

and one of the forms in which it is best known to all of us is the saying that "there is no royal road to knowledge."

As long as rent remains private property by law, every increase in rent makes life harder and more barren for every one, rich and poor alike; but as soon as our laws recognize that rent is the social value created by all of us together in spite of anything that we can do, and therefore is our natural automatic public revenue (since it is the only social value there is) and as soon as our laws require that every exclusive occupant of any portion of the earth shall compensate all others who have relinquished their equal right, by paying into the public treasury the value of his exclusive privilege, which is rent, a greater fund for the common use becomes available, and so under these circumstances, the inevitable increase of rent benefits everyone.

He maintained that economic science is the most important subject and its study is, next to keeping ourselves alive somehow, as honestly as our present laws permit, the first duty of us all because everything that would normally improve human conditions tends to raise rent, the use value of bare land. This fact is true whether the improvement is in personal qualities such as knowledge, skill, industry, endurance, responsibility, or whether the improvement is in the equipment and methods involved in production and transportation of wealth, or in communication.

Concluding, Mr. Tracy said that the present gathering was for the purpose of hearing from some who had been in personal attendance at two important events in the progress of organized effort to stimulate public interest in economic thought. The first of these events was the Third International Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade at Copenhagen, Denmark, last July. The second was the Henry George Congress, in Philadelphia, last September.

SPEECH OF MISS SCHETTER

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening, to meet old friends, to welcome strangers to the Commonwealth Land Party, and to tell you of my experiences at Copenhagen.

I shall speak only of a few aspects of the Conference, and advise all who have not already done so to read the full accounts in *LAND AND FREEDOM*, *Land and Liberty* and *The Commonweal*. It was delightful to travel by sea and land to Denmark, to which Single Taxers have looked hopefully in recent years as the country most advanced toward economic justice. Certainly it is the country where the name and philosophy of Henry George are most widely known and appreciated.

It was inspiring to meet in the Joint Sessions Hall of the beautiful Parliament House the delegates from seventeen different countries. Every preparation for their reception and comfort had been carefully planned, a work in-

volving weeks and months of labor on the part of the English and Danish conveners of the conference. The Danish authorities as well as the people gave us the warmest welcome and we were delightfully entertained in some of the Danish homes.

It was gratifying to have an American chosen as chairman of the conference, an office Mr. Hennessy filled with ability and unflinching tact.

Having been in Europe for ten months, I rejoiced to meet American friends, and felt very proud to be remembered and greeted by Mr. Hennessy whom I had rarely met since the years when we labored for legislature tax reform at Trenton.

The Danish Parliament has shown itself in sympathy with progressive economic measures, and the remarkable teacher Grundvig in founding the Folks High Schools (where people of all ages are able to study in the intervals of their work) prepared the whole peasant and working class for the acceptance of progressive action.

As Miss Colbron knows intimately the Danish land and people, she can give you a better account of the economic situation there than I can; therefore although I could talk at length of the impressive outdoor meetings in Copenhagen as well as the interesting trips to Elsinore and other places, I will turn to a matter very near my heart.

In Europe, as elsewhere, Single Taxers were true to form, absolutely agreed as to their goal, but differing widely as to the best method of converting the world to this truth. The bond which unites all followers of Henry George seems to me so strong and precious, I can never feel that differences in methods to attain our goal can weaken this bond of fellowship.

Before going to Denmark I spent six weeks in England and was delighted to find in both countries sympathizers with the Commonwealth Land Party of which I have been a member for some years. I also visited the headquarters of the United Committee in London. Mr. Paul gave me a very kind reception and I conceived a great admiration and liking for him, although he strove in vain to draw me away from the Commonwealth Land Party.

It seemed to me that the conveners of the conference feared that any discussion of the different methods of working for our cause would give an impression of disunion to the outside world; and I believe that the effort to ignore our group in the sessions, which seemed to us unfair, was really the result of conscientious convictions.

Great changes have taken place since I was present at the yearly meetings of the United Committee in London in 1903 and 1904. Leading democratic governments, as England and the United States, are adopting ever more and more socialistic methods to remedy the results of injustice; while countries that had had liberal representative institutions are now ruled by dictators. While Europeans really believe that all Americans are prosperous and many of our own fellow citizens have abandoned welfare work

on account of the general prosperity, we know that the powers of monopoly wield a greater power here than ever before, and that if political democracy is to endure we must achieve economic democracy as well.

The present situation seems to me to call for a new crusade which will boldly raise the banner of economic justice at the polls, where it will receive wider attention than by any other method.

Therefore, although I am interested in and sympathetic with all sincere efforts for our cause, I returned home more in favor of the Commonwealth Land Party than ever.

SPEECH OF JOSEPH DANA MILLER

Mr. Miller reviewed his impressions of the three inspiring days at the Henry George Congress in Philadelphia. He spoke of the fine spirit of harmony that prevailed there and the many admirable speeches delivered. He paid a high tribute to the men who had called the Congress together.

He said, "Of course we will continue to differ as to methods. Individuals will prefer to work in their own way, and groups will amalgamate for the work which seems to them the most practicable or the most important at the minute. That is inevitable. But it may be done without discord and with that personal affection that should exist between men and women animated by a common aim in so great a cause."

Mr. Miller pointed out that Robert Schalkenbach, with the cooperation of Frederic Lebuscher, selected as the board of trustees to administer the fund for Single Tax work men of various shades of Single Tax opinion. "And," said Mr. Miller, "I violate no confidence in saying that despite differences of opinion we are getting along very nicely. We are working out our agreements."

Mr. Miller paid a tribute to the late Robert Schalkenbach and asked that his spirit of love and gentleness continue to animate our labors. In conclusion he said, "I plead for the broadest spirit of toleration in the work that lies before us."

SPEECH OF ROBERT C. MACAULEY

Mr. Macauley made a vigorous presentation of the Single Tax. He reiterated his faith in independent political party activity but spoke tolerantly of those who differed with him. He said this might seem strange coming from Bob Macauley, for he had inherited a fighting instinct from his Irish ancestry. But he was going to do his own work in his own way, and not bother about the other fellow and the work he was doing.

Few men have the ability to present our cause more forcibly than Robert C. Macauley, and his speech on this occasion was well received. It was not thrown away, for there were a number of non-Single Taxers in the audience, some of whom heard the militant expression of our principles for the first time.

SPEECH OF GRACE ISABEL COLBRON

Miss Colbron said that she would tell little of the Conference itself as that had been taken care of by others. But she would prefer to take the time to tell of important developments along economic lines which made Denmark a peculiarly fitting place for this Conference. Denmark, Miss Colbron said (and she speaks from thorough knowledge of that country) takes its Henry George straight. There has been no dallying with the idea of land nationalization or communalization, a pet theory of some Single Taxers in England and Germany for instance. Even when Denmark got the land back to the farmer and set him on his feet by making farming pay, there was no talk of land nationalization. It was a business proposition entirely. The Government bought land (landlord compensation, of course, but that was some years ago) and sold it to the farmers on easy terms.

Now that the Danish farmer, in the overwhelming majority, is a free man on his own land, he knows that if he still has some economic troubles "land nationalization" isn't going to help. He looks about for another cause and another remedy. And the Danish "small-holders," farmers working anywhere from five to fifteen acres of land, form the great majority of "Georgists" in Denmark. He is an individualist, this Danish farmer. He comes of a race of sea-rovers, and the sea-rover, the pioneer, is the man who goes it alone. His splendid team-work in the Co-operatives has not been handed out to him by a paternalistic government. He found the idea himself, as the best way to run his business. So that, with such a people back of them, even the half-way measures now going through the legislature in the matter of taking land value taxes for local needs, can be of importance as the opening wedge to better things.

The Georgist movement in Denmark, from the composition of its adherents, and from the nature of the people, is of the greatest possible value to the movement everywhere. Miss Colbron said that, to her mind, Denmark would be the ideal center of any movement for an International Union, as the Danes are the only really internationally-minded people she knows. They have no imperialistic ambitions and they are setting the whole world an example of sane nationalism which means merely setting one's own house in order while keeping an open mind for whatever the rest of the world has to offer.

SPEECH OF LE BARON GOELLER.

"I like the idea of taking a text for my talk, and I find that the ministers have an excellent reason for selecting a text for a sermon, as it concentrates the attention on the one thought to be put forward.

"I take my text from the Gospel of Single Tax, according to Croasdale, 'A Single Taxer is one who does something for the Single Tax.'