

News of the Movement.

MANIFESTO issued by the Danish Henry George Society at its first conference, held at Slagelse, September 17, 18, and 19, 1906. After an appeal to the Progressives of all classes and parties to support the movement, as a "gentle yet certain remedy for the increasing social distress and financial needs of the State," the manifesto proceeds:—

"This conference, having submitted the theories of Henry George to critical study, declares that his teaching is in perfect accord with the fundamental proposition of justice, which declares: To each his own—to the community those values it has created, to the individual those he has produced. The taxation of land values would, without any revolutionary disturbance of society, effectively put this proposition into force, and is therefore eminently suited for application under existing conditions of land tenure and finance. The conference has also duly weighed certain proposals emanating from other sources, to the effect that the pure and simple doctrine of the single tax should be set aside and various other reforms advocated in its place, such as the entire or partial assumption by the State of all mortgages, the German proposals for the taxation of future increase in land value, or the ordinary reactionary Socialistic proposal to solve the social problem by Government administration of agriculture and industry. None of these proposals met with any encouragement at the hands of members. On the contrary, the conference took strong exception to them all, for they are all based on a misunderstanding of the peculiar property of Rent—its function of absorbing the whole value of society's progress. The conference thereupon warns its sympathisers to lend no support to these mistaken theories. Only Henry George's plan for the disposal of land values can, by its certain effect on the property market (a gradual lowering of the price of land and commodities), and on the labour market (an increase of wages), bring about the solution of those social difficulties whose removal are essential to all other progress.

"We desire, further, to emphasise the ease and certainty with which the taxation of land values disposes, once and for all, of the vexed question of how best to raise the huge and increasing sums necessary for national and local administration. A rational system of taxing land values can alone provide the means of abolishing, and that permanently, the burden of our present tariff, which oppresses labour, hampers exchange, and checks consumption.

"We would point out to our co-workers abroad that to a Danish political party belongs the honour of inscribing in its programme the first demand for absolute free trade. The Danish Peasants' Congress at Kjoge in 1902, and the Danish Liberal party at Odense in 1905, declared for the gradual but entire abolition of all customs duties, alike revenue and protective, their place to be taken by a tax on land values. And this they owe to the influence of the teachings of Henry George."

The manifesto concludes with a call to the friends of peace and of free trade throughout the world to honour the name of George, the peacemaker, and suggests an international brotherhood of his disciples to work for the establishment of social justice: the Single Tax.

Germany. Translated from Report of Annual Meeting of the German Land Reform League, on 19th and 21st October, 1906.

Deutsche Volkstimme, 5/11/06:—"The tax on communal value, the first demand which we have to make in communal politics, continues its triumphant progress. All theoretical objections have proved themselves weak in

presence of the actual practice. Of the 260 Prussian towns and villages which so far have introduced the tax, not a single one has given up the system or returned to the tax on the use value. We venture to say that the fight for the principle of the tax on communal value is as good as decided in Germany, and that it seems now to be only a question of time when this tax will find general application.

CHINESE FOR GERMANY.

Sensational Decision of a Chamber of Agriculture.

Berlin, Dec. 6.

A plenary meeting of the West Prussian Chamber of Agriculture was held at Danzig yesterday, to discuss the terrible scarcity of agricultural labour in the province. A resolution was adopted declaring that the Chamber regarded the recruiting of Chinese as agricultural labourers as deplorable, from a national standpoint, but that it appeared to be inevitable, and accordingly instructed the committee to take the preliminary steps for the introduction of coolies.

The Agrarian *Deutsche Tageszeitung* urges the grave danger to the population of such a measure, and expresses the belief that it will be combated with the utmost fierceness.—*London Daily News*, 6/12/06.

A volume of comments on the above item of news might well be written, and a philosophic cynic would rejoice in the task. After having deprived the agricultural labourer of West Prussia of all rights in the soil of their native country, and then forced them into hopeless and helpless poverty; and after having passed so-called Protective Tariffs, which has annually placed millions into their own pockets, and would place more millions if only they could get "hands" to put their holdings to full use for them, the land-holding classes (the "Younkers") of West Prussia suddenly find that their victims, upon whose labours they have relied, have deserted them, and found in America, North and South, and elsewhere, other outlets to their industry; only the more helpless and useless remaining at the disposal of their Lords and Masters. In truth, like their prototypes in the rural districts of Great Britain, the West Prussian Squires have gone far to kill the goose that for so many centuries has annually laid them golden eggs. So suddenly they are confronted with "a terrible scarcity of agricultural labour in the province"; and in their arrogance venture to ask to be supplied with Chinese coolies to extract the golden harvest for them. Serious comment should be needless. We can picture to ourselves the whole of Germany transformed, like the Rand, into a vast coolie compound, guarded by German Grenadiers! But whence will come these Grenadiers in the next generation? From the offspring of these Chinese coolies?

L. H. B.

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