

RUSSIA.
MOSCOW.

I know your readers will be interested in the land movement of Russia, as I observed it. A distinctive Single Tax movement there is not, though there are Russian Single Taxers, as evidenced by the fact that George's works have been translated and circulated in Russia.

In Moscow I tried to find a gentleman whose address had been given to me by a member of Count Tolstoi's family, who told me that he was interested in the Single Tax. I found him, but could not do very much with him, as he did not speak sufficient French or German. He told me that they had printed and distributed among the peasants many thousand of the short tracts by Henry George. Mr. Nicolaiff who is a reader of the *Review*, had unfortunately left Moscow for a long journey. He is the translator of "Progress and Poverty" and other works of George.

Mr. Gorbanoff Paradoff, the name of the gentleman talked with, told me that the revolutionary socialists were working for the abolition of private property in land. He gave me the address of some leaders of this party in Petersburg, and I went there, but did not find them. As I could not read the Russian language I tried to learn from the German newspapers in Petersburg what was going on in Russian politics. Summing up what I have learned from this source the situation in Russia is as follows: The leading party in the Douma (though not the majority) are the Constitutional Democrats. This party is demanding principally a constitutional reform such as would make Russia a modern democratic state. But this party is also advocating a far-reaching reform of the land laws. Besides this party the most influential group is the "Labor-Grange," a body of peasants and laborers, whose watchword is "land and liberty" (*semlya i volya*). This party is laying more stress upon social reform, especially reform of the land laws, but is somewhat reactionary on constitutional questions.

A group of the party of Constitutional Democrats has elaborated a scheme for solving the agrarian problem, whose chief features are:

The land belonging to the state, the crown, the church, to monasteries or to private proprietors shall be expropriated except under certain conditions. The proprietors are to be compensated according to the normal productiveness of the soil, not according to the rent.

This land is to be handed over to the State, which in time shall rent it out to those of the peasants who have insufficient land or no land at all. The land shall be given to those in private possession, but not as private property.

In the meantime the Douma has already begun to discuss this proposal. It is prob-

able that that body will not hesitate to accept very radical measures, as these would secure it the favor of the peasants and the large majority of the people, and make it thus impossible for the government to resist the Douma on other questions. As the Countess Tolstoi remarked to me, the Russian peasants are determined to have more land, and if the landed proprietors will not give it them voluntarily, they will take it by force.

The representatives of the peasants in the Douma are told by their voters to get them land, or not to return to their homes. Indeed the demand of the people is so strong that even the reactionary parties do not venture to oppose it. Even Count Heyden, the leader of the conservative party in the Douma, declared himself in agreement with the demand to expropriate the Crown-State, Church and private lands to satisfy the land famine of the peasants. In the answer, which the Douma has given to the Imperial Address with which it was offered, it is declared as follows: "The recognition of the needs of the country population (peasantry) and the passing of the necessary legal measures will be the next task of the Douma. The most numerous class of the population of the Empire, the working peasantry, is awaiting with impatience the satisfaction of their present land famine and the first Douma of the Russian Empire would neglect its duty, if it did not pass a law for the satisfaction of this most urgent need by expropriating the Crown, State, Church, and private lands for this purpose."

The address containing this passage was nearly unanimously agreed to, only five members refraining from voting.

Of course, the organs of the well-to-do classes are denouncing this as robbery, as a violation of the sacred privileges of private property, as impossible, etc., etc. They are prophesying the ruin of Russia, they declare that the Russian peasant is too lazy to work the ground. But that the peasant has been mercilessly robbed and exploited and kept in ignorance and brutality for centuries, they forget to mention.

When I was talking about this question to the editor of a German-Russian newspaper he told me that the idea of a "Knecht" (hired laborer without land and without means of subsistence) was quite foreign to Russian thought. Happy Russia!

GUSTAVE BUSCHER.

THE WORK IN PHILADELPHIA.

Since the close in April of the Sunday evening meetings, open air meetings have been developed gradually until at this time they are held every night at the City Hall Plaza. Rain has interfered with many of these meetings, but they are steadily gaining in attendance and interest. Post cards