

contribute much to the success of the Congress by bringing the meeting within easy reach of the greatest number. The Chicago Single Tax Club, recently re-organized and having a splendid quota of the younger generation in its membership, is displaying a keen interest in the approaching convention and promises to bring out a full attendance of the local Single Taxers. The officers of the Henry George Lecture Association, whose headquarters are in Chicago, are also cooperating in fine spirit to make this Congress a big success.

Chairman Ewing was strongly impressed with the fine programme offered at New York last year and returned to Chicago a real booster for the next Congress in his own home town. The programme this year is expected to maintain the same high standard of quality and a considerable larger attendance is anticipated. Both the committee and the officers of the Henry George Foundation will be glad to receive suggestions with a view to making the gathering of 1928 of the utmost helpfulness and inspiration to all who shall attend.

Plan now to be in Chicago, September 10th to 12th! Many can make this trip a part of their summer vacation. In any event, it will be three days well spent.

Work In Boston

AT the forum meeting of the Individualist School of Social Economics, at 719 Boylston Street, Boston, on January 6, Weldon L. Crossman of Revere talked on "Unemployment, a Social Evil—Its Cause and Remedy." He spoke in part as follows:

"In Genesis the Creator of the world instructs Adam and Eve to 'replenish the earth and subdue it.' Each one is told that 'in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.' And in Psalm 115:16 it is asserted that 'the earth hath He given to the children of men.' It is evident that the Creator intended that man should live by applying his labor to land. It is from this source that our food, clothing, shelter and all wealth comes. It is by the application of labor to land that capital is produced. Hence there are three factors in production—land, labor, capital. The first is passive, the other two are active.

"The Creator has given man the raw material with which to work. God is not a bungler. He has made ample provision for sustaining the life of the entire human race. If workers cannot get at the earth to subdue it or cultivate it or use it, then it is evident that in some way man has violated the benevolent intentions of the Creator. Hence we have a condition where men are unable to employ themselves on land without having to first make terms with a land owner. In new countries unemployment is unknown. Land is free to those willing to put it to use. In the United States there is just as much land now as hundreds of years ago. Vacant land is in

abundance everywhere. But men who would gladly subdue a bit of the earth and cultivate it are denied the right because some one owns the spot. The monopolists.

Progress in the Argentines

THE new independent socialist party, which has been formed in this country by the organization of the more youthful members of the old socialist party, is displaying a remarkable acceptance of our principles.

The first item in the platform provisionally adopted is the following:

"Socialization of the land by the social control of its use and the collective appropriation of its rental value by means of taxation."

It also purposes the abolition of customs duties.

The newspaper *Liberty* (*Libertad*), official organ of the new party, contains in its issue of January 3, the following significant declaration by one of its most authorized spokesmen, who is a national congressman:

"As regards agrarian policy (including also urban land) we are from the outset Georgists, entirely out and out Georgists."

In addition, this party organ devotes preferential attention to the question of land value taxation and opens its columns freely to the educational and informative articles which I have personally contributed. Under today's date it publishes the important note appearing in *Land and Liberty* (Nov. 1927) referring to the opinions of Mr. O'Derrick and Mr. Snowden on the proposed surtax vs the Single Tax, which had been discussed at the Laborite Conference at Blackpool.

The above items show the increasing advance of Georgist ideal in the political opinion of this country.

—C. VILLALOBOS DOMINGUEZ.

News From Denmark

THE bills introduced January 31st, in the Danish Parliament, by Dr. Axel Dam and Pastor I. C. Willesen, the two representatives of the League of Justice Party, had for their chief purpose the rousing of discussion on the subject of land value taxation. This was as much as the most ardent advocates of our great reform dared hope. But these two bills, practically one bill with "rider," seemed to have aroused more discussion inside the ranks of the faithful than outside, where it was sadly needed. The first and most important bill, which its sponsors entitled FROM TAX TO DEBT, . . . (we might take the hint there and use the more easily-comprehended phrase "From Tax to Rent," as a slogan for our own work!) recommended a rapidly increasing percentage of land value taxation; 3% on the 1927 assessment, for 1928-9; to be raised to 5% in 1929-30; and after April 1st, 1930, a tax to the amount

of the entire ground rent, with, each successive year, repeal of other taxes as the rapidly increasing income from land value taxation make it possible. There were clauses regarding the participation of the federal state and the communities in this tax, and other local matters. But the main fact stood; that for the first time a direct measure of land value taxation, making (for this part of the first bill) little compromise with expediency, was offered in the Parliament of a European country. Could the discussion, in Parliament and out, have centered around this bill, the Danish Georgists might have won many a skirmish in such important battle. But alas, the opportunity was lost, in that this bill was saddled with a second measure recommending a very complicated system of Compensation for Land-owners, something which leading Single Taxers everywhere refuse to recognize. This point was seized upon for comment by the other parties and their press; the conservatives giving faint praise; the liberals taking credit for "fine moderation;" and the Socialists pouring out scathing satire on the Georgists and League of Justice folk. And, unfortunately, as far as one can tell by reading the Danish papers, the liveliest discussion has gone on inside the ranks, causing somewhat of a split between the Georgists and the League of Justice people.

The Georgists who had stood behind the League of Justice and helped elect the two Deputies, seem bitterly disappointed at this latest development. For the Danish Georgists, like the American Single Taxers, have never, from the beginning, allowed any justification for "compensation for land-owners." They have always realized that, as the land-owner has for centuries been reaping the advantage of present conditions, he is not in any way an object of pity. And also, they know, as we do here, that no land-owner is *only* a land-owner. His possibly larger loss in unearned income, will quite sufficiently be made up to him, in the release of any burden on his thrift and industry, the release of a burden of taxation on that part of his income (from his land-ownership) investment in industrial enterprises.

This second bill introduced by the League of Justice party men, seems to be a muddle of inconsistent and illogical measures, chief of which is an absurd, and quite unjust "capital levy" from which to pay landowners. The leading Single Taxers of Denmark have scored it unmercifully in their own organs, repeating statements from Socialist papers, the justice of which they frankly admit. Some of them, like Mr. J. L. Bjorner, whose fine sense of humor keeps him genial, realize that both Deputies were under pressure from many sides. And all are glad of even the slight discussion aroused by the first measure of straight land value taxation. It will hardly be fair for us, at this distance, to pass any definite judgment on the situation until we get some direct inside information from some of our friends in Denmark. All we can hope is that some good will come out of the discussion, and that our

comrades in that energetic little country will succeed in focusing public attention on the important measures of the first bill.

—G. I. C.

Holland's Opportunity

HOLLAND is taking in more land . . . not by militaristic conquest, not by robbery sealed by the blood of her sons, but by peaceful conquest of the sea. A magnificent work is going forward on the ocean side of Holland, the slow draining and reclaiming of great areas of the Zuider Zee. In all 200,000 acres are to be reclaimed, diked and turned over to agriculture, two hundred thousand acres of what will be immensely fertile land. It will take many years. But the work is already sufficient advanced so that 20,000 acres will be ready for use within the next year or so. This is government land, and a state commission has been appointed to study the question of distribution of this land, of its best possible division and utilization, for the good of the whole country.

The Dutch Single Taxers, a numerically small but intelligent and energetic body, are ready with a plan to be submitted to the commission by which land can be put into the hands of farmers and gardeners who will use it, with a just return to the state by taking the ground rent. Herr Prakken, editor of *The New Earth*, land value taxation organ in Holland, has been consulting with Danish comrades as to the manner in which the small-holding colonies were started in Denmark, and has asked Mr. Sophus Berthelsen to help in the preparation of a plan to be laid before the state commission.

It would be a splendid opportunity for so advanced and intelligent a state as Holland, to be the first to keep the values of this new land to pay the expense of further drainage of the Zuider Zee, and at the same time to aid its own farmers in enabling them to hold their land under a just system of tenure, while freeing them from oppressive taxation on their thrift, enterprise and ability.

Agnes deMille Triumphs

MISS DE MILLE, as has been stated on several occasions, is the daughter of William de Mille and the grand-daughter of Henry George, but she is quite able to stand on her own merits without any assistance from famous names. She has made but two public appearances, presenting only six different numbers in all, yet this slender repertoire has been prepared with such careful workmanship and such excellent artistry that it has been quite sufficient to win for her the serious appreciation of the dance world.—*New York Times*.

IN America crime has been caused by periodic unemployment. —LUTHER SHEELIGH CRESSMAN in January *Review of Reviews*.