

tax on land values "will raise an appetite which grows with the tax on which it is fed" and demonstrate how unnecessary are most of the remedies which Socialistic Laborites, under a misconception of the root trouble, are now advocating.

During the past few months the United Committee of the League has held a series of highly successful conferences in different parts of the country, and at all of them resolutions have been passed urging the Government to provide for the taxation of land values in the next Budget.

Many very large meetings have also been carried through, the various audiences showing marked approval of our proposals. Speakers on this subject are becoming more and more in demand, and some of them are having to do a tremendous amount of hard work; in fact nothing short of whole-souled enthusiasm would prompt them to undertake it. In two months our Publication Department turned out 50,000 pamphlets and 100,000 leaflets. Our Press Bureau, for which we are indebted to Mr. Fels, but which is controlled by Mr. John Orr, is doing splendid work in supplying articles on the various aspects of our question to no less than 140 newspapers and periodicals, so that you will perceive we are reaching a tremendous number of readers. In addition to all this, Mr. Dundas White, M. P., and Mr. R. L. Outwaite have had excellent series of articles in the *Daily News*, and the *Morning Leader* is now inserting a similar series from the pen of Mr. Wedgwood, M. P. The *Daily Chronicle* has for weeks been advocating a tax of 1d. in the £ on the capital value of all land to be included in the ensuing Budget. Its articles being now finished they have been arranged in the form of a pamphlet, a copy of which I have sent you under separate cover. Several very influential Provincial papers such as the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Yorkshire Daily Observer* are supporting us strongly, and while this is the case I am pleased to say the opposition papers have begun to oppose in real earnest, thus proving that our campaign can no longer be ignored. In the second issue of the *Anti-Socialist* Mr. Harold Cox of Free Trade renown, but now a bitter opponent of the taxation of land values says, "Although there is no

mention of any scheme for taxing land values in the King's Speech, it is possible that the Government may be contemplating some steps in this direction in connection with the forthcoming Budget." Anyhow, that is the hope of a large section of the Liberal Party and of many people outside it. The Socialists would welcome it, no doubt, as they regard it, erroneously of course, as the first step towards the general confiscation of capital (land, to them, being included in the term), but let us once secure it and Socialism and many other isms will soon be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things.

Within a few days, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will introduce his Budget and we shall then know of what sort of stuff the Government is made. Our Leagues, the United Committee, and the members of Parliament who are with us are doing their utmost to point out the importance of immediately making a start on the lines of real progress.

* * *

Since writing the foregoing the much looked for Budget has been brought in, and although in many respects disappointing, it makes a start on our lines, a very little one to be sure, but a start all the same. It is too early for fuller comment as the merest outline only is to hand. However a tax of 1/2d. per £1 of capital value of undeveloped land is proposed, and mineral royalties and mining opportunities are also to be dealt with. The most I can say, however, at present is that the thin end of the Single Tax wedge has at last been inserted. May it soon be hammered home.

F. SKIRROW.

YORKSHIRE, Eng.

FRANCE.

FRANCE MAKING ADVANCES—TAKES OVER THE WESTERN RAILROAD—CLEMENCEAU AND OLD AGE PENSIONS—LAND VALUE TAXATION IN SIGHT.

France along about 1799, eleven decades ago, laid claim to a man who was for men. Thomas Paine, the author-hero of the American revolution, the man who gave

us the immortal Rights of Man—introduced a measure in the French Chamber of Deputies, of which body he was then a member, which proposed the very thing upon which the Clemenceau government has staked its existence today, along the lines of co-operative distribution by or through the government. Paine proposed an old-age pension and told his colleagues how it could be provided for with ease and certainty.

It was proposed to tax incomes on a sliding scale that would make the man who owns a great deal pay as much proportionately for the privilege of citizenship as the poor man who owns but little.

When Paine introduced his measure before the Legislature he said: "Every proprietor, therefore, of land owes to the community a ground rent, this ground rent to build up a fund for this pension."

Verily the world is moving, and although progress is slow, it is as certain as death itself. Paine discovered, along with Patrick Dove, Henry George and Clemenceau that the land is the treasure-house of the nation, reliable and inexhaustible.

France will lead in this old-age pension reform along the lines of co-operative distribution through the government.

As the world grows older and men learn to think more clearly and intelligently, the conviction becomes more marked that we are each our brother's keeper. This thought is the main spring, the fundamental principle behind the pensioning of aged people.

Premier M. Clemenceu is again elected for nine years. Certain pledges have been made. The holders of swollen fortunes gained through monopoly and privilege are at their wits end to prevent the French people from regaining what belongs to them. Not only are they alarmed at M. Clemenceu's intention to tax incomes, but they fear he will lay violent hands upon the unearned increment that has come to them so generously through the non-taxation of land values. Slow are the processes of evolution, yet how certain are they in development.

France is at the present time making a gradual absorption of all means of transportation and distribution by the people.

The Government has taken over the Western France Railroad. In doing this the people of France now own co-operatively, among themselves, a road that will now be used for their entire benefit. The French people are demanding co-operation, income tax, old-age pension, public ownership, land value tax and economic freedom.

LOUIS L. LEYH.

GERMANY.

THE SINGLE TAXERS OF THE EMPIRE IN CONFERENCE—DELEGATES FROM MANY CITIES BRING INSPIRING NEWS—W. R. LESTER, OF THE ENGLISH LEAGUE, IN ATTENDANCE.

The German Single Taxers held their 19th annual reunion on the 12th to 14th of April in Nurnberg, Bavaria, at the elegant hall of the Society of Culture and Industry on the evening of the 12th, Dr. Quidde presiding.

The presiding officer in his address of welcome emphasized the fact that he was the first Single Tax member in Bavaria and that he stood many years alone excepting for a few friends, without leaving his post, before new recruits were added.

Teacher Weiskopf greeted the delegates in behalf of the local Single Taxers of Nurnberg.

Prof. Feucht, of Wurtemberg, brought the greetings of the Single Taxers of his State.

Prof. Dr. Erman-Munster expressed the hope that in 50 years hence the truth we are now proclaiming will be universally recognized.

Exelence Oldekop said that in his home city Hanover (which is also my home town), Single Tax is steadily progressing.

Director Lambke brought greeting from Holstein.

Miss Katharina Zietelmann spoke in the name of Single Tax women and said that no great truth could be attained without the effort of women.

Damaschke spoke in the name of the officers of the Berlin Single Tax Society and reminded the meeting that only by persistence can we attain our end.