

The *Review* (Twentieth Century) I send you is devoted to the science of sociology, and is the greatest authority in this branch of science in Hungary. It contains my article on Henry George and the taxation of Land Values—being the first article in Hungary by a Single Taxer. My next work will be the edition of George's Protection or Free Trade; the translation is almost ready, but I am unfortunately short of means. I am preparing also a copy of The Land Question on request of the editor of *Twentieth Century*, who is publishing a "library of social and natural sciences."

The appearance of Protection or Free Trade is peculiarly favorable for us at this time, as the tariff question is very actual now. We are preparing our own tariff system independently of Austria, and as the question is not yet settled, the book will arouse more interest now than at any period in the past.

I know thus far the history of the movement; that it is nowhere the platform of a strict political party. Its aim is to restitute by the full taxation of land values economic justice. It is not inconsistent with the platform of any political party that does not exclude economic justice. I think the greater the percentage of the full rent that is taken the more we approach to social and economic justice. Anybody promoting this aim is a Single Taxer. I hope my interpretation of George and the Single Tax is the correct one.

LIPPA, Hungary.                      ROBERT BRAUN.

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#### CHINA.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS FOR THE SINGLE TAX — MANY PROMINENT VICEROYS BEING INFLUENCED ALONG OUR LINES.

I have a whole set of propaganda literature circulating about and the Chinese are learning. Wherever they have received the knowledge, Kang Yei Wei and Sun Yat Sin, the revolutionary leaders, are pronounced in favor of Single Tax. In Kang Yei Wei's books he advocates the method, and a friend of mine in Tokio, Japan, had a chat with Sun when he spoke for our doctrines. There is a great desire among the Chinese, from high to low, to keep their

own natural wealth, and it is getting harder and harder for foreigners to get land and railway mines and other franchises. Our viceroys change every few years and every new viceroy I memorialize on Single Tax lines, and usually get a friendly response. My memorials are read by many besides the viceroy. In order to pay the indemnity for the Boxer war a house tax was planned, but the government fears to adopt it.

Lately our viceroy, Ywan Fan, the man who visited America, was going to use the house tax. I prepared a memorial advising a site tax, which is after the ancient Chinese order of things, as Mencius says: "In the markets have a site tax and no tax on goods or houses." I told him that if he adopted the site tax he would have the scholarship of the Empire to back him, but if he adopted the house tax he would fall into the miserable system of Shanghai, where foreigners have the house tax and rents ruin the common people. I am told that he has given up the idea of a house tax, and some say my memorial convinced him. He has not communicated with me, however. Some day, I hope, if I keep on working, to get at some big official to adopt the plan, as the Germans did in Kiouchu. I had last year a long talk with our former viceroy, Chen Fu, and urged him to adopt the Single Tax. I'll find the right man yet, and I have the literature translated to meet the occasion. I have George, Dove and Spencer translated, also a large number of sheets and booklets.

NANKIN, China.                      W. E. MACKLIN.

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#### GERMANY.

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The German Single Tax organ, *Bodenreform*, not only reports much progress from the Fatherland, but has also an article headed: "A Single Tax Fight in the Eternal City." In Rome there is a great house famine. Hundreds of families are waiting in ruins, store rooms, hotels, etc., for dwellings to be vacated, although they are situated so that they can pay the rent, which is in consequence extraordinarily high. The reason of this famine can be traced back to the great panic in the eighties, when most of the houses, as well as the

vacant building sites, were gobbled up by a few banks, which these banks hold at unreasonable prices. This has led Prime Minister Giolitti to propose a law in the chamber to tax in the City of Rome building lots three per cent. of their selling value. The owner is to set the price himself, with the clause that the city has the choice to acquire such vacant land at the self-appraised price. Then the city is to dispose of the sites at cost price to those who bind themselves to start buildings at once. We are anxious to learn whether the legislators will comprehend such a measure.

In Sweden, the same periodical reports, the great ore deposits in the north of Sweden have been acquired by the State, except the two mines Kiruna and Gellivare, of which the State is to receive half of their stock, but which after twenty-five years go into possession of the State.

In December, 1902, the Reichstag adopted a law that by April 1st, 1910, all tariffs, tolls and taxes on grain, flour or mill products, bakings, cattle, meats, fat, etc., shall no longer be levied by communities or corporations. Now one would naturally think that such measures would suggest that the deficit might be made up by a tax on the value of land, but they are not yet educated to that point, so that from the city of Dresden a petition has been sent to the Reichstag praying to postpone this relief of taxation to December 31, 1917, and cites 171 communities that would find it hard to increase the taxes on houses, trades or income. It is strange that none of 171 towns stumbled on the idea of putting that tax on the value of land. Let us hope that by 1910 they will have learned better. This willful blindness is all the more deplorable considering the favorable reports from towns which have already put the land value tax in practice. In the town of Steglitz, 12,500 inhabitants, where the land value tax was adopted in 1904, it has been figured out that the levying of any other tax will be superfluous. Would not this be identical with our Single Tax?

Johannes Lubahn writes: "The taxation of ground value has become a people's question. In spite of powerful opponents, the owners of highly valuable lands in large cities, and some prejudiced land and house owners, it is impossible to stop the move-

ment by a dam. It's success is growing every day.

Not only has the land value tax been adopted in many German towns, but its spirit has entered the parliaments of some German States, Saxonia, Bavaria and Hesse.

In the Single Tax is contained the future and the power of our Vaterland."

The towns where the land value tax has been adopted since my last report are: Potsdam, 55,000 inhabitants; Herkrade, 9000 inhabitants; Kiel, 69,000 inhabitants after a seven hours debate by the City Council, and Linden, 28,000 inhabitants, a suburb of Hanover; Quackenbruck, 3000 inhabitants; Viersen and Malstatt-Burbach should also be included.

These I have quoted from the German Single Tax organ, *Bodenreform*. But, strange as it is, our Cleveland German *Daily* had as news dated Bremen, Sept. 4th: "The city council of Schoneberg yesterday adopted an ordinance to tax unused building sites twice the amount of unused land. This will force other towns to pass a like ordinance if they do not want to see Schoenberg outstrip them in a building boom."

It may be interesting to our Single Taxers that a Mr. Adolf Levy writes: "I was looking up in the great Brockhaus Lexicon of 1902 the word 'Groundrent,' of which it disposes in a very few words, saying that recent theorists want to absorb ground rent after the plan of the American, Henry George, by the State, but this would mean confiscation, which cannot be thought of in practice."

But my surprise was great when I looked up an old copy of 1820, which came by accident into my hands, where I found the same subject treated by more than 200 lines, and signed K. M., of which I will quote just a few pointed sentences: "The absorption of ground rent by the State is without doubt the most fitting remedy to supply and satisfy the expense of the State. Compared with all other ways of collecting taxes its simplicity, certainty and cheapness of collection recommends it, and especially is it to be recommended in that it does not increase the price of the products of labor, and no one can possibly dodge it, since the land can neither be removed nor hidden."

If K. M. had not written this 20 years

before Henry George was born, he could be suspected of having copied it from *Progress and Poverty*.

In a foot-note the editor states that the Brockhaus of 1904 treats groundrent fully in accord with the Single Taxers of the present time.

The tax on the selling value of land in Berlin is now confirmed and becomes operative on April 1st, 1908.

Six months ago the city council of Bremen voted against the adoption of measures taxing the unearned increment by 11 votes. On June 23rd it again voted it down by only 39 against 37 votes.

A union of the land speculators has been organized to work against the further adoption of the Single Tax in Germany. In their declaration they say: "The purpose of this union is to further the buildingsites industry and to work against the false theory of the Single Taxers, which they cover with the mantle of science."

Then it invited all the land syndicates to become members and use all their influence against the further advance of the *Zuwachsteuer*, which threatens to become disastrous to its interest.

F. BURGENDORFF.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio.

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#### THE COMING CONFERENCE.

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The General Committee of Arrangement appointed to carry out the details of the Single Tax Conference held several meetings during the summer, and on September 15 adopted and issued the following address to Single Taxers throughout the country:

"The Committee appointed by the Single Tax Conference held in New York City on May 30th of this year, has selected Monday and Tuesday, November 18th and 19th of this year, as the most available days for the holding of a National Conference, and New York as the most suitable place. Nearly 150 persons, representing eleven States, attended the preliminary conference; and it was the opinion of a great majority of those present that the interests of the movement would be served by holding a national conference.

"The considerations which influenced the projectors of the Conference, and which

seemed to meet the approval of the majority of those present, were somewhat as follows:

Fourteen years have elapsed since the last National Conference held in Chicago. At that time a National Committee of representatives of the various States was appointed with the purpose of furthering the interests of the movement. While nearly all of the men so appointed have been doing excellent work individually, no concerted action has developed. It seems wise, therefore, to consider whether, in view of the activity of movements hostile to our philosophy, leading the people everywhere to place more reliance for progress upon government and its extension and intension, a national organization whose function it should be to encourage the spread of Single Tax ideas in every way possible is not a pressing need of the hour. More than almost any other body, Single Taxers have an accepted and agreed doctrine about which there is little dispute; and such an organization, eliminating from its purview all controversial matters, could undoubtedly be of great assistance to the spread of the faith. The function of such organization, as its projectors imagine it, would not be to interfere with any individual work now being done, but rather to supplement such work wherever organization might help and to cultivate certain fields of effort which now lie neglected.

"Such a meeting would give a needed stimulus to effort in quarters where apathy now is prevalent, and afford to willing workers who lack direction, suggestions for fruitful lines of usefulness. Assurances of attendance have been received from many whose names are household words among men of our economic faith, and the occasion is certain to be one of great profit and interest.

"The Committee of Arrangements has procured special rates for rooms at the Hotel Roland, 59th Street, and the Gilsey House, Broadway and 29th Street, which are near the meeting hall, and persons attending will be furnished with cards which will entitle them to such special rates. The replies received to a preliminary inquiry assure the success of the Conference. It is, however, important that it should be more than a mere success. *Every Single Taxer who can afford the time and expense should take ad-*