

pickled until every inch of skin on his body will be rubbed. For instance, a farmer, who before the Land Act was thought of, let a portion of his holding, for which he paid from 5 to 10 shillings at the rate of £4 to a poor half starved laborer. I ask you what may be expected in the future from such landowners? Then again they are running co-operative stores and ruining the legitimate shop-keepers in our towns. My advice is to take no notice of the Irish Land Question in its present phase. It is the greatest fraud ever perpetrated. And think of it! We outsiders are taxed to the extent of twelve millions of hard earned cash to give the whole rural wealth to the farmers. Even that is not all. If a farmer cannot pay up his annual installments we outsiders have to pay that. Could the abuses of private land monopoly go further?

FROM PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

GERMANY.

SURPRISING GROWTH OF SENTIMENT IN THE EMPIRE—THE COLONIES BEING USED AS AN OBJECT LESSON.

The Land Reform Convention, held in Berlin in October last (too late to report in Autumn Number of the REVIEW), gave a most encouraging picture of progress made during the past year. There was an increase of over four hundred names in the roll of members of the parent organization, and the Land Reform League in its entirety, with corporate members (associated societies), now numbers over 210,000. A novelty in this matter of corporate members was introduced when the small but enterprising town of Opladen, near Cologne, desired to be accepted by the League as an associated organization in its entirety. Another community, Mocker, followed this once established precedent; then the governing body of the town of Weissenfels joined in a body, and since the convention, the governing body of the City of Ulm has also applied for membership. The size and importance of Ulm makes this last fact of interest. There was some discussion at first as to whether a town in its entirety could be accepted as corporate member of the league. But the opposition was soon overruled. The largest and most important association to join the League lately is the Society of Postal and Telegraph Assistants. The German Land Reform League has been incorporated under the name "Bodenreform (Land Reform), Lt.," and is now an association possessing legal right to property. The association owns a house in Berlin, where the league has rooms free of rent, and has already, apart from the value of this house, a capital of fifteen hundred dollars to be kept as sinking fund. From the returns on its house or other property, the association can give up to 4 per cent.

dividends. Anything above that, or in case of a dissolving of the association, any capital over and above what was paid in, is to be used for propaganda purposes.

Besides the review, "Year Book of Land Reform," issued in quarterly installments, the league has, during the past year, brought out a book which is of great value in propaganda work. This is entitled "Criticisms of Land Reform" and contains lengthy objections to Single Tax theories, written by opponents of importance. These are followed by answers from the pens of one or two leading German Single Taxers, and in that way the most usual and lucid objections are met point by point by men fitted to argue the matter. It is a sort of printed debate, in the permanency of book form. The opponents were formally invited to give their opinions for the purpose.

The most important matter interesting Land Reformers in Germany at present is the matter of land ownership in the colonies. It must be stated here, to avoid misunderstanding, that reasons of policy and politics forbid German Single Taxers from taking any standing as to the ethical rights of colonial possession. They do not, for the present, argue whether it is right to have colonies, but only as to how these colonies shall be governed in a manner most practical from the point of view of ethics and business. The German colonies are a source of great trouble and expense to the home country, and any suggestion as to an improvement in their present conditions is welcomed. The league is using this state of things to make a persistent and thus far successful agitation to gain the ear of government authorities with its views on the colonial question. It has, through speeches and pamphlets innumerable, called the attention of the government to the fact that the absurd and ruinous land grants to colonial companies have been not only the cause of a lack of financial profits for the home country, but also have generally been the cause of most colonial wars, in bringing about a state of ill feeling on the part of the oppressed and plundered natives. The league calls the government's attention to the fact that no one, neither home government, nor native, gets any advantage from the wealth earned by these great companies, which draw millions from the worst kind of speculation in land. One speaker points out the fallacy of the assertion that the South African negro will not work unless you take his land from him. He says that naturally the negro will not work under some one else for less wages than his work, for himself, on his own land will bring him. But the remedy is not to take his land from him and drive him into the great plantations, but to have him work as an independent farmer on his own land, selling his produce to the home government. And the higher rate of wages that will be possible under a sensible land policy will draw sufficient of the better class of labor to

work larger farms. The arguments against large concessions have been discussed in Parliament, and some deals just about to go through—notably concerning the building of a railroad from Luderitz Bay inland—have been held up pending investigation.

The canal question is still agitating German political circles, and the Land Reform League has taken advantage of this fact to start in circulation a petition to the Imperial Government concerning the speculation now going on, in land bordering canals in building, or just proposed. Many thousands of signatures have already been won, and newspapers all over the country are noticing the matter and discussing it. A very encouraging sign is the manner in which the petition is being discussed, and signed, in meetings of labor organizations, particularly along the line of the proposed new Mittelland Canal, through the heart of the West Prussian manufacturing and coal mining districts.

Exposures of illegal dealings on the part of mining companies, and speculative syndicates, dealing in mining lands, have also been utilized by the League to call attention to the wrong of private ownership of such natural opportunities. It has been discovered that thousands of acres of coal lands are being kept closed and tied up, to artificially lessen the output. *Tout comme chez nous*. One speculative syndicate has just cleared 85 million marks in a deal concerning the ownership of some of these mining lands, and the League has not failed to call attention to the ease with which this big steal was effected, and to follow it up by an agitation for better laws regulating valuable ore bearing lands, and mining grants to private individuals or companies.

Three cities in Germany now take a tax on the increase in value at sales of city lots. Frankfurt am Main, the pioneer, has been joined by Cologne and Gelsenkirchen. The size and importance of the first two cities made this move mere significant.

After a long and hard fight, the city of Dantzic has joined the ranks of the many Prussian towns that now tax city land at its selling value. Land owning interests in Dantzic had so poisoned the public mind against the new tax that it took months of discussion and agitation, in and out of council, to settle the matter. Reports were asked for from other towns having had the tax for a period of from one to six years, and in every case these reports were most favorable. For instance: Breslau reports having received 316,000 marks in tax on unimproved land as over against 10,800 income on the old valuation. This enabled the city authorities to reduce taxes on small holdings to the amount of 105,000 marks. There are now altogether one hundred and fifty towns taxing unimproved land on the selling value.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

SCANDINAVIA.

THE DANISH LEAGUE DOUBLES ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ONE YEAR—A NEW DANISH TRANSLATION OF PROGRESS AND POVERTY—A SWEDISH BARON LEAVES THE ARMY TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO SINGLE TAX WORK.

The Danish Henry George League has grown during the past year from 550 to 1100 members, representing 27 different counties of Denmark. 150,000 pamphlets and leaflets have been issued since the League was first founded in 1902, 97,000 coming on the count of the past year. A recent pamphlet gives a full and intelligent account of the Single Tax Colony, Fairhope.

A new and excellent translation of Progress and Poverty has been made by the Single Tax leader Jacob C. Lange, and has just been published by the largest and most important Scandinavian publishing house, the Gyldendalske Boghandels-Forlag in Copenhagen. The translation is said to be perfect from a literary point of view, and the name of the publisher alone would insure the book respectful attention on the part of press and public.

The agitation of the Henry George League in Denmark has so aroused public attention that the University of Copenhagen has found it necessary to announce a series of lectures on "Henry George and His Theory" for the present winter. *Ret*, the organ of the League, says that it is most unfortunate that these university lectures must of necessity be held by an Academician, as the only Academician possible for the purpose was about as clear on the subject as is the usual university political economist. However, even under such conditions, the instituting of such a course of lectures proves an awakening of interest in the subject.

Single Taxers in Denmark and Norway are calling the attention of the latter country to the superb opportunity offered by its break with Sweden. Norway can clean house of all old traditions and start fresh and new now, and the chance for a rational course in the matter of taxation is too good to lose.

In Sweden public attention has been called to the new theory to the extent that several bills bearing upon private ownership of land and the taxation of land values, are to be introduced in the coming Spring session of Parliament. Large syndicates having been quietly buying up woodlands in the northern and middle sections of Sweden, erecting great saw mills and driving the peasants from their farms, thus depopulating whole districts and increasing the number of the workless in the towns. Public attention has been called to this matter, and it is to be opposed by a serious agitation on the part of friends of Single Tax theories, combined with other liberals who understand that the small farmer on his own land is the backbone of the country.