

Grey, Mr. Brande on Interest, Mr. Vedel on English Politics, and Jacob E. Lange on the Henry George Movement in Denmark.

At the close of the proceedings a resolution was passed declaring the community's right to the land values created by the community, advocating the Taxation of Land Values, and urging as a first step the careful carrying out of the trial valuation passed in the last session of Parliament.

Addresses were sent to the Women's Associations, and the Temperance and Peace Organisations, asking their co-operation in the work of the Society.

Both the Society's meeting and the proceedings of the Convention were well reported. The local paper had 12 columns of matter, and upwards of 50 papers had reports, among them all the Copenhagen papers except SOCIALDEMOKRATEN.

SWEDEN.

THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM LEAGUE.

By JOHAN HANSSON.

The ideas of Henry George have been known in Sweden since the middle of the "eighties." At that time "Progress and Poverty" was published, and also "Social Problems." Some few years later "Protection or Free Trade" was translated. The books do not seem, however, to have attracted very much attention. Some few people were trying to do something for the new thoughts, but they soon got tired. When at the end of 1904, I began to interest people in the taxation of Land Values, I did not know about any other friends of the reform. I wrote newspaper articles regularly, and also some pamphlets. About 1906 some small Land Reform societies came into being. Through the influence of an opportunist politician some of them from the very start began on wrong lines, merely on lines represented by the German Land Reform Association.

Of course I could not in such cases take a large interest in their work. They gradually died out.

Last year the Economic Freedom League was started on Radical anti-monopolistic lines with the taxation of Land Values and abolition of direct and indirect taxation upon labour products as its chief aim.

Although illness has prevented me from putting all my power into the work as President of the League, public attention has been directed to a considerable extent to our efforts.

Here is shortly put what we have been doing:—

We have published:—

1. A pamphlet about Land Values Taxation in New Zealand, 32 pages (2,000 copies).
2. An outline of Social Economics by Jakob E. Lange, of Denmark, 180 pages (2,000 copies).
3. An outline of the principles of justice, by Dr. Severin Christensen, 68 pages (2,000 copies).
4. Five leaflets, 4 pages each (together 25,000 copies).
5. The publication of our periodical, "Budkarlen," in all 13 numbers, 16 and 27 pages each (each edition from 1,000 to 2,500).
6. Six different circulars to various organisations, asking them to co-operate with us (Trade Unions, Temperance and Co-operative Societies); several thousand copies.
7. Twelve lectures printed as manuscripts, with rules for the lecturers and information about literature on different subjects; altogether about 4,500 copies.
8. Bought up the remainder of the edition of Henry George's "The Condition of Labour" (2,700 copies), translated by Johan Hansson. Price reduced 40 per cent.
9. Bought up unsold copies of three pamphlets by Johan Hansson; together about 1,500 copies. Price reduced 50 per cent.
10. Regular newspaper articles and news to some 30 papers in all parts of the country; at the beginning published every month, now issued oftener.
11. Special articles written chiefly by Johan Hansson in different papers.
12. The lecture campaign will be further developed. Lectures have been held by several persons, but it has not been possible to get any figures of the numbers used. The printed lectures have been read at a considerable amount of meetings, especially in temperance societies.
13. On the basis of the printed lectures we were last spring beginning to organise courses in Social Ethics and Economic Reform. They were successful. It was possible to get the people to attend meeting after meeting until the whole programme was gone through (12 lectures). Every evening there was an opportunity given for questions and discussion.
14. A big Convention lasting three days was held at Stockholm September 16th—18th.

PROSPECT OF FUTURE WORK.

1. There is in course of publication a new edition of Henry George's: "Protection or Free Trade."
2. A small book by Dr. Franz Oppenheimer, about the relation between Landlordism and Capitalism.
3. A book about Wages and Land, by Johan Hansson.
4. A Land Value Catalogue.
5. Several new lectures and leaflets.
6. In the autumn and winter several lecturers will, we hope, be continually occupied.
7. Preparations are made for courses of lectures in many places.

The Conservative Press is attacking us in every possible way. They see in our League and our work a foe and a danger. Nearly every day something is appearing in this Press against us, and it is interesting to see that the Press on the other side, on its own initiative, is beginning to defend our cause. In last Parliament a tax "reform" was carried by the Conservative Government, which was a step back. The pressure of work in Parliament prevented the more progressive elements from seeing the real nature of what was done. We protested strongly, and we are still protesting, with the effect that several of the papers and leading politicians are beginning to see that they were wrong. We have got much discussion about Land Values Taxation because of this incident. With regard to legislation, we are now struggling for valuation of land and Land Values Taxation for municipal purposes. A third aim is tariff reduction, for which we have most of the progressive forces on our side.

FRANCE.

INTERNATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CONGRESS.

The International Conference on Unemployment held in Paris last month was attended by Mr. Fels and Mr. Lester as representing the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. The Conference was opened by Monsieur Léon Bourgeois, the Minister of Finance, and was attended by representatives of various organisations from all parts of the world.

Statistics, Labour Exchanges, and Insurance against Unemployment were the subjects discussed, so that from the point of view of those eager to define the cause and show the cure the sittings gave but small satisfaction.

Mr. Joseph Fels, in his usual trenchant way, took every opportunity allowed him of making this clear, and from time to time his bombshells disturbed the calmness of the deliberations. He expressed the view that registration offices only raised those who had fallen into unemployment, instead of preventing the fall. The Labour Exchanges did not create work; in England they had only moved the unemployed to other places, thus throwing other men out of work. "There is not enough employment for all the workers," he declared, "it is not, therefore, lack of apprenticeship which leads to unemployment. The rivalry of nations hinders reciprocity in the matter of finding work. The land question is at the bottom of unemployment." He was opposed to any scheme of insurance against unemployment. They first created unemployed and then insured the victim.

The Hon. A. Kirkpatrick, Agent-General in London for South Australia, agreed that the land monopoly was the cause of unemployment; even in Australia there was unemployment, but preventive measures had been taken, including a progressive land tax.

FORMATION OF SINGLE-TAX LEAGUE.

An interesting incident of the visit was the formation of a French Single Tax League. Monsieur George Darien, of 40, Rue Taine, Paris, has for some time been taking steps in this direction, and took the opportunity of Mr. Fels's visit to invite him to meet those with whom he had got into touch. The outcome was that some forty men and women met in the Grand Hotel, and a league was formed, under the title of La Ligue Française pour l'Impôt Unique. It will thus be seen that the old name chosen by the physiocrats of the beginning of the nineteenth century has been chosen for the new league, the literal translation being, of course, Single Tax League. It was resolved at once to take an office and to publish literature including cheap editions of the works of Henry George translated into French, as a first step towards a vigorous campaign. A sum was offered by Mr. Fels towards the first cost of this work, with the offer to duplicate any money that may be collected over and above.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Fels on this latest piece of good propaganda, and send our best wishes to our new-found friends across the Channel.