

"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.