

ceeded already with laudable energy in this direction. Württemberg has declared all salt deposits and mineral springs public property (there being no coal deposits in that part), and Hamburg and Bremen have done the same as to mineral salts, oils, bitumen, etc.

The duchy of Anhalt, where there are large deposits of mineral salts, has passed a law subjecting all grants to a tax of \$1 a year for each claim of 4,000 square meters, and it is hoped that this will stop the monopolist from holding idle their claims, and thus obstructing the development of the country.

In this little duchy we have a splendid example, not only of the direct, but also the indirect value of state ownership. It derives its principal income from a big salt mine, and consequently peoples' incomes there are taxed very lightly, with the effect that from the neighboring parts well-to-do people cross to Dessau, the pretty capital of the state, adding to its prosperity, while the neighborhood is drained and groaning under increasing taxation.

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GERMANY.

VALUABLE DATA FROM ADOLPH DAMASCHKE.

How far the revenues from land would suffice to pay all present (and future) public needs is demonstrated by Adolph Damaschke in the August number of *Land and Labor* (London, Eng.).

Mr. Damaschke addressed, in 1892, an inquiry to many German municipalities and districts for information concerning the relation of the revenues derived from lands and utilities publicly owned. Fifty-nine districts answered. Curiously enough those districts from which no reply was received are among the largest and richest. Babenhausen, and Langenseebold in Hesse, Mixstadt in Posen, Martinroda in Thuringia and Ebern in Unterfranken, all districts in which the returns from the public land are said to pay for all local rates and taxes, returned no answer.

The 59 districts which answered belong to fifteen different German provinces—Brandenburg, Pomerania, Schlesia, West Prussia, Westphalia, Hesse, Nassau, the Rhein Province, Hohenzollern, Saxony, Bavaria, Württemberg, the Grand Duchy of Hesse, Baden, Mecklenburg-Schweren, and Alsace.

The number of inhabitants of these districts varies from 800 to 69,000.

The examples of single places obtain increased importance because they may be considered as typical for a large number of districts in their provinces. This is expressed clearly in some answers. The Burgomaster of Treis, on the Moselle, writes: "The Burgomastery of Treis consists of an

area of 25,000 acres. Of these more than 12,500 acres belong to the parishes. All local needs are met from the common purse. Then each burger receives his firing on payment of half or one third of its value and 25 to 30 acres of cultivable land for his lifetime. On this public land the class without means finds work and support through almost the whole year. As the parish only takes from the produce of its possessions as much as it wants for its common needs the laborer gets almost all the produce of his toil. Such are the circumstances of almost all the lower Moselle."

D. W. Kobelt writes from Schwanheim, on the Maine (Hesse-Nassau): "In the region of Wiesbaden, the number of districts which levy no local rates and taxes, or only very low ones, is so large that this arrangement seems to us the normal one."

Philippsburg (Baden) with 2,400 inhabitants, has 1,017½ acres of wood and 1,295 acres of meadow and cultivated fields.

On the other side of the form of inquiry the Burgomaster has made the following instructive note; "Beyond the above-named duty in connection with the public land no taxes are raised here, but all—local rates, state taxes, river and weir dues—is covered by the return from the common property and common undertakings. The total amounts to from £2,350 to £2,450 a year.

From Hagenau (Alsace), a town of about 12,000 inhabitants, I received the following particulars: "In 1891-92, Hagenau obtained £14,256 from its public land. To this add the produce of the water system, £1,075, and the gas, £850. 'Local rates and taxes practically negligible on account of these possessions.'"

Gorlitz (Schlesia) takes the most favorable place of all German towns of over 50,000 inhabitants with regard to local rates and taxes. The total local rates for each inhabitant came, in 1890-91, to 8 marks, 85 pfennigs; in 1891-92, to 8 marks, 2 pfennigs; in 1892-93, to 7 marks, 28 pfennigs.

The reason lies in the circumstance that this town has obtained a landed property of 77,127½ acres, from which, in 1892, £38,028 went to the common chest."

This is a demonstration of how abundant are the sources of revenue to a people, and how much wiser than we these Germans have been in their social economics. Carried to its ultimate application, this principle renders unnecessary all these taxes upon improvements, all creation of bonded indebtedness, and makes it possible for the city to do—as some German cities have begun to do—the things that would give all the people of every self-governing municipality the advantages of leisure, comfort, and art which our one-sided civilization now gives only to the few.

Mr. John Z. White is recovering from his indisposition and will resume his lecture work at an early date.