;" has now reached its final act until the audience demands that the curtain be rung up again.

The debate in the Commons was interesting. Asquith's speech, in which he sought to justify his own record at the expense of his associates, was a masterpiece of hypocrisy. But the country heard some straight-out doctrine of the "the land for the People" uttered on the floor of the Commons, and for the benefit of American readers we present the following remarks of Peter Wilson Raffan, M.P.:

"I rise to oppose this motion. We have now come to the conclusion of this part of the Finance Bill.

"Every political economist from the time of Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill and Professor Marshall has suggested that there is no tax which a community might more properly employ than a tax upon the land values which the community itself has created. There were innumerable Royal Commissions and Select Committees in regard to this matter, and as far back as 1885 a Royal Commission recommended that there should be such a levy on land values, bearing in mind the fact that enormous sums, running into many millions, created by the community, passed into private hands, the community receiving no levy from it whatever.

\* This matter gleaned from our valued English contemporary, *Land and Liberty*, was in type for last issue, but was crowded out. It is now somewhat belated, but of no less interest.

The great agitation conducted by the present Prime Minister, then the Chancellor of the Exchequer, prior to the passing of the 1909-10 Budget, had its root in this desire, that those who were obtaining these large social values for themselves should be called upon to make a contribution to the public revenue. The Prime Minister pointed out again and again how, in his view, those who were able to obtain for themselves these social values had done nothing to earn them. In picturesque language he spoke of the case of London, and he asked what the great London landowners had done which entitled them to the millions of ground rents they were able annually to apply to their own purposes. He said these great London landowners had done nothing by the exercise of their enterprise or by their own expenditure to create these values. London was a swamp, and the landowners did not even create that, and upon that theory he based his scheme that there should be legislation with regard to this matter. In order to show that I am not misrepresenting what the Prime Minister said, let me give a very brief quotation from a speech which he delivered in Carnarvon in December, 1909, in connection with the agitation with reference to this point. He was then in the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said:

"We would say the country has need of money, and we are looking out for someone to tax."

"We do not want to tax food; we will tax no man's raiment; we will not tax the house that shelters him and his family. What shall we tax? We do not want to tax industry; we do not want to tax enterprise; we do not want to tax commerce. What shall we tax? We will tax the man who is getting something he never earned, that he never produced, and that by no law of justice or fairness ought ever to belong to him."

Holding these views, he endeavored to give legislative effect to them in the Budget of 1909-10. I admit at once that, in my view, his legislative achievement did not fully realize the anticipations he had held out to the country. (Hon. Members: "Hear, hear.") Hon. Members cheer, but why was that so? It was because from the start there was such a rally on the part of the landlord class and those whom they could influence against that Budget, that, even before the Budget was introduced, compromise had begun. Instead of having the direct tax upon land values which the country had been led to expect, we had these taxes which we are discussing today, the Increment Value Duty, the Reversion Duty, and the Undeveloped Land Duty.

"The landowners of the country formed themselves into an organization which sought to repeal the Budget and get rid of the valuation and of any levy on Land Values. So far as they were content with public agitation, one has no complaint to make. They had every right to make an appeal on the ground of reason and argument to their fellow countrymen. That appeal, however, did not fall on very fruitful ground. Whenever elections took place on this issue, whether general elections or by-elections, the Land Union cut a sorry figure. At the election in January, 1910, and again in December, 1919, large majorities of the people of this country expressed their approval of the proposal embodied in the Budget, that there should be a levy on Land Values. Even subsequently, when the Courts had begun to give decisions, and it was evident that the duties were not of the full effect that was expected in regard to productions of revenue, the candidates who were most successful in a whole series of by-elections were those who declared that the work already done ought not to be scrapped, but that we should go forward and make an effective levy on Land Values."