

The claim was disputed by the contracting companies. The contract called for a 2000 C. P. arc .450 watts at the lamp terminals. Careful tests by experts hired for the purpose by the city, who connected watt meters to the circuits without the companies knowledge, found the average of 12 readings in one case to be 340 watts, a little over 75 per cent. of what was contracted for, the average of 13 readings in the other showed 400 watts, 80 per cent. of what was contracted for, the contract price was rebated for the 25 per cent. shortage, but not for the 11 per cent.

A city must have an accurate record of the light furnished at all times as a basis for enforcement of contract—this necessitates the employment of a competent city electrician not affiliated with the public utility companies. He should be provided with an office and one wire of each circuit connected with a recording watt meter therein. This will show the time of starting, shutting down and current supplied.

In closing I wish to say : The farming out of public functions may have an excuse in Turkey and the more despotic Oriental countries, but it is contrary to the spirit of our democratic institutions.

If our government is not to be democratic—a government by the people, placing public utilities in its hands does not establish public ownership. It might be machine ownership, class ownership. A coterie of machine politicians would be as undesirable if direct owners as are the private companies. Small choice for the people in owners, if it must be between machine bosses and the private corporations that control the machine bosses.

As Professor Parsons has said, "Public ownership of the government is essential to any real public ownership of anything else."

The public in order to control the government must themselves by direct methods nominate their officials ; the people must also secure to themselves their natural right to veto measures and to propose measures—the initiative and referendum.

Not until then will officers reflect the aspirations and desires of the people.



THE MOVEMENT IN DENMARK.

LETTER FROM S. BERTHELSEN, OF HONG, DENMARK, PRESIDENT OF DANISH
HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE.

(Letter written to be read at Jefferson Dinner of Manhattan Single Tax Club, arrived just one day late.)

(Translated for the Review by Grace Isabel Colbron.)

To The Manhattan Single Tax Club of New York :

As President of the Danish Henry George League, I have the honor of sending our brotherly greetings to our comrades in faith of the Manhattan Single Tax Club on the occasion of its celebration in honor of the great Democrat, Thomas Jefferson.

The Danish Henry George League was founded the 2nd of March, 1902. But as far back as 1889 we find the first Danish-Norwegian "Association for Social Reform," which had the taxing of land values on its programme, and which did much in speeches and writings for the propaganda of Henry George's teachings in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. But the movement could not at that time gain any practical importance for the public life of these countries, owing to peculiar political conditions, which, in Denmark at least, were most unfavorable for the discussion of questions of practical political economy. It

was not until 1902 that parliamentary power gained sufficient strength in Denmark to admit of the existence of a Ministry of the Opposition. All Democrats then looked forward to a period of liberal reform, but their hopes were doomed to disappointment. We did nothing however until the so-called "democratic government," in a compromise with the Conservatives, endeavored to introduce a line of new tax laws, which should do away with the old important land tax owned until then by the people of Denmark.

The endeavor to prevent this, and to spread the knowledge of the Single Tax theory, its use and effect, was the immediate cause of the founding of our Club in March, 1902. The movement is progressing favorably. During the past year we have published fifteen pamphlets, have held more than fifty lectures, and have had over one hundred articles inserted in important daily newspapers. We can plainly mark a growing comprehension among all classes of society, of the great social importance of our doctrines, and we hope that our Danish fatherland, with its enlightened population, will be among the first nations to introduce Single Tax into the civil code.

It is a great encouragement and aid to our work, as well as a joy to us, to receive greetings from our comrades in belief all over the world, and to hear news of the movement everywhere. Particularly do we look with confidence to news from Henry George's fatherland, the United States of America, the country whose proud duty it is to raise the banner of Progress in the vanguard of the nations of the world.

The Danish Henry George League asks that the Manhattan Single Tax Club will kindly forward to Mr. Henry George, Jr., and to the other members of our great Master's family, our sincere and respectful greetings. We pledge ourselves to be true to his memory!

We also send greetings to Senator J. W. Bucklin, of Colorado, whose admirable book on Australia has been translated into Danish, and is of great value to our work. We send also brotherly greetings to Mayor Tom Johnson.

And finally we send hearty brotherly greetings to all the members of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and their guests, with our thanks for all that has been done for the cause of progress in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson and Henry George.

Holding in mind the words of the great Democrat, "The Earth belongs to the Living," we drink to the toasts:

" Long life to the memory of Thomas Jefferson !
Long life to the memory of Henry George !
Success to the Brotherhood of the Nations !"

THE DANISH HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE,
S. BERTHELSEN, President,

HONG, March, 30th, 1903.

NOTE.—The Danish Single Taxers appear to have, among all the Continental European nations, the clearest plan of campaign, entirely in the spirit of Henry George's teachings. Among their writings on the subject there is no hint of the nationalization or communalization of land advocated in England, Germany and elsewhere. The Danish Henry George League preaches a reform in taxation first and foremost, seeing in this question of taxation the fundamental principle of all social problems. All the Scandinavian countries, and most particularly Denmark, have been nations of free men, of farmers living on and working their own farms; the life of the individual, of the family, taking the place of the strong communal instinct seen in the history of the German nation, for instance. So that the theory of communalization of land, familiar to English and German minds, and therefore the easiest opening wedge for the introduction of Single Tax doctrine, is not necessary for Denmark. The feudal lord, the municipality or commune has never been a factor of importance in Denmark; it was the free individual, the gatherings of such individuals that have made up the sum of the nation's history and politics. Therefore, Denmark, with its independent agricultural population, and its high measure of culture and knowledge among the intellectually trained, as well as its freedom of coalition for man or woman, is a country where the Single Tax theory and the teachings of Henry George should be sure of an intelligent comprehension and a rapid and effective spread. The high intelligence, and intimate comprehension shown in the writings of the leaders, notably of the President of the League, the lawyer Sophus Berthelsen, and of Mr. Jacob Lange, of all that Henry George taught and preached, of the fundamental correctness of his doctrines, argues well for the propaganda of our cause in Denmark. Nowhere else in Europe do we find the gospel of Henry