

the Pittsburgh Realty Owners Association, the North Side Chamber of Commerce, the Pittsburgh Single Tax Club and other organizations. Fortunately, however, for the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for the first time in many years, has a real Governor, who vetoed the repealer. In vetoing the bill Governor Brumbaugh said: "This bill is a repealer. It applies only to cities of the second class. It repeals the Graded Tax Law in these cities. The present tax law, passed in 1913, makes a separation of land and of buildings for taxable purposes, and reduces triennially ten per cent. the tax on buildings until the minimum of 50% is reached.

"The act of 1913 was urged by all parties in interest. This repealer is opposed by the largest group of protestants that have been heard on any bill. It is advocated by those now in charge of the fiscal policy of one of the two cities concerned.

"Inasmuch as there is such a conflict of opinion, and inasmuch as the law has scarcely yet been tried, it is well to allow it to operate until a commanding judgment decrees its fate. Let the people concerned study freely and fairly the operations of the present law and, if found after two years to be inadequate to the needs of the cities or unfair in its provisions, it can then be repealed. To disturb it now when a preponderance of opinion favors it is unwise. For these reasons the bill is not approved."

Whether or not the bill will have to be defended before each successive Legislature until 1926 is a matter of conjecture; however, it seems reasonable to suppose that with each additional 10% exemption the large land owners will feel the pinch more seriously and will make redoubled efforts to secure the repeal of the measure. But this activity should be more than offset by the support enlisted throughout the city by the beneficial results accruing to the actual operation of the law. To this also should be added the support of two or three friendly newspapers and an active body of favorable opinion among the civic organizations.

THE MOVEMENT IN DENMARK.

SIGNE BJORNER

Since we are not to have the privilege of a personal representation at this gathering of fellow workers, to whom the Henry George disciples in Denmark send their very best wishes, let this report carry some evidence of our modest efforts.

Since 1887, when Henry George ideas were first brought before the Danish people, by Jakob E. Lange, in a series of weekly articles in *Højsholebladet*, a periodical which has later given much space to this subject, thousands of articles, speeches and discussions have kept the name of Henry George and the principles he stood for before the public.

After the first common interest in the subject had waned and the first passionate opposition had subsided, there was a period of quiet growth. A

small number of faithful disciples kept up the literary work. J. Lange and one or two others gave lectures and kept up the discussions. Several of the leaders of our High Schools—which are free institutions, conducted independently—had been possessed by the views of Henry George, and year after year these schools sent out young men and women whose minds had been imbued with these views. In certain parts of the country, where this quiet propaganda had its centers, societies were formed. In 1902, when the present Henry George Society was formed by a small group of men from different parts of the country, the propaganda took on a new phase. In connection with the leaders of the newly organized small farmers' movement, Mr. Sophus Berthelsen, a young lawyer of great ability, brought new energy into the movement and gave excellent support to J. Lange, who was still pushing the cause, as he had been from the first. The Single Tax periodical, *Ret*, was started by Mr. Berthelsen, with the support of the Henry George Society, which organization in the course of a few years gathered in those who had been won to active interest by the educational work of the pioneers. A number of new lecturers and writers came forward, and, with the small means at its disposal, the society helped along the good work.

Then, in 1909, came a new force to help us, when Joseph Fels, on a visit to Denmark, gave us his spirited example, sensible advice and financial support. The different institutions of the movement were brought into closer co-operation. A central office was established in Copenhagen, to be supported by the Fels Fund. A commission to take charge of the Fund was elected, and now the propaganda work was carried on on a much larger scale, though much along the same lines. Especially the newspaper work took on larger dimensions, so that clippings from practically all the newspapers of the country brought back items and articles sent out by the office. This office has been kept up since, now mainly supported by the Henry George Society, which has a membership of about 3,000, in 82 leagues all over the country. The Society now publishes its own periodical, a fortnightly paper called *Den lige Veg*, edited by member of "Yolkebinget," Dr. Phil. Starcke. Meantime the monthly, *Ret*, has won such support on its own merit that it carries on its educational work independently, in the charge of Mr. Berthelsen.

Moreover, the small farmers, through the programme of their organization, which numbers 40,000, demand the solving of the land and the labor question by means of taxing land values and untaxing industry, thus deliberately making Henry George's proposition their own. The movement, as represented by the Henry George Society and the Small Farmers' League is, of course, non-partisan. But several political parties have taken up a measure of our proposal, in proportion, of course, to the liberality of their platform. The present government party, the radicals, are in strong support, urged on particularly by the rural contingent.

During the first term of its government, the radical party carried and completed a sample valuation of land values. A bill was brought forward

proposing separate valuation of all land values, with a view to changing the real estate taxes to land values taxes. This has not been carried, as the former Landsting, then ruled by land monopolists, opposed the bill, but it is expected to be taken up presently.

The whole land question will loom up in connection with the tariff revision, which normally should take place next year. The large majority of our people are absolute free traders and the abolition of duty taxes necessitates considering the taxation of land values. The difficulties of the present situation, which requires strong co-operation of all parties for the preservation of peace, keeps the government from urging, at present, such measures as would be likely to break into present party arrangements and result in new party alignments. Therefore it is quite possible that the whole question, land and tariff reform, will have to wait until conditions outside are more favorable.

But since our new charter amendment, which was given this June 5th, has deprived the large landowners of their special political privileges and given equal suffrage to all men and women, we can afford to wait until the time is ripe, always hoping that we may prove ourselves worthy of the peace we are having by faithful adherence to just principles and consistent progress toward the light of freedom.

THE MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA.

C. MACINTOSH.

Progress here is now being made along satisfactory lines.

The oldest of the present day advocates of the reform is Dr. Felix Vitale, of Montevideo, followed by Dr. Manuel Herrera y Reissig, also of Montevideo.

In Argentine, the movement is of recent date—but its progress has been very gratifying. Propaganda work was being carried on by Mr. Robert Balmer, a Canadian and Mr. Charles N. Macintosh, a New Zealander. The work done by these two began to take root. Later the late Joseph Fels kindly placed, through the Spanish League, literature in Spanish and the sum of £30, at the disposal of the latter. The outcome was the formation of the “Liga Argentina para el Impuesto Unico.”

This organization has its headquarters in Buenos Aires, at 56 Calle San Martin.

The outstanding features of the South American movement are:

1. The steady support given to the taxation of land values in the Brazilian Province of Rio Grande do Sul. The Governor of that Province, Dr. Borges de Madeira, is a staunch and declared supporter of land value taxation.
2. The adoption by the Chambers of the Legislature of Uruguay of a law taxing the Dept. of Montevideo on the value of land, as distinct from