

very few can pay their way. Indirect taxation is increasing by leaps and bounds. The country is borrowing at an alarming rate. Under President Alcerca something like \$45,000,000 United States gold was added to the national debt, of which the greatest part was spent on useless warships—none of which could enter the River Plata, owing to shallowness of the water.

Every tangible asset is being traded off to foreigners. Railways, tramways, electric light, water works, even the very ports of the country, except Buenos Aires and La Plata, are under concessions—in the hands of foreign corporations that can and do demand so much per ton on all goods going over their wharves.

Port Belgrano is owned by the Rosario-Porto Belgrano Railway Co., Port Ingo White by the Southern Railway Co., Puerto Galvan by the Pacific Railway Co., Port of Rosario by a French company, Port of Santa Fe by another French company. The city of Bahia Blanca is, practically speaking, owned by the Southern & Pacific Railway Companies between them. One or other owns the markets, the water-supply works, the trams, the electric light—in fact every municipal service that could be made a revenue-producing concern has been sold to foreign capitalists. The rates for wharfage fixed under the Rosario Port concession are such that the shares have been sold on the Paris Exchange (France) at 500 per cent premium.

The poor maize-growers are squeezed by these wharf rates, by railways, by taxes on drays, carts—on everything they possess—and then the landlord takes the balance. If any one raises his voice in protest he goes to jail. Such is the liberty men enjoy in this great country of freedom.

C. N. MACINTOSH.

[In corroboration of the foregoing letter, Dr. Charles L. Logan of Chicago furnishes the following condensed translation from an Argentine newspaper:

On August 16th, "The Nation," a daily paper of Buenos Aires, published an extensive account of the "Agrarian Movement" in the corn-growing district of Argentina, which has taken the form of a strike on the part of the planters (renters) against the excessive rentals demanded by the landowners. Unions were formed, better terms were demanded and in a few cases obtained. At Cordoba six of the union officials were arrested and thrown into jail—no charge being made against them. At Rosario Dr. Netri, active in organizing local unions, urged a national federation of all local bodies. In Uriburu many meetings were held; a provisional commission has been formed by the Provincial authorities with the object of improving the condition of the renters. A meeting of all interested was called for a general discussion of the rural situation. At Simson, where the land is not in great demand, the rent paid by some is 19 and 20 per cent of the crop; others pay 15 per cent and three dollars per hectare (2½ acres), the latter class being in much the worse condition. An effort is also to be made to get a reduction in the price of farm implements. In Pergamino the government has commissioned Mr. Florencio de Basaldúa to enlighten the renters and landowners on a proposition to form a co-operative agricultural society. In explaining its functions, Mr. Basaldúa said the society would purchase all supplies needed by the planters at wholesale and retail at 15 per cent profit; would market all products to best advantage; would have a law passed compelling landowners to subdivide into small holdings, the same to be

sold to planters at current prices on long time payments at low interest, the Government to advance five million dollars and an equal amount to be raised by the sale of 5 per cent bonds guaranteed by a bank which would hold all mortgages. In his address, Mr. Basaldúa said that "the rights of labor are sacred, as are also the rights of capital, the latter being the sweat crystallized and the economy practiced by the present holders or their forefathers." In this case the "capital" is land values, and the gentleman failed to indicate those who really did the heavy sweating while the crystallizing process was going on.

—Editors of The Public.]



A Later Letter.

Buenos Ayres, September 30, 1912.

Just a line to advise you that the President of Argentina, Dr. Roque Saenz Pena, has just sent a special message to Congress affirming the Singletax.

Things here had got to such an extreme that it was either a change of fiscal policy or "bust." Fortunately Dr. Saenz Pena seems to be clear-headed enough to see this.

The message is a splendid affirmation of our plank—Tax monopoly, free enterprise.

C. N. MACINTOSH.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

ONE OF THE PROPHETS.

Joseph Fels in a Private Letter of August 30, 1912.

There is no doubt in my mind that a mass of people, constantly growing in number in practically every civilized country of the world, is coming more and more to understand what Henry George stood for in his lifetime, and more and more what he has left us in his books.

The rapidly increasing number of adherents to the economic teachings of Henry George is proof that, though dead, the man yet lives.

I, for one, am convinced that Henry George was one of the prophets of the great modern world; and, by the same reasoning, that his books are among the great bibles of the world—especially his masterpiece, "Progress and Poverty."

In many countries the propaganda for his reform rises above politics. It is indeed a moral fight. It is a religious fight—a fight for universal freedom among men.

Of the sixteen countries in which I am more or less intimately co-operating for this great cause, none are making greater progress for the time and money expended than the Spanish-speaking countries.



SENATOR PERKY.

Boisé, Idaho, November 21.

To your list of Singletaxers in Congress should be added the name of Hon. K. I. Perky, recently appointed by Governor Hawley to fill the recess vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Hon. Weldon B. Heyburn. Judge Perky is an ardent Singletaxer and has long been the confidential ad-