

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fourth Henry George Congress

(Pittsburgh, 23rd-25th September, 1929)

The Conference held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation of the United States assembled according to programme at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, 23rd September. We quote from the Report issued for the Press by the Foundation, received as we go to press :—

Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, the three-day Henry George Memorial Congress was convened to-day at the William Penn Hotel under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation of America whose executive headquarters are in this city. The Convention was welcomed by Carl D. Smith, prominent Pittsburgh attorney. A brief address in response was made by Mrs Anna George De Mille, honorary vice president of the Henry George Foundation and daughter of Henry George.

The Convention brings together a distinguished group of Single Taxers from the United States and Canada; including delegates who attended the International Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and Peter Witt, Democratic leader of Ohio and probable candidate for Governor next year.

The Pittsburgh tax plan was explained by Thomas C. Mahaon, chief city assessor, who declared that after a fair trial he was convinced that the plan is a great aid in the promotion of progress but that the full effect of the plan will not have been attained until a fuller use is made of all the land within the city.

Honourable Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, discussing "The International Georgeist Movement," referred to the great progress made, in European countries particularly, in the publication of the philosophy and economics of Henry George.

His books, Mr Hennessy said, had been translated into most of the European languages, and were now influencing the public thought and political action as never before. This was particularly true, he said, in Denmark, where the Finance Minister, Mr Bramsnaes, is an outspoken follower of the American philosopher. Georgeist principles are taught in the Danish High Schools, and progressive and increasing taxation of land values and the demand for free trade are policies of the most numerous organized group of the Danish people—the small farmers.

In Great Britain, Mr Hennessy declared, Henry George's proposals had reached the arena of practical politics, and the Labour Party, now in power, is pledged to a beginning in the direction of destroying land monopoly, by progressive taxes and establishing world-wide freedom of trade. Philip Snowden, the popular Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Hennessy said, has recently publicly recommended a reading of George's classic *Protection or Free Trade*.

Peter Witt, former member of the City Council of Cleveland, speaking of the outstanding significance of the recent British Labour victory, declared that the land question is becoming the vital issue in British politics. Mr Witt has just returned from a tour of Europe on which he studied the British election campaign at close range. He sees in the Labour Party victory

not only an English Single Tax triumph, but also a material advancement of the world-wide Henry George cause.

Spencer M. De Golier, for twelve years mayor of Bradford, Pa., told of the rising favour toward the adoption of the Pittsburgh Graded Tax Law in the Pennsylvania cities of the Third Class. The League of Third Class Cities, meeting at New Castle, Pa., last summer, adopted Mayor De Golier's resolution endorsing the graded tax plan for the 42 Third Class Cities of Pennsylvania.

Denouncing the prostitution of the American Public schools and universities in the interests of private monopoly and exploitation, Emil O. Jorgensen of Chicago, secretary of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Federal Tax League, told of the winning fight being waged against text-books controlled by the power and landlord interests.

Free Trade and the taxation of the full value of the land was urged by Will Atkinson, son-in-law of Henry George and noted Single Tax crusader, as the solution of the great economic and social problems confronting America and the people of the whole world.

Professor John Dewey and a New Political Party

The *Times* of 10th September published the following interesting communication from its correspondent in New York :—

"With the avowed object of building up a new national political party comparable with the British Labour Party and equally opposed to Republicans and Democrats, representatives of 'progressive' opinion in the United States have formed a League for Independent Political Action, under the chairmanship of Professor John Dewey, of Columbia University. Mr James Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labour; Mr Paul H. Douglas, Professor of Industrial Relations at the University of Chicago; Mr De Vere Allen, editor of the *World To-morrow*; and Mr W. E. Dubois, the negro educator, are among the officials of the League.

"The founders of the new organization believe that the greatest political need of the United States to-day is a genuine and critical opposition party, since the Democrats are no longer distinguished from the Republicans by any fundamental economic issue and it is impossible to persuade either party machine to adopt any new progressive economic policy.

"The programme of the new movement includes the public ownership of public services, with special reference to the generation and transmission of power; the public ownership and democratic management of the coal industry; a high progressive taxation on incomes and land values; and high death duties. With regard to

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