

now here at this meeting that you will learn just what Henry George proposed, what single taxers are so persistently urging, what I and these other gentlemen have come here to speak of, and then each one decide for himself whether or not this is a righteous war.

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A MESSAGE FROM DENMARK TO AMERICA.

Translated from the Danish Paper, "Husmanden,"
for July 11, 1909, for The Public, by C. M. Koedt.

At the "Cottagers' Agricultural College" at Fyen on Sunday, July 4, there was a well attended meeting, which had drawn many "Cottagers" and their wives from distant parts of the country. The "Cottagers," or small home-owners, of Denmark (vol. ix, p. 1013; vol. xii, p. 55) number some 300,000. After singing the fellowship song, "The Fatherland is the People's Land," Attorney S. Berthelsen, of Hoeng, and editor of Ret (Justice), made an address in which he reminded his hearers that it was just 133 years since the North American States proclaimed the Declaration of Independence, drawn up by Thomas Jefferson, which became the starting point for the modern world movement toward civil and political liberty.

The speaker then described this American document of 1776, how it came about, its contents and importance, how it places the individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness foremost, and limits the task of government to watching over the liberty of the people and securing equal rights for all. In strong contrast he placed the French Revolution's "Declaration of Human Rights," in 1789, as being, though somewhat influenced by the American Declaration, much less really liberal. The Paris declaration built closely upon the old Roman law, he said, and about the state's power, the state owning us altogether and then in compensation having to protect and maintain us, in the way Rousseau has presented it in his book upon the "Social Contract." The French revolutionary movement thereby became the starting point for a false liberalism and later a false socialism with state encroachment upon the liberty of the individual, a false "humanity," a misunderstood "parliamentarism," a deceitful "protection," with burdensome "personal taxes," and facilities for land owners to throw taxes over upon the laboring and consuming community.

In direct contradistinction the American movement for independence becomes the starting point for true civil and political liberty, for limitation of governmental power, for every man's right to seek happiness through his own free labor, with personal liberty and free trade, with abolition of indirect taxation and the introduction of self government to the widest extent.

One hundred years later another American,

Henry George, continued Thomas Jefferson's work. On the 4th of July, 1877, he delivered in San Francisco his famous oration on liberty, in which he counseled his countrymen to be true to the "Declaration of Independence," showed them their sins against it, their punishment therefor in the prevailing social misery, and the way out to full economic freedom through taxing the land values created by the community. Through the worldwide movement which started from this oration of Henry George and his later labor, he has become the creator of a new time, our time, with its absolute demand by the people for full liberty, not only personal and political liberty, but economic liberty.

The Danish Cottagers' movement, which has built upon Henry George's ideas its demand for the repeal of all taxes on labor and consumption, and the introduction of a tax on the socially created values of land—but neither government despotism nor government donations—has reason to gratefully remember the American "Declaration of Independence," since therefrom descends, with Henry George as intermediate link, and in direct line, the "Kjoerge Resolution" of November 8, 1902—the Danish Cottagers' Economic Reform program.

Let us then conclude here, the speaker continued, as is done today at thousands of meetings in America, with reading that magnificent "Declaration of Independence" of 1776.

This reading was followed by vigorous hurrahs from the profoundly interested assemblage. Mr. Emil Rasmussen expressed his pleasure over the lecture; and as it was American day at the Aarhus exposition, where many thousands of Danish-Americans were met, he moved sending a message of greeting and gratitude to these Americans for what the Danes have received from America in love of freedom and strength of liberty, from Thomas Jefferson to Henry George. This motion was seconded and carried, and with great applause the following telegram was sent to the Danish Americans at the Aarhus Exposition:

Fyen Cottagers assembled at the Agricultural School near Odense, where the American "Declaration of Independence" was just read, send brotherly greetings. Carry this greeting forward to the great country on the other side, with thanks for Thomas Jefferson's magnificent "Declaration of Independence" of 1776, which became the world's constitution for civil and political emancipation. And thanks for Henry George, who continued the work of Jefferson, and through his luminous precepts about the people's right to the ground value of the fatherland, directed the way to full economic liberty. Herewith he has also impressed the Danish cottagers' economic reform program.

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The Golden Rule of Taxation: Never tax anything of value to your State that could and would run away, or that could and would come to you.