

to those of our friends who think that they must have a complete scheme of reform for all questions of economic philosophy. No greater mistake can be made. To attach the Single Tax to any other idea, however sound and useful, will not strengthen, it will weaken our cause. Single Tax is so big a thing that it demands an undivided interest. Society cannot be treated as a machine gone out of order, to be reconstructed after a complete and infallible scheme of reform. Society is a living thing, and the questions which agitate society are not to be solved by statistics and theories, but by love and life. We do not know what will be the destiny of the human family. Therefore it is useless to think out a plan on which it shall work for ever. We need not care for everything. We only need to oppose those tendencies that lead to death and destruction, and to help these that lead to a higher and nobler life. All good things will help each other. But to confuse them is dangerous and can only result in weakness and inefficiency. It seems sometimes that this truth is overlooked by many of our friends.

GUSTAVE BÜSCHER.

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#### HENRY GEORGE *BLADETSAMVIRKE*

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The Henry George Journal Co-operation for Intellectual, Economical, and Political Freedom, Copenhagen, January 5, 1908, No. 1, Second Year.

The Single Taxers in Denmark have been remarkably active for a few years past. The agitation for a rational system of taxation carried on there has been pushed with great enthusiasm by the friends of the philosophy of Henry George; and it may safely be said that, in general, the truth is accepted there in a far greater measure by various classes of the community than is the case in the United States.

The little journal mentioned above is, in a measure, the organ of the Single Tax cause in Denmark. The issue under review contains some interesting matter, and indicates how closely our Danish friends follow the development of rational political

action all over the world. The leading article is not original with the editor; but it is none the less the best leading article, we may safely say, that could have been presented. It is entitled *Opgaven* (the Problem), and contains the latter part of the introduction to *Progress and Poverty*. It is accompanied by a half-tone portrait of Henry George.

An interesting article deals with the condition of farm laborers in Denmark, showing how the large estates are paying wages that hardly permit of even a bare subsistence. Another article dealing with the Land reform question in England is written with exceptionally clear insight into the matter treated. It is in particular pointed out that the Small Holdings Act, which has been before the present parliament, is by no means a Single Tax measure, nor have the land value taxation advocates in England been responsible in the least degree for the propositions of the Small Holdings Act. It is pointed out as well that it is of no great consequence under an equitable taxation system whether holdings be large or small, and that the Single Tax does not propose to limit holdings of land or natural resources by any arbitrary or artificial measure; but the Single Tax does propose to limit holdings by the action of natural law, and by applying the supreme test to the right of possession. This test is that of *use*.

The following statement in the same article is of great interest: "Henry George's platform is no infringement, neither of the right to own land nor of the right to occupy land. It is only an assertion of the true conservative idea that each pay a tax in proportion to the special privileges the community confers upon him—and these special privileges concentrate themselves and manifest themselves in land values—more especially so in large cities. And this taxation is \* \* \* only a natural and legal limitation to the rights of property, without which, as a matter of fact, property rights could not exist."

An interesting little note in the journal refers to the fact that in certain Danish communities, where harbor improvements are required, petitions have been filed with the government by the property owners

for the carrying out of this improvement, and the petitions are accompanied by *offers from the property owners to cover the expense for the improvements by a tax on land values*. Another interesting question is brought up by a writer on protection versus free trade. He shows that under present taxation systems, the great industrial activity which would result from a free trade policy would, after all, only benefit the land monopoly, the same as do, ultimately, all other improvements, and all progress under our present absurd tax policy.

That the Danish Single Taxers follow our actions in this country with interest is evidenced by the fact that Tom L. Johnson's re-election is referred to. It may be that the full importance of this re-election is not as yet fully apparent, or, at least, not fully appreciated; but it *may* carry with it important consequences for the Single Tax movement all over the world.

ERIK OBERG.

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\* A PLAIN, UNVARNISHED TALE.

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Single Tax conference here in November last will recall a middle aged, strong faced man known to but few of those in attendance who delivered an earnest plea to table a resolution committing the body to a definite declaration in favor of free trade. Announcing himself as a convinced free trader he nevertheless asked that the conference refrain—as he expressed it—from shutting the door against protectionists who might be induced by our arguments to join with us in freeing the land. Twice he obtained the floor, and in spite of universal dissent held the attention of the assemblage while he pled with the conference to exclude any reference to the tariff. As most of our readers know—and as was inevitable in a Single Tax gathering—his views met with no support. But the presence of a

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\* The Disinherited—Observations in Travel, by George Wallace, 12 mo. cloth, 215 pp. J. S. Ogilvie Co. N. Y. City.

new and strong figure in our movement was recognized. The member's name was George Wallace.

Before us is a volume of sketches from his pen, "Observations in Travel." A hasty glance at these might delude the reader into imagining that they are nothing more than ordinary newspaper sketches of the amateur itinerant who writes home to his country newspaper for the delectation of admiring relatives. A further glance at the form of these letters and their almost clerkly precision and simplicity might even confirm this impression. But a closer examination will reveal that this simplicity is the very perfection of purpose. Mr. Wallace says on page 117: "My aim in writing was to use simple language and make the observations and suggestions so clear in expression that those who might care to read them could not fail to understand."

The underlying thought of this book of some two hundred pages is familiar to us. But we must remember that they are still new and strange to the vast majority of the men and women of our time.

We have space for but one quotation from the book:

"It does not help the common people or relieve their distress to change a monarchy into a republic and forbid the granting of titles of nobility, if the abuses connected with the old aristocracy are still encouraged and continued. If the descendants of the nobility are permitted to monopolize the land as their fathers did, which monopoly causes most of the poverty in any country, it matters but little whether the government be monarchical or republican in name. It is special privilege—the denial of equal opportunity to all—which makes poverty and distress so common among the people."

This book should be useful. We may take occasion to make further quotations from time to time.

J. D. M.

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THE latest fad of gilded youths is the carrying of ballroom pedometers so that they can inform their partners how great a distance they have covered in each dance.