

"Whereas, great hardship is thereby being imposed upon actual settlers by reason of the difficulty in arranging for boundary fences for protection and in the making of provision for schools, roads, and proper community life in general,

"Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario government be requested to enact legislation under which such idle lands shall be made subject to a surtax and the necessary costs of boundary fencing for protection, etc., charged against same in the year's tax bill."

Resolutions reported in the *Farmers' Sun* of Dec. 18, 1920, as having been passed by the Convention of the United Farmers of Ontario held the same month.

The Hon. T. A. Crerar is a well-known Single Taxer and may be trusted to do in the federal government sphere quite as definite progressive work in taxation as has already been accomplished by Mr. E. C. Drury as Premier of Ontario.

The idea that the farmer has a special affection and tenderness for idle and speculative land holdings does not seem to be borne out by the second resolution. They seem rather to be his special aversion, against which he is learning to apply the fiscal weapon.

Georgian Single Taxers Join Hands With Mexican Reformers

SOUTH American Single Taxers, whose continental programme of economic education is being so ably directed by the South American Single Tax Committee, are to be congratulated upon a remarkable Mexican initiative which has just come to our notice.

One of the economic works published by that Committee and circulated throughout South America is Dr. Andres Lamas' book, "The Agrarian Legislation of Bernardino Rivadavia." This little book, which we have before called the "Progress and Poverty" of South America, was written about 1880, apparently without the author's acquaintance with the works of Henry George. It describes and defends the reform introduced by Bernardino Rivadavia, Argentine's first President, by which the title to land was nationalized, the right to individual possession being held under a perpetually renewable lease. The improvements remained the absolute property of the leaseholder, and had to be recognized in any involuntary transfer of the lease. The terms of the land lease were to be readjusted every ten years on a new valuation.

The economic principle embodied in Rivadavia's agrarian legislation was the same as that at the base of George's philosophy, namely, that the land by right belonged to all men, while values of their own creation belonged to the individual producers. The difference lay in the means employed to put the principle into practice. Rivadavia chose the perpetual, renewable, transferable lease; while George chose the Single Tax—each in a different way collecting

community values for the use and benefit of the community. Rivadavia looked for the early abolition of all taxes and the maintenance of government on the revenue from his land-leasing system.

Readers of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* know that, shortly after his leasehold system became law, a counter-revolution originated by the Catholic Party in the young Republic drove Rivadavia into exile, his agrarian law being immediately annulled by his successor and the public lands squandered recklessly among adventurers.

The Rivadavian and Georgian programmes are branches from the same physiocratic trunk. George found his discovery anticipated in Paris. Rivadavia was educated there, and planned his economic revolution in correspondence with advanced French thinkers.

Under the circumstances, it is but natural that the Argentines and, with them, all Latin-Americans, feel that in the Rivadavia agrarian reform they have an economic revolution distinctively their own, identified with their own history and therefore, peculiarly suitable as the rallying point for economic reform in all Latin America.

It must not, therefore, surprise us that a distinguished Mexican intellectual, Dr. Ramon de Negri, Consul-General of Mexico here, has printed and circulated in Mexico a special edition of fifty thousand copies of Dr. Lamas' work, and is soon to issue another edition of the same number.

In Mexico, as is now pretty generally known, the land question was the motive force of the late revolution. It is also, and necessarily, the fundamental issue of Mexico's legislation. In such an environment, Dr. Lamas' book will be widely read and deeply pondered.

We venture to suggest, however, that the Georgian solution will reach the same objective with less friction, both at home and abroad, and deserves the serious consideration of Mexican statesmen at the present time.

Germany

THE Single Tax movement in Germany faces today the hour of decision which confronted Socialism at the end of 1918. Overnight the latter had seized political mastery. It could have realized its programme. It should have created the new empire which it was preaching to the masses for a whole generation.

"But Socialism failed because the conditions were not ripe for it, much less the people.

"The Single Tax, too, has promised: "The delivery out of social distress." It too has gained followers, many of whom cling to its teachings with all the might of conviction. Single Tax, too, has become a power through revolution.

"Now it is up to the movement to demonstrate what it is able to do. If it does not produce any results now, it will lose many people who believed in it. They will turn away from the Single Tax as many have turned away from Socialism.

"Whither the current flows then, nobody knows, but most likely toward an extreme.

"Single Tax has the advantage over Socialism in that its aim is more limited and more easily attained, that the conditions in Germany are ripe for it (yes, more than ripe) and last but not least, that all social reform must start with the right to the soil if it does not want to renounce from the outset half of its potentialities.

"The question is only whether the people are ripe for it, whether the masses recognize what is needed and carry that conviction to victory."

Thus the *Neue Badische Landeszeitung*, an influential daily newspaper published in Mannheim, Germany, expresses itself on Sept. 28, 1920, seriously voicing the opinion that the Single Tax is the only tangible theory in Germany today which shows courageously and convincingly a clear way out of the terrible misery and confusion that is terrorizing a once powerful nation. Its economic system has collapsed and now they are standing in front of its ruins, blaming each other for their downfall.

A tremendous amount of energy—so badly needed for reconstruction—is wasted in hateful personal and factional controversy, while the nation as a whole is literally starving to death.

Now that the people are at their wits' ends the Single Tax—which until recently was only a secondary movement fostered here and there by some solitary intellect or a few scattered groups of reformers and parlor-theorists—has developed into a mighty factor, ready to create a new economic system.

The 25th yearly convention of the Single Tax Society took place at Hamburg from Sept. 25 to 28, 1920, and proved to be a great success.

Fifteen hundred people from all parts of the empire participated and showed how deeply the Single Tax idea is rooted in the hearts of thinking human beings.

Many representatives of communities and States-departments added through their presence to the significance of the event, and a great number of German newspapers—like the above mentioned *Neue Badische Landeszeitung*—hailed the convention as the most important stepping-stone in the political and economical history of the nation. They warmly praised the admirable work done by the Single Taxers, especially that of Adolph Damaschke, the famous leader.

The *Hannoversche Courier*, commenting upon the conference says: "There were about 1,500 people from all parts of Germany, representatives of numerous State-departments and communities, members of all political parties, men of all trades and professions. The convention showed that the Single Tax idea is deeply rooted in the hearts of the German people and is going to be a powerful popular movement which will without doubt reach its goal in the course of time."

Prof. Kuno Franck in a recent issue of the *Nation* of this city, called attention to the Single Tax movement in Germany as most virile and promising.

Public Ownership Brings Hardship to New Zealand by Increasing Land Values

[Address at dinner, opening the campaign for Single Tax Amendment Number Twenty in San Francisco, by Herbert Atkinson, of New Zealand.]

THE Dominion of New Zealand has been of great interest to the social student in that, for many years, New Zealand led the way in what is called "Progressive Legislation." New Zealand has made great strides in State and municipal Socialism. The list of enterprises in which the government engages is truly formidable. In addition to the usual government departments controlling the Army, Navy and Justice, the government of New Zealand controls the police force.

The government owns and operates the railroads, doing all repair work in its own workshops. The government owns and operates coal mines, competing in the market with the output of privately-owned mines. The government runs a fire and life insurance department and competes with private insurance companies—in fact, the government insurance department regulates the price of the premiums of the competing companies, so that they cannot charge more than the State office, or they would get no business. The government has a department called the Public Trust Office, which department does a lot of legal work; so a man can make his will and make the Public Trust Department his executor. The Public Trustee will draw up the will for you, put it in the Public Trust safe and run the estate for the heirs of the man when he is dead. The government manages a good system of public primary schools, free, secular and compulsory. There are also good secondary or technical schools and a State-endowed University. The State also undertakes the whole work of the Post Office and telegraph and telephone service; also, the wireless and cable stations. The government also has a Public Works Department and constructs public buildings, roads and bridges.

The government owns several experimental farms and a chemical laboratory for test work and analysis. The State owns and runs several good hospitals and four excellent maternity homes are operated at a very low fee per patient. There is a good system of old age pensions and a savings bank department attached to the Post Office.

The State advances to workers and settlers; assists the worker to buy land and a house to live in, and the would-be settler to buy land whereon he can farm.

The government runs a special Arbitration Court, in charge of a Supreme Judge, to attempt to settle labor disputes and to fix wages in all industries.

The municipalities vie with the State in the collective control of various enterprises—street car services, city water supplies, city baths, municipal milkmen, street making, drainage schemes; gas and electric light and power