

NEWS—FOREIGN

Argentine

THAT our Argentine Single Taxers are awake to the opportunities presented by political action is evidenced by a letter received from C. Villabos Dominguez, who writes to the REVIEW:

"I have much pleasure in advising you that we have formed in this city the 'Georgist Liberal Party,' with the object of putting into practice in this Republic the great principles of Henry George in their most out-and-out form. We note that our seed, only recently scattered broadcast, has already begun to take root all over the country.

Our Manifesto, Statutes and other printed matter, which we send you herewith, will give you sufficient information as to our activities, and we beg of you to communicate same to your readers.

We are very shortly to edit a fortnightly periodical, the official organ of our party, which we shall have much pleasure in sending you regularly in exchange."

Single Tax Before The League Of Nations. An Argentine Initiative.

THE honors of perhaps the most practical financial proposal for the rehabilitation of Europe belong to the Argentine. In its issue of Oct. 3, 1921, the *Journal de Geneve* gives the following details, which will be read with interest by every Single Taxer:

"Mr. F. Lodi, president of the Argentine Association for the League of Nations, whom we interviewed yesterday, handed us the following note which he has submitted for consideration to the General Secretary of the League. It refers to the proposal of an international financial institute for the aid of Russia, a proposition to be presented to the Brussels conference which is to take up the Russian problem. Its provisions are (in part):

"To arrange an agreement between the Russian Government and an international group of financiers. The latter would take charge of the external and internal debt of the Russian State under a mortgage guarantee in the public ownership of the national lands and properties of the State. The financial group would have the right to establish a tax on the value of the land, apart from improvements, whether of the State or of private property.

"This organization alone would have the power to fix and collect the taxes. Buildings, trade, industry and imported and exported goods would be tax exempt.

"The Russian Government would undertake to maintain freedom of trade and the free exploitation of pastoral, agricultural, forest and mineral lands, as well as freedom of labor, while respecting the laws passed at the last conference at Washington, which are registered in the International Bureau of Labor of the League of Nations.

"As only a single tax on the amount of the bare land value is proposed, it will be assessed and collected by each municipality, and the percentage to be distributed between

the municipality and the State would then be adjusted. It is understood that the share going to the State must cover the amount of interest due to the creditors represented by the international financial group. As the situation improves, measures would be taken for the gradual amortization of the State debt.

"The international institute would regulate the emission and the amount of paper money in circulation. The basis for its value could be fixed on the total value of the Russian territory; but for the moment, the legal national currency would have values corresponding to the gold franc, the dollar or the pound Sterling."

The Argentine proposal, which is to be considered at the Brussels conference, has no doubt in view, besides the interests of Russia's creditors, the economic, fiscal and monetary rehabilitation of the Russian people. Most of Europe is badly in need of the same treatment.

Bulgaria

THE sole aim of the Bulgarian Single Tax Association bearing the name "Fund Henry George," hitherto has been to educate the people. Now as land values increase and the vacant lot industry flourishes, there has followed a general housing shortage.

It is true the politicians are suggesting measures of amelioration, but they do not hint at heavier taxation of idle land. That idle land may be taxed into use is not yet a truth obvious enough to induce them to propose such a measure of relief. The Agrarians and the Radicals, though showing a slight interest in the question, hesitate to avow the real remedy.

The government is now proposing a bill by virtue of which no one shall be entitled to own more than 30 acres. A proposal to indemnify the landlords is embodied in the measure. Most of these awaiting higher prices hold their land altogether out of use.

It is curious how little the people remember how private property in land grew up in Bulgaria. Forty years ago, following the liberation in 1878, land was largely held as common property. The Community disposed of land in and around the city. Community land began to be looked upon as real estate to be sold so as to bring in revenue. Friends of the government bought much of this land at very low prices. These landlords thus created now demand indemnification for the land that is now needed. Perhaps they will get it.

I need not say that Bulgarian Single Taxers will do their duty. The question is how to get nearer to the taxation of land values. Should we refrain from political agitation? I do not think so. I think we should rather follow the encouraging example of our Single Tax brethren in the United States.

Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

BOYAN BOTUSHAROFF.

IT IS easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The landlord's heaven is the first of the month.—H. M. H.