

"Whereas, The manipulation of this power by a privileged few for their own benefit has in all ages been a reason for their ability to keep the workers in poverty; and

"Whereas, California has particularly suffered by reason of the fact that the burden of taxation has fallen heavily upon the rank and file of the producers of wealth, while owners of enormous land holdings went almost free; therefore be it

"Resolved, by the California State Federation of Labor in convention assembled, that we urge upon the Assembly and Senate of this State, and upon Gov. Johnson, that they give their approval at the forthcoming special session of the State legislature to a proposed amendment to the State Constitution which shall provide a local 'home rule in taxation,' to the end that a majority of the people in each city and county of California may determine for themselves the methods by which they shall be taxed."

The report continues:

If the legislature fails to heed the demand of the State Federation of Labor for the submission of this measure, the Socialist organization can put it through by initiative petition. We will then have forced the issue on our first big constructive measure. To put into the hands of town and county that are coming into Socialist control the power to tax the "unearned increment" and thus legally confiscate the spoils of industrial robbery by getting hold of the land, will be revolutionary enough to call out our best fighting force. This tax amendment is just a starter. It will educate quite as much as it will assist the public treasury and strip the land baron. It is so simple and self-evident as a sensible thing that we shall have no trouble in adopting it at the polls. But it is important as a Socialist measure for undermining capitalism. And in getting it we are going shoulder to shoulder along with all organized labor.

+

But I would not have you think that all the Single-tax work is being done by the Socialists. Far from it. The Good Government organization is full of Georgean philosophy and principle. Among the Good Government people it is principally intellectual; among the Socialists it is chiefly spiritual and emotional. These two forces are near fusion, and the tremendous meaning will not long remain covered.

The moral and religious enthusiasm of the Socialist movement is the most remarkable phenomenon here. "Not in thirty years," said a prominent District Attorney from an adjoining city, "have I witnessed such truly religious fervor in a political campaign as is here." I can repeat his statement for myself. At the Fiesta Park mass meeting, Sunday before the primary election, there were massed around the square platform in the center of the field some 6,000 to 10,000 people. On this platform came nine ex-ministers of the Gospel. "Down from God, through the Church, out to the people—as Jesus of Nazareth from the synagogues of the Jews to the multitudes on the shores of the Sea of Galilee," said my companion. Then we listened to an outpouring of Christian ethics, moral and social philosophy, such as I had not heard on the Pacific Coast in thirty years. It was a great religious revival, comparable to nothing that I can think of but the early meetings of the Anti-poverty Society when Henry George and Doctor McGlynn electrified New York. There was Duncan, Mayor of Butte; and Wilson, Mayor of Berkeley; and Harriman, hoping to be Mayor of Los Angeles; and Cantrell, Irvine, Williams and others.

On the evening before the primary a monster parade, reported to number 21,000, passed through the principal streets of the city. Men, women and children—some of the children trundled in go-carts by their mothers—marched to the music of bands. No disorder, no intemperance. In fact there is a large contingent of Prohibitionists here who have learned that poverty causes more drunkenness than drunkenness makes poverty.

It is impossible to tell it all.

We are here in the throes of a new French Revolution. It is modernized and Americanized for the Twentieth century, with its Girondins and Jacobins in their various clubs; with its new "Insurrection of Women," and snowing the city under with the products of the "pamphleteer." It may yet have its Mirabeau, Danton and Robespierre, while Marat may be somewhere in cellar or garret marking down the names; but up to the present time none of these are clearly seen. The Physiocrats are everywhere; and over the State, instead of the weak and pitiable Louis XVII, we have a strong man who is not afraid of the people.

Greater than all—the underlying land question is heaving heavily to the surface, while "the spirit of Henry George is riding the storm" as in England during the "Budget fight." The velocity is not as yet great, but momentum is gathering fast. The Singletaxers of the world should rejoice that, no matter which way our local fight goes, the greatest humanitarian revolution of modern times is nucleating in California, and with but one ultimate outcome—the Singletax.

EDMUND NORTON.

+ + +

THE HENRY GEORGE MOVEMENT IN DENMARK.

Copenhagen.
The annual meeting of the Henry George Society held here September 10 was attended by 120 representatives from the whole country. In the past year the society has grown from 2,000 to 3,000 members. This growth is due partly to distribution of pamphlets, partly to lecture work, partly to the monthly journal "Ret" and to the society's own paper, "Den lige Vej." Business of the society took most of the afternoon and in the evening there was a reception at the Copenhagen headquarters, where the representatives were the guests of the local League.

The chairmen of the conference, which met in the High School in Fredericksborg on the 11th and lasted two days, were Dr. Villads Christensen and Mr. Carl Mortensen. The first day was occupied with speeches from Mr. S. Berthelsen, Mr. Johan Pedersen and Mr. Waage, on different problems of the Henry George movement. On the second day Mr. Folke-Rasmussen gave a speech on "Taxes and Earnings" which he was requested to have published. Mr. Lange then spoke on our relations to the laboring people and to High School pupils. Dr. Starcke lectured on "Morals and Economics," showing the demoralizing effect upon the people of a system from which the principle of social service is excluded by the sentiments approving of charity and aims. The conference closed on the evening of the 12th. Mr.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

Bjorner thanking Mr. Begtrup, the High School leader, for the hospitality of the school.



On the occasion of a meeting during Joseph Fels's visit to Denmark last summer, at which speakers were assembled, Mr. Fels suggested that, Dr. Starcke being willing, the committee engage some of his time in training new speakers for local discussions and election work. Acting upon this suggestion, which Mr. Fels backed up with the necessary means, the committee persuaded Dr. Starcke to plan and to carry out a series of lecture and instruction courses. Twelve courses were planned; and so that people from different parts of the country may take part, they are held in different places. Each course, consisting of six lectures, is followed by an instruction lesson on political economy and a special lesson for those who, after taking part in this course, wish to perfect themselves in speaking for the movement. The work has so far proved successful. On the isle of Laes, a small island where one of the new leagues was formed last summer, there were 60 pupils; in Aarbus—our largest city after the metropolis—there were 250; and at Herning, another place of the new leagues, there were more than 100, all for the entire course. Each pupil pays a small sum to the league for admission to the course. Besides being an authority on social economy and a staunch supporter of the Singletax, Dr. Starcke is a very eloquent orator and a distinguished and successful pedagogue.



The largest paper of our metropolis, the Radical-Liberal "Politiken," has invited the chairman of the Henry George Society to give a series of four lectures on Henry George at the "High School for Modern Politics," started and managed by this paper. At the first lecture, which treated of the personality of Henry George and the condition of his country at the time of his experiences, the audience was so much larger than had been expected that a number had to stand; and at the second lecture, which contrasted Henry George and his political economy with the classic economists, the hall was crowded. These lectures are still in progress.



An excellent play, illustrating the demoralizing effect upon our political and social life, of speculation in land values, has been presented at the "People's Theater" here. Being of great dramatic interest and exceedingly well played, it was given a good reception by the press as well as by the large audiences it drew. It advocates most forcibly the theories of Henry George, directly as well as indirectly. The name of the play is "Med i Dansen," or as it might be translated, "In the Swim." The author is Hjalmar Bergstrom, a well-known playwright.

SIGNE BJORNER.



"Let us look on the bright side of things. Nothing is ever as bad as it might be."

"You're right. Take the coats that women wear, for instance. They, too, might be made to button down the back."—Chicago Record-Herald.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

HOW TO PULL THE SUPREME COURT'S TEETH.

New York.

While Mr. Walker* truly states that neither the Constitution nor the McArdle case expresses any denial of the power of some court to decide whether a statute is valid or invalid, he is in error when he claims that the Constitution does not imply such a denial. The Constitution expressly states the powers of the three branches of the government—the legislative, the executive and the judicial. And I take issue with Mr. Walker in his statement that there is no "presumption based upon the mere fact of the enactment of the statute, that it is in conformity to the Constitution. "The people's representatives enacted the statute and the people's Executive approved it, and it is, therefore, presumptively Constitutional. And it continues to be Constitutional until it is repealed by the voters' elected representatives.

If it be true that a failure to confer such a power upon some court will result in a failure to provide any means for enforcing the statute, then the American people are in a sorrier plight than any other nation. English courts manage to enforce their statutes without having such a power. It is sometimes said that is so only because Great Britain has no written Constitution; but France and Germany have written Constitutions, and those great nations manage to get along without having conferred power upon any court to set aside statutes enacted by the people's representatives.

I had always thought that it would take either an iron-willed President or a revolution to summarily wrest this usurped power from our courts. But Mr. Walker, unwittingly, suggests to me a more peaceable method. Let Congress, by adding a restraining clause to every new statute, deprive the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction. The many District and Circuit courts will then alone pass on the question of Constitutionality. Experience has shown that they will rarely be unanimous. The President can then, without assigning any other ground than that some of the courts have declared the statute Constitutional, proceed to enforce it. In less than a decade the absurdity of allowing judges to overrule the will of the people will become so apparent, that courts will refuse to longer exercise the usurped power.

F. C. LEUBUSCHER

*See The Public of October 20, page 1073.



The United States Senate of 1999 is in session.

The Senator from Lower Mexico arises and moves that a committee be appointed to investigate the charges growing out of the election of William Lorimer.

This is seconded by the Senator from Greenland. "Why do they always appoint that committee?" asks a man in the gallery.

"Nobody knows," replied his companion. "It is a custom handed down to us from away back in the past, and nobody has ever dared or cared to suggest that we abolish it."—Life.