

It appeared to us that a full statement of the development of the movement in Australia up to date might be valuable and encouraging to workers in the cause, in the U.K., Canada and U.S., even if it does not reach many outside this circle. I think you will be pleased to hear this.

I also took the opportunity last night of reading your letters to the Conference, and I can assure you that they were listened to with deep interest and admiration at the splendid fight you are putting up for the good cause. Particularly gratifying were the references to the gallant work of Mrs. Crompton Davies. Most inspiring is it to see a young married woman like Mrs. Davies devoting her energies to public work of this kind; would that we had a few such spirits among us here!

Many thanks for the various enclosures and pamphlets you have sent me, all of which are most welcome and will be digested in due course. I have not yet had time to read the report of Lloyd George's speech at the City Liberal Club, which you sent me. This is a treat in store. Apropos of your remark "no doubt it will only be reported in part in your papers" I am posting you separately the cabled reports (?) in the ARGUS and AGE of this speech, as well as of that of Bonar Law of a week earlier, to give you some idea of the wicked injustice served out in the Australian Press to the utterances of Liberal leaders, as compared with the prominence given to those of the Unionists. This case is a typical example and it applies to the Press all over Australia, as they draw all their cable messages through one central service in London. It is really a scandalous state of things and has had the effect of quite distorting the Australian mind as to the true position of the British political situation, because not only have we these garbled and meagre reports of Liberal speeches but a still more bitterly partisan spirit colours the weekly mail letter from the London correspondents of nearly all the leading Australian dailies. I wonder if the powers that be, among the Liberal Party, could do something to remedy this vicious state of things.

We all like McHugh immensely, and are deriving great benefit from his inexhaustible fund of knowledge and mastery of our question. He is a fine fellow, and I am sure his visit to us will do lasting good to the cause.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

From a letter from Mr. Huie, dated Sydney, 11th March, and from the STANDARD (the organ of the Sydney Single Tax League), we learn of his latest activities. Mr. Huie is Secretary of the Sydney Single Tax League, and the amount of work he gets through on behalf of the movement is inspiring. His latest campaign has been a series of five lecturing tours in the country districts around Sydney. Writing of the last trip he says:

"I was away for fifteen days on that occasion, addressed eleven meetings and had good reports in 17 or 18 papers. The five trips which I had enabled me to enrol 355 new subscribers to the STANDARD, besides getting a number of renewals. I sold £12 10s. worth of books and pamphlets, and altogether got an average report of about a column in sixty papers. The expenses were very moderate, as nearly all the meetings were held in the open air. I distributed over 30,000 leaflets myself. The audiences generally were good, and the work done was of a kind which I think should be constantly carried on. We ought to have a man at it all the time in the country districts."

Writing of the general situation in New South Wales, Mr. Huie says:—

"The Labour Party in State politics is doing nothing for us. It is likely that there will be a reaction, and a further term of Conservative rule. In fact, throughout the Commonwealth the Labour Party is becoming very unpopular. What it does in the direction of Land Values Taxation it does badly, and as far as the new State Government is concerned they have accomplished nothing. There is every prospect of the Labour Party being severely defeated at the next State Elections. I do not expect their successors will do much for us, so that the outlook, as far as State politics is concerned, is not very bright. What we have to do is to push on with the educational work, and make such a public opinion that parties generally will not be able to ignore it.

THE NEW CHINA AND LAND VALUES TAXATION.

In the OBSERVER (London) of 7th April, "Asiaticus" has a column article on "Socialism and the New China," in which he reports an interview at Shanghai with Sun Yat-Sen, the Chinese Reformer, from which we quote:—

Sun Yat-Sen, in an interview at Shanghai, has at last announced the reason of his retirement. "I have finished the political revolution," he says with premature confidence.

He now proposes to devote himself to inaugurating "the greatest social revolution in the world's history." With the full consent of the Government, he is to start his propaganda at once; and "the future policy of the Republic will be keen Socialism." Sun Yat-Sen declares that he is an ardent follower of Henry George, "whose ideas are practicable on the virgin soil of China." The railroads and the mines will be controlled by the Government. Henry George's single-tax system will be adopted, and Free Trade will be introduced—this is the first little qualification—"as far as possible." Here is surely an heroic programme.

There is very little doubt, from what Sun Yat-Sen says, that in a few weeks we shall behold China in a turmoil of Socialism and Henry Georgeism.

Then follows an account of how one Wang Ngan-Shi, a Chinese idealist of the 11th century, succeeded in instituting some sort of "Socialism." Land was annually allotted to farmers for cultivation, and a vast army of officials supervised and prescribed the character of their labours. Taxes were imposed on the rich, but the poor were exempt. Large fortunes were gradually destroyed. The sums thus accumulated by the State were distributed in old age pensions and in wages to workmen out of employment.

"Asiaticus" likens Sun Yat-Sen to Wang Ngan-Shi and predicts failure for the new policy as failure overtook the earlier policy.

What seems to be the correct report of the interview is reported in the PUBLIC (Chicago) of April 12th, and other reliable American papers. This is the PUBLIC's version of the interview:—

"I intend to devote my future to the promotion of the welfare of the Chinese people as a people. The teachings of your single taxer, Henry George, will be the basis of our program of reform. The land tax, as the only means of supporting the government, is an infinitely just, reasonable, and equitably distributed tax, and on it we will found our new system. The centuries of heavy and irregular taxation for the benefit of the Manchus have shown China the injustice of any other system of taxation. A single reasonable tax on the land will supply all the funds necessary to put China among the first of the civilised nations in political and economic advancement. We will embrace all of the teachings of Henry George and will include the ownership by the national government of all natural monopolies. No private interest will be allowed to tax and exploit the people through control of any material or service which is a necessity to life and happiness. These reforms China is certain to adopt, and under them we will grow into an industrious, peace-loving, prosperous people."

If Sun Yat-Sen is successful in establishing in China the Single Tax on Land Values he will put China at once in the front rank of advancing nations and make for himself an imperishable name. To the scoffer, the clever man in a hurry, with a hundred different schemes for a hundred detached-looking social problems, this, we are aware, will appear as fanaticism. But the Single Tax is only another name for economic freedom, without which no social problem can be solved. It is not an end in itself, but the means to an end. The Single Tax opens the door to human progress. It is liberty, and "where liberty rises there virtue grows, wealth increases, knowledge expands, invention multiplies

human powers, and in strength and spirit the freer nation rises among her neighbours as Saul amid his brethren—taller and fairer."

SWEDEN.

We learn from the PUBLIC (Chicago, U.S.A.), that Sweden has two new Single Tax papers. SNALLPOSTEN (The Fast Mail), a Gothenburg weekly, was taken over at the new year by Dr. Karl Elander, and turned into a Single Tax organ. Numbers at hand show it to be a lively one too. The other is an agricultural paper, ODLAREN (The Settler, or Clearer of Land), edited by A. L. Kilian, a leading Single Taxer, who proposes to treat the subject from the farmers' point of view. New Single Tax clubs are also springing up in different parts of the country.

DENMARK.

Mrs. Bjerne writes from Copenhagen (20th April):— We have been waiting for the results of the sample valuation, which have been promised us for some time. Now they have come, and we will be sending you a copy. I also enclose you a copy of POLITIKEN, in which you will find the comments of a leading Radical politician.

We are hoping that this sample valuation, which only proves that there is no difficulty in making a separate valuation of the land, will help us in passing a bill which is expected to be submitted by the Radicals, changing the tax on property to one on land values. According to their program the Radicals as a party are pledged to this measure and besides, to provide for a law by which all the increment accruing from this progress in taxation is to revert to the community or the State.

The new measure we expect will be to change the *duty taxes* to land values taxes. For that purpose we are going to work hard among the women. I send you some papers from which you will learn that we have succeeded in starting a Domestic Economy League, the first purpose of which is to investigate the amount of taxes paid on our food and clothing, with a view to discarding these indirect taxes. We have taken up the connection with about 50 papers who have pledged themselves to take all we send them. POLITIKEN has had favourable reports of the League and a large number of our leading "domestic economists," especially among the women, are joining up with us.

The land labourers at their congress on the 4th and 5th of this month, took a very strong position in favour of the land values tax. Like the Husmænd, they have made it the basis of their program. (I send you a copy of this program also.)

I believe you have been told of the Royal Commission on Rural Interests (Landbokkommissionen) which is sitting now. We have some very staunch supporters among the most influential of the Commissioners. The secretary of the Commission, who is to make out the report, has given much of his time to investigations concerning land values taxation and is a most reliable and efficient advocate of this

reform. We are very anxious to get permission to publish the report of this Commission as soon as possible, and expect it to be decidedly in our favour.

You see the movement is no longer limited to the society and to special advocates; there seems to be growth everywhere. To us who have worked at it for years it seems now only a question of time when the ideas of Henry George shall have conquered the legislation of this country. But of course, we must push on all the harder. The antagonism is yet to come and we must be prepared to fight "special interests" in this country as well as you are, though they may not be so strong here.

There seems to be unlimited numbers to fill the ranks. I believe that Dr. Starckes' training courses have done a great deal of good in calling forth new workers. In every league (there is now about eighty of them throughout the country) we have active helpers, people who are able to stand up for the cause and do platform work. I do not believe that any of the political parties have so many speakers as we have among our advocates.

SPAIN.

To at least one reader the most attractive feature of the IMPUESTO UNICO for April is an open letter by Mr. M. G. Oro to the President of the Chamber of Urban Property of Zaragoza. This naturally conservative body has considered the Single Tax idea, and the President appears to have preferred a "single receipt" as a better realisation of the proposals of Henry George, now grievously distorted by our Spanish Liga! The reform advocated is that of a current account with each ratepayer, including all the multiple taxes of Spain, and payable at intervals with a *single receipt*. There is a saving of several pieces of paper per annum! Jestings apart, it is of very great importance that a leading juriconsult of Aragon, Don M. Isábal, has brought our doctrine before such a Chamber in a serious treatise on land values; and that the Chamber decided to inquire if they could levy a Single Tax with a view to multiply and subdivide holdings. New Zealand experience is justly quoted as to the stimulus to town property given by untaxing industry, unreliable as New Zealand Liberalism has proved itself. A perfect reply to an ill-taught leading journalist, who said in the MADRID HERALD that Henry George was a second Marx, is given by a full translation of George's last article on the Labour Battle.

There are interesting notes on a project to lay waste a large section of Andalusia for hunting. (The Spaniards appear to be nearly as meek as the Scots in this.) Also details of the places of entertainment in Valencia, closed by high rates on structure values, following reduction of food taxes. Facts as to site values in Madrid, now inadequately or not at all taxed, as proved by recent sales. A good supply of foreign news, perhaps the best being a clear and short statement as to new methods of valuation in Germany. Japan also seems to get well into line, urban lands have been revalued after half a century—a useful first step.

M. J. S.

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