

INTERNATIONAL NEWS—BRAZIL AND SPAIN

The Demophilocratic Institute for Universal Peace, founded by the distinguished Brazilian author, Fernando Nobre, is established in São Paulo and has its contacts in New York, Paris, Rome and Rio de Janeiro. It addresses itself especially to leaders of opinion within the orbit of traditional culture; and, admitting the shortcomings for what is called democracy, it seeks to bring about in effect a revolution in prevailing conceptions of government, a creative, not destructive, revolution arising from the perception that politics is not a struggle for power, but "the science of foreseeing and providing for the needs of the people." The *Review* of the Institute, a handsome periodical printed in French, is circulated in many countries. With their March issue the editors enclosed a copy of the Declaration of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in either English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian or Danish, as the case might be, depending on the habitat of the respective recipient.

Writing in this issue, Dr. Nobre paid tribute to his friend, the late William G. Leon of the Henry George School in New York. In his last address to his pupils, Mr. Leon had affirmed that the work of Dr. Nobre could not be crowned with real success if the politico-social organization it sought was not based, from the economic point of view, on the doctrines proclaimed half a century ago by the great thinker, sociologist and philosopher Henry George." George's arguments, Dr. Nobre continues, "prove beyond refutation that the application of these doctrines leads towards the most nearly perfect conditions for human happiness." He quotes conclusions drawn from practical examples of their partial application in various countries and mentions a long list of names, especially from Spain and Latin America, of distinguished thinkers who have recognized the value of George's thinking. High praise is bestowed on *Terra e Liberdade*, the book with a preface by the Brazilian M.P. Rubens do Amaral, in which Americo Werneck admirably condenses and expounds the message of *Progress and Poverty*. After emphasizing George's teaching on Free Trade and its conflict with the régime of restrictions and state dependence which now oppresses the world, Dr. Nobre concludes his article with an excellent paraphrase of the Declaration and Resolution adopted by our two International Conferences in 1949 and 1952.

Another article in the *Review*, *Georgeism and Tax Reform*, is contributed by Luiz Silveira, a Vice-President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. In addition to his university functions, Professor Silveira is an eminent journalist and educationist; he has been Director of Public Works for the State of São Paulo and has represented Brazil at important international conferences.

"It can be said," affirms Professor Silveira, "that Georgeism is an immediate complement of Demophilocracy. These two systems are capable of giving to the people a government in which the best influences shall prevail, and in consequence the prosperity of the masses and the universal harmony of economic and social interests will follow."

At present, throughout the world, governments have exhausted every source of revenue in their efforts to supply the increasing expenses of States; and statesmen and financiers devise new forms of taxation which only add to the difficulty. In the United States of Brazil, for example, the

municipalities have imposed a tax on "industry and professions," although the Union and each State already have "business taxes," "consumption taxes" and "sales taxes," so that the same article is taxed many times over. In addition the customs and import duties not only raise the cost of living but "constitute veritable schools for defrauding the revenue" besides perverting the character of officials and people. From this fiscal chaos, tending always to check production, it is expected somehow to balance deficits, but "man has not been given the power to work miracles."

In contrast to the present method of taxation without principle, Professor Silveira points to the "single tax" as advocated by Henry George, a tax falling only upon the value of land apart from improvements and thus exempting all commodities and forms of industry, a tax which therefore reduces the cost of living; and as land value automatically rises with the growth of population, it consequently increasingly meets the need for more public services and enables governments to balance expenditure with revenue.

Professor Silveira refutes the charge often made that Henry George was a Socialist and explains how the Single Tax scrupulously respects private property and individual tenure of land. The public do not at present recognize that there is a scientific principle of taxation, just as there are scientific principles in mechanics and aeronautics. They forget that such a man as Thiers, the great French statesman, denied the possibility of steam locomotion, and that the pioneers of aviation were universally ridiculed. The vast majority in past times who derided the possibility of such scientific progress have been proved hopelessly mistaken. Nothing but ignorance prevents us to-day from applying a new and scientific system of taxation, a system the benefits of which have already been demonstrated even by a merely partial application in some countries. All that is required is study and goodwill.

Land reformers throughout the world will be encouraged by the evidence shown in this *Review* of the progress of their ideas in an international movement emanating from Brazil.

F. D. P.

A Lead From Spain

Plans are in hand for the production of a Spanish version of the new condensed edition of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* to be printed and published in Spain. We learn the welcome news of this enterprise from Mr. J. Paluzie-Borrell, of Barcelona, who, in a letter dated August, informs us that he has already completed the initial work of translation. A novel feature proposed for the Spanish edition is a glossary of those proper and common nouns used by George with which Spanish readers are not familiar, the compilation of which Mr. Paluzie-Borrell was engaged upon when he wrote. Consideration is being given also to the desirability of introducing and commending the book to the Spanish public by means of a specially written preface.

The successful press activity of the group in Spain continues. From our correspondent we learn that the Madrid weekly economic journal *Nueva Economía Nacional* has published recently in translation the text of the addresses delivered by Dr. Viggo Starcke at Odense last year and in London last February: "Our Daily Bread" and "The Two Opposing Social Philosophies"