

It is, however, no use to argue with them. They won't see it and never will till they come into contact with the working people and learn to sympathize with their ideals and aspirations, until they see that there are other interests than those of their own class. And as long as the idea prevails, "Only a servant" or "Only a workman," this can not well come about. At the best, we can hope for only a Platonic love for the "lower orders."

David Lloyd George once remarked to a Welsh friend: "In all my career I do not remember a hand being held out to me from above and a voice saying, 'Dring i fyny yma' (Come up higher, climb thou up here). But don't misunderstand me," he went on, "there have been thousands of hands which have pushed me up from behind." Of course, the real secret of his success, as always, lies within, but in his struggle upward he and Ramsay Macdonald and all of that type must struggle against great odds.

HORACE B. ENGLISH.



HENRY GEORGE IN DENMARK.*

Roskilde, Denmark, March 12.

Denmark being a fairly democratic country, a new movement here, especially such an important and far-reaching one as the Henry George movement, must be based upon the understanding and approval of the people at large; and as long as no definite step has been taken by the government, the work of the movement must for this reason, too, be largely educational and agitational.



The chief weapon used in this agitation and education in Denmark is public meetings and lectures. The more we can have of them the better, and during the years I am speaking of, the number of meetings has been growing faster than ever. Not only that, but the number of people present at each meeting and the interest of those present, may be said to have grown quite as fast. This is to a great extent due to the Fels Fund, through the assistance of which in 1910-11 alone, 470 lectures or meetings were held.

This year that kind of work has been further extended, especially by courses of lectures given by Dr. C. N. Starcke in about fourteen different places (mostly towns). Dr. Starcke has often had big and everywhere steadily increasing audiences, consisting of eager listeners, keen on asking questions.

I might here add that Singletaxers are more and more commonly asked by different societies, political and non-political, to give lectures on the Singletax; people want to know what it means and to discuss it.

Not a few of the lectures arranged by the Fels Fund are held in small-holdings societies; and we have found among the small-holders an ever growing interest and understanding, these people seeing that the taxation of land values is the only way of securing them cheap land and an easy admission to it.



But the small-holders seem also to make the fight for the taxation of land values a matter of their own societies. Last January the united leaders of all the United small-holdings societies sent a message to the

Danish small-holders asking them to keep a watchful eye on the present economic situation and to consider the question of the taxes and of the land from what must no doubt be characterized as the Henry George point of view. They were further asked to discuss these questions at their spring meetings, and the result has been the passing (often unanimously) of resolutions deploring the direct and indirect taxes now proposed by the Government, deploring further that the Government has not been wise enough to propose a reform of the taxes which could be of real benefit to the people at large—namely, a taxation of land values, of the values created by the public, and not by the individual.



As for literary agitation, it seems easier to get Danish people to hear than to read. But a good deal of interest is paid to newspaper articles, and especially to discussions between Singletaxers and others in the very widely spread provincial papers. The sale of books is meanwhile growing, people asking for Henry George's own works as well as for shorter pamphlets, which have been given out through the help of the Fels Fund; as examples may be mentioned L. Larsen's—"Taxation of Land Values in Foreign Countries," and T. L. Bjorner—"Facts and Figures for Working Singletaxers," both of which seem very useful and much asked for.

During the year 1910-11 the number of members of the Henry George Society rose very considerably—from about 2,000 to about 3,000; but, as will be understood from the above, the progress could not be measured by that only.



In the direct political fields Singletaxers have made themselves felt in different ways. The Radical-Liberal cabinet sitting in 1909-10 succeeded in arranging a sample land-valuation* in order to satisfy Singletaxers within the party. It has been going on since 1911 and is now nearly finished. Mr. S. Berthelsen, the well-known Singletaxer, has taken an active part in that valuation and done most helpful work.

The Radical-Liberal party has had a Commission within the party on the question of the taxation of land values; and the present leader of the Henry George Society, Jacob E. Lange, being on this commission, it has reported most favorably on the matter considered, 14 out of the 15 members strongly advocating taxation of that kind. The result was that the party at its last conference (May, 1911) pledged itself to advocate a certain (comparatively small) amount of taxation on land values.

ANDERS VEDEL.

*See The Public, vol. xiv, p. 370.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

DEMOCRACY IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Hermosa Beach, California.

One of the purest examples of democracy in local government prevails here. To be sure, this "city of the sixth class" is only what would be called in the East a village, but the principles and methods used

*See The Public, volume xiv, pages 542, 584, 1192.

ought to be just as applicable to larger municipalities.

Pure democracy must include universal suffrage, and in California, since the Constitutional amendments were passed last year, all adults, men and women alike, vote at all elections. Indeed, (horrible dictu!) the women voters seem to outnumber the men. And the last legislature passed a law granting the powers of Initiative, Referendum and Recall to all California municipalities, so that the people have genuine control of their representatives.

In many of the older cities of the East the voters are hampered by the caucus and convention system of nominations according to the affiliations of candidates with national parties, with long lists of candidates and the ward system of aldermen, etc. All this makes it difficult for the people to know whom they are voting for, and hard to get men elected whose main interest is the welfare of the whole city. Some of these disadvantages are removed by the commission form of government.

Here in Hermosa Beach, as indeed in all California cities of the sixth class, nominations are made directly, without conventions, caucuses or even primaries. Seven voters signing a petition can nominate any candidate they choose. And national politics cuts no figure. In the recent election, beyond the fact that one candidate for the Council was a dues-paying Socialist, the party affiliations of the candidates in national politics were unknown. This left the field free for local issues, as it should be.

The city is governed by a Council of five members, either two or three of whom are elected at large every two years for four-year terms. This year, on account of resignations, four new members were elected in addition to the Clerk and Treasurer, who are elected every two years. The possession by the voters of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall keeps the officers responsive to the will of the majority, and the small number of elective officials makes it possible to know whom one is voting for. The Council elects one of its own members as president and appoints an attorney, an engineer, a street superintendent and a marshal to serve during the pleasure of the board. The clerk is ex-officio assessor, the treasurer ex-officio tax collector and recorder, and the president exercises executive powers similar to those of a mayor.

The population of California cities changes so rapidly that it is very hard for most of the voters to be personally acquainted even with the few candidates for office from whom they are called upon to choose. But the women voters in this their first campaign hit upon an entirely practicable and efficient way of solving this difficulty. Organizing themselves into what they called the "Women's Progressive League," they sent out an invitation to all the nominees (nominations close 30 days before election) to attend a public meeting of all voters and to state their platforms. The candidates (one woman and nine men) responded cordially, and at one of the most largely attended meetings ever held in the city, each candidate stated briefly his previous experience and qualifications and told what ideas he would be guided by in case of election. Consideration was shown for the women voters by the way in which the speakers addressed them as "fellow citizens" instead of, as one said he formerly had done, as "ornaments." Yet

there are some who say women "cannot understand politics"!

At the election three of the six candidates supported by the "Women's Progressive League" were elected and the others were only narrowly defeated. Sex lines were not drawn in the contest.

KENNETH B. ELLIMAN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 23, 1912.

The Sinking of the Titanic.

The Carpathia came into the port of New York on the evening of the 18th, bringing 745 of the passengers and crew of the Titanic, which had gone down off the Grand Banks in the early morning of the 15th, as reported last week. The death list, including one who died on a lifeboat and five who died on the Carpathia, was 1,601. As stated last week, most of the saved were women and children, and were from all three classes of passengers. Among the lost, besides W. T. Stead, F. D. Millet, Major Archibald Butt, John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim, and J. G. Widener, all mentioned last week, were Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus of New York, Mrs. Straus refusing to leave her husband; Frederick W. Seward, son of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, and himself a member of the cabinets of Lincoln, Johnson and Hayes; Jacques Futrelle, the author; and Ramon Artagaveytia, of Uruguay, one of the greatest capitalists of South America. One fact reported by the survivors was that the ship's band marched from deck to deck, finally up to their knees in water, while the ship was sinking, playing "Nearer, my God, to Thee." This was the last sound heard by those in the boats until a great cry arose as the vessel broke apart, turned up on end and went down. Word was received in New York by the 23rd that a steamer sent to the scene of the disaster had recovered 77 bodies floating by aid of life-preservers. [See current volume, page 367.]



A committee of the survivors issued the following statement on the arrival of the Carpathia, signed by Samuel Goldenberg and 25 other passengers:

We, the undersigned, surviving passengers from the steamship Titanic, in order to forestall any sensational or exaggerated statements, deem it our duty to give to the press a statement of facts which have come to our knowledge and which we believe to be true.