

### CONDITIONS FOR EMIGRANTS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The following letter, which we have received from a West Australian correspondent, John Paul gives an interesting survey of the conditions that face emigrants to Western Australia:—

There is a great demand for skilled and unskilled labour all over Australia at the present, and as land is being surveyed and thrown open for selection, there is always plenty ready to take it up. As a result there are new railways being built in every direction, and towns are springing up like mushrooms. There are a great number of immigrants arriving in this State, and most of them are taking up land straight away. I have had a talk with a good number of them, and they all are very much disappointed and plenty of them are leaving their selections and clearing out. The reason of this is that they have no idea of pioneering, and farm work in this country is different from that at home. In the Eastern States of Australia the land is all of the finest quality; it is easily cleared, easy to work, and will grow practically anything, therefore the new settler has a better chance as he has very little to contend with, and another great advantage in the East is there are any amount of rivers and creeks, all of which contain fresh water, which is the greatest consideration the pioneer has. In West Australia the land is quite a different thing altogether, as the greatest part of it is sand plains, and the whole of it is covered with a thick dense scrub which is very difficult to clear. Then when the timber is rung and begins to die the ground turns salt, also the creeks and rivers are all salt, and often the wells that are sunk turn salt—then the land has not the same quantity of lime in it, and the result is it will not grow natural grasses the same as in the East. These sand plains are what beats the new settler, as in all cases he ploughs deep, and to his sorrow finds out that he has spoiled the land for ever. You see, these plains have very little decayed vegetable matter on the top, and the little humour there is on top has to be worked very lightly to give any result.

I have mentioned to a number of new comers that I have met that their best policy is to leave the land alone and get a job for a few months, and then they will be better equipped and will be sure to make a success of their farms. You know it is no joke to bring a man from home and plant him in the midst of a virgin forest. Why, he doesn't know how to get on for food supplies, let alone know how to start clearing. They all say: "Oh, if we don't take the land now we won't be able to get it afterwards, as there are so many coming out here." I always laugh at that, as there are 180 million acres of vacant land in West Australia, which is only one State, and at the rate immigrants are arriving here, there will still be a few million acres vacant in a 100 years after this.

Another thing that beats most of the new settlers is, that in nine out of ten cases he starts with very little capital, and as it is generally two years before he can make any return he has to study economy. Now when first he takes up the land he has to fence it in, ring-bark the timber, burn the scrub and clear a patch to put in a crop, also sink dams for water, and if a married man, build a house. All these are improvements, and the tax collector lets him know about it to such a tune that it pretty often puts him out of action. Unable to pay the high improvement tax, he naturally looks round for a buyer. The big moneyed man comes along, buys the block, waits a little, and finds a few more of the small selectors in queer street. He buys them also, so that what promised to be a closer settlement now becomes a large sheep run, and some day the Government will pay an enormous sum to buy back that same land to cut up for closer settlements. No need for me to tell you the only remedy.

### NEW ZEALAND.

With the May 27th issue the LIBERATOR, the organ of the New Zealand Land Values League is permanently doubled in size, and for the future will contain eight pages instead of four. We congratulate our New Zealand co-workers in this forward step, which marks the steady growth of the movement in that part of the world.

We learn from this issue that the Parish of Frankton has carried the rating on unimproved land values by a majority of five to one. Speaking of the election, the LIBERATOR says:—

"The speakers in favour of the rating on unimproved land values had it pretty well all their own way. There was very little opposition to it. It is very pleasing to see so many places coming into line. Auckland is very backward; but it must come, even there. It is surprising and encouraging to find so many gradually changing their opinions regarding taxation.

A good many farmers are beginning to see that land values should bear the brunt of public expenditure."

The reported activities of the League show that Mr. Arthur Withy and his co-members are working away persistently and enthusiastically.

### JOSEPH FELS' DANISH CAMPAIGN.

Mrs. Signe Björner writes, July 18th:—

"Mr. Joseph Fels' work over here has been very successful and has helped us along a great deal.

On Thursday evening, July 6th, we had a small reception at the rooms, where we had invited some of the most influential politicians, newspaper men, authors, and others—for instance our youngest and most hopeful professor of political economy, to meet Mr. and Mrs. Fels. Every one of our guests was pleased to have met them, and all seemed to consider the evening well spent.

On Friday afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Fels visited Roskilde High School. As some of the local papers had mentioned the fact of their coming, quite a number of people from Roskilde, and from the adjacent villages had walked out to the school and Mr. Fels was called upon to speak to the audience, which numbered about three hundred. Mr. Vedel translated the speech into Danish, for the benefit of those who did not understand English, and it was greeted with hearty applause, in spite of the rules of the school, which do not allow such demonstrations.

In the evening we had a very successful public meeting in one of the largest halls in Copenhagen. It was very wonderful that we should have such attendance at a summer meeting in the city; no one had expected it. The audience was quite enthusiastic over Mr. Fels, and with good reason. Most of those present seemed to have understood Mr. Fels, for the applause was spontaneous. Mr. Vedel translated, and the applause was repeated.

On Saturday night a number of us accompanied Mr. Fels to Borris, where he had been asked to speak for the Husmænd, (the small landholders) of Jutland.

The large gymnasium hall, which was beautifully decorated with flowers and foliage, was crowded, people had to stand up, the balconies were quite dangerously filled, and some even had to stand in the courtyard to hear Mr. Fels speak. The audience listened attentively, almost intently, to the speech, though the largest part probably did not understand very much of what was said. The personality of Mr. Fels charms everyone, even those who cannot understand his speech, and his spirited manner of speaking takes hold of their interest, not allowing attention to wander. Mr. Vedel also translated this speech, and did it very satisfactorily so that everyone had a good impression of its witty contents. The audience was more than delighted, it was quite delightful to see how affected the listeners were.

All the leaders of the Husmænd Societies and the leaders of our branches in Jylland were there to meet Mr. Fels and hear him speak. We had a little private meeting in the garden, where we heard the reports of the leaders from different parts, most of them exceedingly encouraging. Mr. Fels proposed a plan of training speakers, to take part in the local meetings, which was received with great enthusiasm by the branch leaders. At all the meetings I have had since then people have asked me to see that this plan be carried through, and I hope we shall succeed in doing so. You will hear more fully of it later on.

Next day Mr. Fels went on to Aarhus, where he had an appointment to meet the Crown Prince. The Prince, however did not happen to be at home at the time of Mr. Fels' visit, as he was to attend a meeting in Copenhagen, and Mr. Fels' stay was too short to permit another visit. In the evening our people in Aarhus improvised a reception at the house of Mr. Johan Pedersen, an Advocate—a number of English-speaking people being present, including several editors, members of parliament, and others. Mr. Fels was called upon to tell of his experiences in the United States and Canada, which he did to great effect. I had the pleasure of translating, though this was hardly necessary, most of those present being able to understand Mr. Fels.

The newspaper men regretted that Mr. Fels did not have time for a public meeting; they promised him a big audience if he could take a meeting there on his return from Sweden, but Mr. Fels could make no appointment.

The next morning Mr. Fels went on to Sweden. He was met in Frederikshavn—our most northern port—by the leader of the new branch there (one of my latest converts) who is superintendent of schools in that town.

At Mr. Fels' first visit here, one of the young social democrats, the editor of their paper, asked Mr. Fels to speak at a large open-air

meeting, promising him an audience of as many as six thousand, if he would come. Mr. Fels could make no appointment at the time, but to-day we had a telegram saying that he would be able to take a meeting on the Friday even. I telephoned the editor and arranged for the meeting to take place, so now we hope to have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Fels again. It is a great thing for us to have Mr. Fels here, and I hope it will not tire him too much. He seemed to be doing very well, when I left him, and was not in the least tired, so it seemed to me.

"I am sure it is a very excellent plan of Mrs. Fels to go with him. She is perhaps the only one who can make him take care of himself. We are so charmed with Mrs. Fels, one can't help loving her. We all do, I know, and are only sorry not to see more of her.

"This is not a very good report, but I hope you will be able to make something out of it, to put in LAND VALUES. I have been hurried, repeatedly interrupted by the telephone, &c., and there are heaps of work waiting, as you will understand from my being away for a month. I am very glad I took that trip. It has proved useful, and now that I am back at work it feels as though it has been a fine vacation. I am quite as rested as though I had had a holiday, and much happier.

"Please give my regards to all the people over there, I hope you are doing well in everything.

"Yours very truly, SIGNE BJÖRNER."

#### JOSEPH FELS IN COPENHAGEN.

(Report from POLITIKEN, 8th July, 1911.)

THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE SPEAKS AT A HENRY GEORGE MEETING ON THE ABOLITION OF THE INJUSTICE OF LAND MONOPOLY, AND ON THE ABSURDITY OF WAR.

The famous American millionaire, Mr. Joseph Fels, delivered an unusually interesting address in the Grundtvig's House, at a public meeting last night, which was convened by local Single Taxers.

The hall was filled in every part by Single Taxers and others interested in social questions.

Dr. Villads Christensen presided, who announced that Mr. Fels had come to talk on the Single Tax, the cause of which he has advocated personally in his extensive journeys through the United States, Canada, England and Germany, and to which he has devoted his fortune.

Mr. Berthelsen, in a few words, introduced Mr. Fels, who, he said, began life in a humble way, and entering the industry of soap manufacture, had so developed his business that he is now a millionaire. On his way to wealth he discovered there was a connection between idle labour and idle land, and in the study of Henry George's works, he came to understand the meaning of Land Values.

Mr. Joseph Fels stood on the platform, a small gentleman of Jewish features, with an intelligent look in his playful dark eyes. He began his address with a compliment to his audience.

"Nowhere in the world, with the possible exception of Canada, has the Single Tax made such progress as in Denmark. The reason is that interest in economic questions is developed to such a high degree among the small landed proprietors, of whom quite one-fourth belong to this movement."

Mr. Fels hoped that this would make its mark in our political life. In the last two years the single tax doctrine had made an impression on English politics which three years ago could not have been foreseen.

As he proceeded, Mr. Fels passed to considerations of more personal interest.

"It is five years ago since I became an advocate of the Single Tax. The Single Taxers were nearly all poor people. There were few rich men among them, most other rich men in America were intoxicated [with the joy of owning monopolies. Now they are beginning to understand the shortcomings of land monopoly, and of custom tariffs, which are intimately related to it. They see that a country like Denmark is happier than America because it has had some land reform and a measure of free trade."

"You may ask," continued Mr. Fels, "why I, a rich man, agitate to make land and trade free. I answer, I have made my fortune with the aid of an unjust system, and I am using my wealth to destroy that system."

There was great applause at these words. The American millionaire concluded by saying:

"I hear a defence League has been formed here in Denmark. The best means by which you can protect your country is to root up poverty and distress. Let no man hunger. Give every Dane access to Danish land, and you will need no cannons nor forti-

fications, because the abolition of land monopoly means peace between the peoples of the earth—the abolition of war."

The address was received by the whole assembly rising and applauding as he resumed his seat.

Candidate Vedel, from Roskilde High School, gave a synopsis of the speech in Danish, and the meeting ended with a speech by Mrs. Björner, who reminded the gathering that it was twenty-five years ago that Mr. Jacob E. Lange took up the doctrines of Henry George, and was the first to spread them in Denmark.

#### THE GROWING MOVEMENT IN SWEDEN.

##### VISIT OF JOSEPH FELS.

English and foreign readers of LAND VALUES hardly realise the great growing interest in the Henry George movement (known in your country as the Taxation of Land Values and in the United States as the Single Tax) in all Scandinavian countries. This interest has been especially strong in Denmark, and in Sweden it now grows at a rate that would do our English colleagues good to see.

The Danes and Swedes are people with imagination and large vision. They enjoy a measure of economic freedom, which their own struggles have secured them. Their appetite is whetted for more of this justice, and accordingly they clamour for more agitation, more education.

In Denmark the movement for Economic Freedom, for free production as well as Free Trade, has been a live issue for several years. It is a much more a live one now, especially since the financial assistance offered by the Joseph Fels Fund has come to the aid of the few who formerly were almost alone in waging this great struggle for free production and free Trade, for free men.

Here in Sweden the work for the reform has up to lately been confined in more or less narrow limits owing to the small number of people who have been acquainted with the literature of the movement. The publication by myself of the Single Tax reform monthly magazine BUDKAVLEN during the last two years has, however, had its due effect. It is increasing in circulation and influence monthly. The effect of even this small donation (the Joseph Fels Fund) to the public good has been to gather a band of clear-cut Henry George men together, and legislation is already taking shape, looking to the exemption from taxation of all business, industry and buildings, and placing the weight of taxation on land values—where it of right belongs.

The demand for Free Trade, too, is becoming insistent on the part of not only the consumers, but certain business and financial interests as well.

Large meetings were organised for Mr. Joseph Fels in Gothenburg, Stockholm, Leksand, Mora, &c., during his 10 days' stay here. And his own impression is that they all bear evidence that the people know what they want and will know how to get it. The attendance of the meetings have been limited only by the size of the halls in which they have been held. This shows which way the wind begins to blow in Sweden.

A significant thing connected with this economic awakening in Sweden is the interest taken in the land question of late by the educated and well-to-do part of the community. Professor Mittag-Leffler, the great mathematician, of the University of Stockholm; honorary Doctor of Oxford and Cambridge, Professor Helge Bäckström and others have personally acknowledged themselves to Mr. Joseph Fels as greatly impressed with the truth as taught by Henry George, but several of them prefer not to be personally quoted yet.

The country meetings held by Mr. Fels at Mora and Leksand, in the beautiful province of Dalcarlia, have brought out a remarkably bright outlook for our movement among the smallholders, who are, one can say, equally as intelligent as those of Denmark. The Liberal press have given much encouragement by full articles and reports of Mr. Fels' speeches in the various towns. The Labour and Socialist papers have been equally as considerate. Several of the editors freely expressed themselves as in favour of Land Values Taxation as a means of bringing land into its best use, thus increasing the demand for labour and consequent reduction of unemployment and the miseries consequent on poverty.

The general feeling is that Mr. Fels' visit here has been of great importance for our movement. Nearly the whole press of the country—and our newspaper press is very large—has been speaking about him and our cause. We have already received hundreds of cuttings from all parts of the country, and much discussion has resulted from his personality, his utterances on the platform, and in dozens of interviews.

We feel thankful to Mr. Fels for his coming, and we are glad to know that his impressions from his visit to Sweden have been such that he will find pleasure in visiting us again next year.

JOHAN HANSSON.