

them go on the docks and make false weights of sugar, and no-bod-y had heard them say in a loud voice that the men on the docks were to make false weights. There-fore it could not be proved that they knew what the e-vil men on the docks were do-ing. This was what was called a le-gal fic-tion. We think if some one had tried to take the same a-mount out of the treas-ury of the com-pa-ny they would have known a great deal a-bout it.

"There was also a law in that coun-try which said that if a crime was not pun-ished in a few years af-ter it was found out it could not be pun-ished at all, and the years went by ver-y quick-ly and ver-y qui-et-ly ex-cept for the check-ers and weigh-ers.

"Our chil-dren know that in U-ro-gon-ia such things as these can-not hap-pen, for in our hap-py coun-try we seek whom the crime prof-its. But there was a great au-thor once whose name was Charles Dick-ens, and he wrote a book with a char-ac-ter in it named Mr. Bum-ble. And Mr. Bum-ble said in the book: 'The law is a ass,' and sure-ly it some-times act-ed like one."

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The narrative contained in this lesson seemed to me to have verisimilitude. I cannot rid myself of the impression that the facts stated are vaguely familiar, and that they apply to our own country. Still, it would give me much pleasure to find myself mistaken, and I sincerely trust that some one who has the necessary opportunity for investigation may triumphantly dispel an idea so derogatory to our ancient administration of justice.

A. J. PORTENAR.

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ECONOMIC ADVANCES IN DENMARK.

Extracts From An Address Delivered August 26, 1910, Before the Chicago Single Tax Club by C. M. Koedt.

Denmark is a small country, only 15,000 miles in extent. It is well settled, has 180 inhabitants to the square mile. The country high roads are fine, the railway system well developed, and hundreds of harbors, fjords and bays grant easy communication for large and small sailing craft, and unrestricted intercourse of the people.

Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, a kingdom with an unbroken national existence of over 1,000 years. The country is, therefore, naturally rich in traditions and historical events, which even at this late time have their influence upon the thought of the people. Though the small farmers, and farm laborers were serfs during the feudal age, freedom has ever been esteemed a blessing of the first order. When the Vikings, about the year 800, had ascended the river Rhine

and stood in battle array opposite the warriors of Charles the Great of France, he is said to have instructed his herald to shout to the Vikings: "Who is your overlord?" to which they proudly responded: "We have no overlord, we are all free men!"

During the country's long national existence, the question of taxation has been an object of ever present consideration. In the early middle ages the kings divided the land among their chieftains and courtiers, but only as fiefs, not in fee-simple. In consideration hereof, each courtier had to furnish the king with warriors in mail, horses and supplies of all kinds for the army, whenever the king went to war, which was often and for years at a time. But upon the introduction of the standing armies, and, almost simultaneously, the assumption of autocratic power by the king, the fief-holders threw off their former obligations to the king, and appropriated the land, which they henceforth held in fee-simple. And thus they hold their land today, though in the meantime they have been forced to sell great areas to their former serfs, now the freest farmers in Denmark. . . .

Taxes on exports and goods in transit have disappeared from Denmark, as have the tonnage dues and merchandize duties levied upon all vessels passing through the Sound at Elsinore, whether going to, or coming from the Baltic Sea. These duties were abolished at the instigation of the United States, in 1858, at which time the American flag floated in every harbor of the world. At that time 75 per cent of all imports and exports of the United States were carried in American bottoms, a commerce our destructive tariff has practically ruined, reducing it to about 9 per cent. . . .

As now in the United States, so formerly in Denmark, the people thought it fun, looked upon it as smart, to cheat the customs officers. But when I visited Denmark ten years ago and made inquiry about this ancient habit, I was told: "We are beyond that nowadays; you see," they said, "it is not only dishonest to the government, but downright stealing from the people." This was a revelation of how the sense of economic justice has permeated the thoughts of the Danes, and fitted them to become Single Taxers.

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Organization has enabled the Danish poultry farmers, to the number of nearly 60,000, to capture the egg trade of England, where Danish eggs bring fancy prices. Last year's export of eggs amounted to about \$7,000,000. The first thing these Danes did to give their eggs a reputation for "freshness-to-be-relied-upon," was to oblige every exporting egg-producer to stamp every single egg with his name and address and the very date the egg was laid. Then they caused the passage of a law (something in line with our pure-

food laws) protecting their export egg trade against careless and dishonest shippers. This law provides that anyone sending a rotten egg in his export boxes is fined \$5, and if it happens again, another \$5 fine; but should it occur the third time, this unlucky person can never export any more eggs, anyway not in his own name. This law is most rigidly enforced and therefore rarely infringed. The transgressor is looked upon as a criminal, a menace to society at large, and the export poultry farmers in particular. The result is that buyers of Danish eggs in England have no fear of being imposed upon. The butter and bacon trade are similarly protected. The Danish government keeps a number of expert food commissioners in England who follow up any and every complaint made against Danish food products. Their report pro or con is final judgment. In these matters no false sentimental excuses for the "poor fellow" who has offended by mistake are allowed to muddle justice. The Danes simply will not allow anyone to place their export trade in jeopardy. Everybody knows what he is about, and the offender is justly ostracized.

Contemplate for a moment! Here are, in this one branch of farming, 60,000 men and women, and their families every day of their lives consciously in close touch with applied justice, feeling its strength and the sunshine of its blessing, as well as its stern concomitant—ruin for disobedience, whether from neglect or contempt. Surely this is democracy at its best, giving powerful aid in developing the quality of intrepidity in the sense of justice, which is so necessary an impetus for our cause in the battle with entrenched privilege.

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One of the most encouraging aspects of the Single Tax movement in Denmark is the quite unique fact that the body of Danish farmers, 250,000 voters strong, are free traders almost to a man. In no other country in the world I know of is this the case. Certainly not in the United States, nor in England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy or Sweden, while the Irish farmers are downright protection mad. Here is a fine example the Danish farmers set their fellows the world over, and I wish I could send this noble free trade precept on the rays of the sun into every farmer's home in all lands. This free trade business is of no mushroom growth. In Denmark, as elsewhere, the tariff furnishes now the main revenue for government expenses. Since 1863, however, there has been free trade in all agricultural products. So well and so satisfactorily to the farmers has this free trade worked that when some years ago a new tariff law was proposed, and the manufacturing interests tried to win them over, offering protection on their grain and cattle, flour, butter, eggs, meat and bacon, etc., the farmers sent a

petition to the government with 30,000 signatures, and more if needed, in which they vehemently protested against any duty being placed on their industry. The new tariff law, of 1908, is, consequently, again "free trade," in all things produced by the farmer. . . .

The small farmers, in Denmark, are called "Husman," or men with a house and a little land, up to about 10 acres. They are organized in many small circles and three large societies—the Jutland Husman Society, the Fyen Husman Society and the Sealand Husman Society. This latter organization held its annual meeting in the city of Koge on November 8, 1902, and here adopted a now almost famous resolution* in which they "demand the earliest possible abolition of the tariff and all other taxes upon industry, and in lieu thereof a tax imposed upon the value of all land, not due to any individual effort, but derived from the growth and development of the community." This resolution was later on also adopted by the two other Husman societies and forms the solid basis for their political activities. These small farmers have figured out that their present taxes, in proportion to the land value privilege they enjoy, are about eight times larger than those of the great land owners, and that a just shifting of the burden will not only make them better off, but enhance their power of competing in the foreign as well as the home market for their products. The large land owner claims that he, proportionally, does not by far get as much out of his land as do the small farmers. But the Husman says, if one man holds 1,000 acres of land, while 100 Husmans with each 10 acres hold the same area of as valuable land, then both parties have the same land value privileges, and should pay taxes in proportion to the privilege enjoyed, and not to the result of energy exerted by the individual.

On this basis of income from industry the taxes are laid at present, and to this the Husman objects most strenuously.

The Husman is thus, it will be acknowledged, quite alive to the advantages to be derived from the Henry George reform, to which he naturally is a firm adherent.

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There are few rich men in the land, and such abject poverty as confronts us in all large American cities is quite unknown in Denmark at the present time. Begging in the streets or from house to house is prohibited, and the police see to it that it does not occur. But to every man, woman and child the constitution grants home rights in some community, where he is taken care of if in needy circumstances. Destitute people found in a community where they have no home rights are sent back to their home community, and the

*See The Public, vol. ix, page 1013; xii, page 55; xi, page 586.

authorities, in every instance, take care that this is done. In the case of foreigners, they are returned to their native country. This also is good democratic government and strengthens the civic conscientiousness of the people.

If anyone thinks, however, that Denmark is a poor country he is much mistaken. Mulhall, the world famed Dublin statistician, is authority for the fact that among the independent nations of the world Denmark is, per capita, next after England, the richest country, while France comes third and the United States fourth in line. This is probably news to most people.



Between the Danish and American farmer there is quite a difference in the way of utilizing the soil. Late United States government reports show that the average yield of wheat per acre is 14½ bushels in the United States, 26½ in Germany and 32 in England, but in Denmark, in spite of having tilled the soil for over 1,000 years, the farmers raise an average of 42 bushels to the acre. This shows one reason why the Danish farmer cares naught for protection; it is the intensity of cultivation which counts. When the Danish farmer grows wheat, he knows exactly the kind and quantity of the chemicals he extracts from the soil, and which must be returned in fertilizers if he wishes to again raise wheat. This means that the Danish farmer is conscious he must do justice to his soil if he himself desires to prosper by his own toil, and not sponge upon his fellow men through protective tariff duties.



While the serf system in Denmark was abolished about the time of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, the Danish people lived under autocratic government until 1849—just sixty-one years ago. Their political freedom is, therefore, yet young, and may be said to be buoyant. The fire of liberty has not cooled down. It is on the contrary augmented, especially by the farmers' high schools, 27 in number, where the young men attend in winter and the girls in summer mostly. These farmers' high schools are private institutions, though financially aided by the state. Here thousands of happy, young people flock together and drink in the knowledge of life.



The land-owning nobility consists of twenty-two counts, fourteen barons and forty-eight manorial estates of other noble families. They altogether own only five per cent of the land. Of the other owners of large farms less than 800 have more than 150 acres and own in all below eight per cent of the land. Two hundred and fifty thousand farmers own seven-eighths of the land.

The Henry George Society in Denmark consists of the parent organization, and numerous constantly augmented branches, which all act in harmony and have this year arranged over 600 lectures. Among the enrolled members are 49 ministers of the state church, which by itself is a great moral support for the cause. These ministers are no drones, and if not actual leaders, they are good workers, especially among the well-to-do negligent. There is one great annual meeting lasting three days when the propaganda is further organized and all matters of the society vigorously debated. They have a splendidly edited Single Tax monthly called "Ret"—Justice—with 4,000 paid subscribers, and besides, an array of about one hundred books and pamphlets on the cause. They further follow up and answer all articles in the press, at the same time shooting in articles and interviews wherever possible. They have and court adherents in all political parties, without so far appearing independently in the political arena.

As a result of the work of the Single Taxers, there was, in this year's budget, an appropriation of 15,000 kroners (\$4,000) for the purpose of making trial valuations of land in both rural and urban sections, so as to ascertain by experience the best way to proceed with the valuation of all the land in the kingdom. Until the authorities, entrusted with this preliminary, limited valuation work, present their report to the congress, there will, of course, be no further action by the government.

BOOKS

A JOYFUL EFFORT TO RECTIFY THE WORLD.

Among Friends. By Samuel McChord Crothers. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 1910. Price, \$1.25 net.

Crothers is as delightful as ever in this collection of his most recently published essays. His original quirks of expression and his soundness of humor grant his reader a delicious recreation of spirit. Contentment is lost in the fun of life's aspects; and man—traveler, author, missionary or politician—is willing target for the sweetened arrows of this kind wit.

"The Anglo-American School of Polite Un-learning" is as keen a critique on American versus English national characteristics, as it is fantastic a conception. One is sure that the author has disclosed his own secret mental process for finding literary material in telling of the discovery of this "School."

In London, if one in his secret heart longs for something, he has only to leave the main thoroughfares