

## A Doctrine of French Origin

**M.** MAX TOUBEAU, a leading French Georgist who attended the International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in Odense, Denmark last summer, reported this conference for *Le Monde*, one of the leading newspapers of France. His report was printed in the January 3rd issue of that paper. Following is a translation of a portion of M. Toubeau's report:

"I think that if in my country the public would lend an ear to the Georgist philosophy, they would find it an echo of voices which have almost disappeared from our land. Was it not Vauban, and then Turgot and the Physiocrats, Dupont de Nemours and his colleagues, who were the protagonists of the single tax on land to which Henry George gave the force of his brilliant logic?

"When George came to Paris in 1889 (centenary of the French Revolution) he was received and acclaimed by numerous personalities within democratic circles. The future President of the Republic, Millerand, then deputy from the Seine, gave the final toast in his honor. Henry George responded by declaring that he saluted as his precursors, our Physiocrats, and our revolutionaries of 1798; and that his doctrines were impregnated with theirs.

"It was in remembrance of this past that, simply by virtue of my being French, I was received at Odense with affection and sympathy. The delegates knew well that Georgism is at present unknown to most of my countrymen, and that an old apostle of cooperation, a disciple of Charles Gide, an old collaborator with Sam Meyer—Daude-Bancel—is now struggling with the aid of a few friends, to keep in print a little quarterly journal animated with a Georgist spirit. But these men and women who spoke different languages from my own, showed me that they had confidence in France and that they trusted that some day her public opinion would look favorably upon—not as a museum piece, but as a spiritual heritage capable of again inspiring good deeds—one of the most substantial elements of our democratic tradition."

R. C.