

HUNGARY.

Your readers may be interested in my work for pushing forward the interests of the land question in Hungary. My translation of the *Story of My Dictatorship* was very favorably received, the only objection to it being the numerous typographical errors. As it was printed in a far-away Transylvania city and I insisted upon a low price (the work is sold for 20 cents) I could not get more for my money. But spite of this objection the reception of this excellent work was all that could be expected. The following quotation, appearing in a widely read paper and written by a well known publicist—may serve as an example of its favorable reception:

"This little work enlightens with extraordinary sharp-pointedness and spirit even the most abstract problems of economics, by way of lively and interesting debates between men inquiring into the most practical questions of life. I dare say that he who reads it will look with quite different eye upon the problems of poverty and wealth, and of competition and monopoly. Though one may know the literature of land reform the effect of this work is a wonderfully striking one. The effect, I believe, will be even greater upon the reader who is ignorant of any theory."

The book was also reviewed in a scientific spirit by one who is considered the most learned of Hungarian socialists. This was very favorable to the literary merits of the work, but the writer contested the importance of land as compared with capital. My answer was published in the next issue of the periodical containing the review, in which I examined the annual balance of a typical manufacturing plant, and proved that the \$1,289,542. which figured as capital included only about \$340,000 real capital, all the rest being land or fictitious capital. I concluded my answer as follows: "It is rather difficult for me to suppress the suspicion that the objections of Mr. Varga are weak because he is himself impressed with the arguments of the work." This assertion Mr. Varga later confirmed in private correspondence and promised to study the question more thoroughly.

Another very interesting fact is this: A writer on municipal affairs in a daily paper was induced by me to write on the housing question, and this he did very well, connecting the problem with that of vacant lots. As an illustration he cited the vacant lot belonging to a count. To this the count replied: "As to the spirited exposition of the editor's theory that neither I nor anybody else has the right to hold such a large plot of land idle, let me appease him with the information that I took the liberty, though not to please him, to so decide several months ago. That everybody has the right to take the greatest possible advantage of his own property was—so far as I know—not questioned till now, save that there might be new legislation by which the black counts (the name designates the ultra catholic and conservative aristocracy) will be deprived of this right of exploitation."

To this the editor replied very calmly: "The Count remarks with much esprit that a law might be passed regulating the use of vacant lots. This law, however, will limit not only the rights of the black counts, as the writer jokingly puts it, but almost surely of all land owners. A city ordinance regulating the taxation of vacant lots, lies ready on the table of Mayor Barczy Istvan."

There is no doubt that the mayor is not only willing to tax vacant lots, but to go further in this direction. But you know that there are examples that not even in free America can a mayor do what the majority consider right.

I am now living in Budapest, where I shall be able to do more and better propaganda work. For several years past I have tried to secure a publisher for a translation of *Progress and Poverty*. As I did not succeed I ceased my work of translation. A few days ago I had the pleasure to receive the offer from a large publishing house to translate this most important work of Henry George. It will come out as a volume of the Sociological Library which already includes fifty works of standard value. This is a very successful enterprise, each volume having an edition of 5,000 copies (a large number for our reading public) and the price, about one dollar

in cloth, is very reasonable.—ROBERT BRAUN, Budapest, Hungary.

VICTORIA.

I had hoped to announce ere this that a Bill had been passed through both Houses of Parliament to enable municipalities to levy their rates upon the unimproved value of land, but unfortunately the session ended without its having gone through all stages in the Legislative Assembly. It is hard to say whether it was legitimately crowded out by other business, or whether the Ministry as a whole was not so earnest as we believe some of its members were. We assume the Bill will be reintroduced, and we hope amended in some respects in an improved form to enable the ratepayers to more easily obtain the reform.

Mr. McHugh has arrived in Melbourne to undertake a year's propaganda work, and we are very much pleased with his personality and apparent power. He was to sail yesterday for Hobart in Tasmania where a Conference of delegates of the Labor Party from all the States is to be held. It is hoped that both on the voyage and in Hobart Mr. McHugh may be able to influence delegates for the principles he upholds.—A. C. NICHOLS, Eurora, Victoria.

GOOD NEWS FROM CHINA.

A newspaper informs us that China may under its new regime adopt the Land Value or Single Tax plan. Details are lacking, but the item tells the story, and behind it is the long and self-sacrificing labors of one man fighting a great fight almost single handed.

Dr. Schrameier gave in a German article recently the demands of the Chinese revolution as follows:

1. Overthrow the Manchurian Government.
2. Union of whole China under New Government.
3. Proclaim Republic under one President.

4. Everybody is owner of his lands, but present value of the land must be found out and put in the books and the value since accrued belongs to the government. Ownership in the future belongs as much to the nation as to the individual owner and both will divide the profits." Dr. Schrameier further says: "Last demand, without doubt, is the influence of the theory of Henry George whose books are known to Chinese through the writings of missionary Dr. Macklin."

This is not the Single Tax plan, but is the German *zuwachsteuer*. But Mr. Macklin is a Single Taxer and can be trusted to point out to the government officials the true direction. He has seen the president of the Chinese Republic and has talked with Wu Ting Fang, who Mr. Macklin informs us is posted on the Single Tax and is favorable to it. Mr. Macklin has won a great fight and he and the Chinese people are to be congratulated.

TAXATION OF THE UNEARNED INCREMENT IN GERMANY.

SOME RECENT FIGURES.

The Imperial unearned increment tax measure has been a law for only a year. This is too short a time for the figures concerning it to be sufficiently certain as a standard of judgment, but of themselves they are rather interesting.

In several suburban communities surrounding the city of Berlin the amount taken in on this tax during the months of September, October, November and December, 1911, was as follows:

Mariendorf.....	31,800 marks
Schmargendorf....	66,400 "
Steglitz.....	70,000 "
Britz.....	90,300 "
Grunewald.....	126,400 "

Half of this goes to the Imperial government, of the remainder, the community takes 40% and the Prussian government 10%. All of these suburbs are residential, with the exception possibly of Britz. The share that came to them in this short time