

Land to be leased in open competition to private individuals for a life period, or to collective entities, for a limited term.

2. *Absolute Free Trade*, internal and external.
3. *The Contracting of Public Debts* to be prohibited.

An Important Declaration

THE Argentine Association for the League of Nations in Article 2 of its Statutes, declares for

"The doctrine of Moral law, the sovereignty of free nations, the emancipation of those who are oppressed, the abolition of arbitrary force, and the organization of Europe and of the whole world into an association for the relief of the suffering, and for the enlightenment of mankind"

And further says:

"The Argentine Association for the League of Nations favors the constitution of democratic and parliamentary governments emanating from the free will of the peoples and principles which safeguard and sustain the collective and mutual interests of the community, as e. g. (A) 'Single Tax,' (B) 'Free Trade,' (C) 'Solution of the Social Problems affecting Capital and Labor,' (D) 'Stability of money Exchange based upon the value of the land in each State,' (E) 'The settlement of all disputes that can arise between men, for the maintenance of universal harmony.'"

Germany

BRUETTELBRUNT, Bavaria, is one of the most happily situated towns in the world, for here no taxes are collected. During the Winter season every man finds employment in the communal forest; no taxes are imposed, and this year every citizen received two thousand marks, his share of the surplus after all the running expenses of the town government are paid for out of the receipts from the sale of lumber from the municipally-owned forest.

In Kesselostheim, every freeholder receives from the communal forest yearly two cords of firewood and four hundred marks cash, with no taxes to pay, since here, too, all the expenses of government are met from the sales of lumber cut by the freeholders.

Some locals of the Bund Deutcher Boden Reformers have adopted the most ideal Single Tax propaganda by presenting each pupil of the high schools a copy of Damaschke's Boden Reform as a graduation present. An appropriate dedication is on the front page and an enclosed letter urges the pupil to study the Single Tax. The heartiest co-operation is given by the school authorities.

Portugal

WE ARE informed by Dr. Manuel Herrera y Reissig, charge d'affaires of Uruguay at Lisbon, that a course of addresses on the doctrines of Henry George is being arranged at Lisbon. The first in the series will be given by the noted writer, Baldomero Argente, of Madrid.

Sr. Antonio Albendin, the head of the Spanish Single Tax League, is co-operating in the work, and is expected shortly in Lisbon. The Argentine Minister at Lisbon, Dr. Jose Maria Cantilo, is a Single Taxer and keeps himself well posted on the progress of the movement. The same, we are informed, may be said of Dr. Pueyrredon, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs.

E. M. Caffall in Ottawa

THE Ottawa *Citizen* gives a report of a picnic held by the Single Taxers of that city. The account follows:

"The principal speaker was Mr. Edward M. Caffall, of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, New York, and State treasurer of the Single Tax Party of New Jersey. He told of the formation of the Single Tax Party in the United States, and spoke optimistically of the future. He was followed by others who came from the city. The suggestions that a tax reform association be formed in Ottawa was made by Mr. H. G. Barber, and it was cordially supported by those present. Mrs. C. A. Bowman acted as chairman of the "meeting" which followed a community picnic on the green sward, and in the shade of the beautiful trees. The event proved exceptionally enjoyable to all who took part.

Among those present were Messrs. C. J. Tulley, S. B. Johnson Low, D. G. Whittle, A. Buckley, Controller Cameron, D. M. Le Bourdais, C. A. Bowman, H. G. Barber, R. B. Maxwell, R. Hooper and D. Loughnan. It had been announced that Mr. Arthur Roebuck, Toronto, would be the guest of honor, but unhappily he was not able to be present.

U. S. SINGLE TAX PARTY

Mr. Caffall told how the Single Tax Party came to be formed in the United States. He said that Henry George's death came as a severe blow, and the political movement fell into desuetude. It was decided afterwards to confine activities to educational work, but to exert political pressure by voting for one or the other great parties. The result of this, however, was to put some Single Taxers into office, and their mouths became sealed. Then at a little gathering of five men in Philadelphia, the present Single Tax Party was formed. The movement spread, and at the presidential election last year, some thousands of votes were cast for the Single Tax platform. Mr. Caffall spoke of the simultaneous conventions in Chicago of the Single Tax Party, the Committee of 48, and the Farmer-Labor body, on the understanding that a third party should be formed. Single Tax was rejected and the "third party" came out with a weak form of socialism. But Single Tax received a fine advertisement through the Chicago convention, many of the largest newspapers printing the Single Tax platform. Macauley, the Single Tax nominee, was now touring the United States under Chautauqua auspices, and telling hundreds the gospel of Single Tax. The movement was now better organized, and at the next presidential campaign

would achieve greater results, possibly electing a Single Tax president. Now was a period, when taxation bore so heavily upon the people and everybody was asking where the increased taxation necessary was coming from, to increase their efforts for Single Tax. They in the United States were very hopeful of the future.

ADVANTAGE OF DIRECT TAX

Mrs. S. B. Johnson followed and pointed out the advantages of the direct tax, such as the Single Tax, over the present indirect method. The present system savored of dishonesty, she said, and added that the Single Tax would increase production, prevent idleness, and increase happiness.

Mr. H. G. Barber spoke of the pleasure of being able to meet so many who believed in the Single Tax and all it meant, and said there was definite work for them to do in Ottawa. That was to organize a tax reform league and get behind the Municipal (Drury) Act, which allowed municipalities to shift local taxes from improvements to land values. He thought that next Fall the nucleus of such an organization should be formed.

Mr. C. J. Tully heartily supported Mr. Barber in his advocacy of a tax reform association for Ottawa."

A Remarkable Article

(From the Journal of the American Institute of Architects.)

HISTORIANS of a not too far distant century may chronicle the tale in about these words:

"The early years of the twentieth century witnessed, throughout a great portion of the world, acute recurrences of those symptoms which had so long passed unnoticed or as mere indications of a temporary affliction. Their recognition was greatly obscured by determined efforts to prevent it. Governments and their sybarites were almost unanimous in the suppression of any diagnosis which did not suit the ideals and aims of statesmanship of the day, which, in its turn, was no more than a reflection of the gigantic conflict which had arisen over questions of industry, commerce, and the production and distribution of the necessities (and luxuries) of life.

"Among the symptoms was the world-wide shortage of shelter. It is estimated from documents still preserved to us that among the whole populations of the States which were classed as civilized, no less than a third of the people were deprived of the comforts, conveniences, and hygienic surroundings necessary to the decent preservation of life, while their daily occupations were carried on under an incredible regime which is dealt with later on under the chapters devoted to Transportation and Centralized Industry. To the dispassionate observer of the twenty-fifth century, it is difficult to differentiate between the savage and barbaric ages of the thousand preceding years and those of the twentieth century. One is almost forced to the conclusion that much of what passed as civilization was no more than an extremely refined savagery, even more cruel than that of the ages described generally as barbarous,

since it condemned millions of people to slow torture rather than to a sudden or early death. Life, as late as the first quarter of the twentieth century, was nothing more than a desperate, and precarious foothold upon earth for tens of millions of people. Poverty, the fear of starvation, of a penniless old age, hung everywhere like a torturing shadow such as it is perhaps impossible for us of the present day to realize.

"Why, in the midst of an abundance of natural resources such as we have not—thanks to the incredible waste of the industrial or machine age—and with a state of knowledge and mechanical equipment which indicate an intelligence of no low order, the peoples of those days were unable to produce and distribute the benefits and bounties of the earthly store which had been bequeathed to them, has never been the subject of any profound disagreement among our modern historians. Under a land system where a payment in "money"—an article to be discussed in another chapter—had to be made to some citizen before the land could be used for any purpose, was set up a barrier against which all struggles toward the common welfare were effectually checked. Combined with this, and under the influence of a method of exchange based upon coins and bits of paper, there obtained a method of creating, by mere entries in writing in large books, of fictitious values upon which further payments for use were privately levied. Thus, all of these payments were made to expand with an unflinching regularity; while the ratio of exchange value possessed by the bits of metal and pieces of paper was constantly diminishing, the ratio of payments demanded was constantly mounting. Thus, in order to insure these payments, the whole method of production and distribution became based not at all upon the needs of humans, but upon a queer set of arbitrary rules which had grown up around the medium of exchange, and the fetish of "book-keeping."

"The efforts made to cure the dreadful social maladies caused by so inhuman a system, seem ludicrous, as we look back upon them. They are not at all in keeping with the developments which had taken place in the fields of scientific observation and invention. Yet, while there is still a difference of opinion as to whether the land system in itself was a prime cause of the system of exchange called "currency," the fact remains and is no longer disputed, we believe—that this inconceivably misguided arrangement of life was the final and precipitating cause of that minor skirmish which occurred in the years 1914-18, and which was later followed by the black decades of the period we shall presently consider.

"How strange a state had developed. Here were great peoples, gathered into nations it is true, and thus often in enmity and hatred over questions affecting their business life, yet possessing an architectural, engineering, and agricultural knowledge of the most advanced order, which they could not use. It is indeed notorious that the architects of that time sought earnestly for means whereby their employment might be increased in volume an effort, to which they were spurred by reason of the steadily increasing