

Death of Carl Marfels

CARL MARFELS, prominent leader of the Henry George movement in Germany, passed away in Berlin on October 11 at the age of seventy-five.

A. W. Madsen in *Land and Liberty*, of London, England, pays a deserved tribute to his devoted labors for the cause of industrial emancipation.

Carl Marfels wrote a number of pamphlets and these were collected and published in 1918 under the title, "Philosophic and Economic Talks."

In the Fall of 1927 he visited America and was entertained by Charles O'Connor Hennessy, Anna George deMille, and others. Returning to Germany he looked forward with eagerness to a trip to the Edinburgh Conference, but was prevented by illness. He was a great friend of the International Union, esteeming it a valuable agency in the propaganda of economic truth and peace throughout the world.

Letters from Mr. Marfels to LAND AND FREEDOM, to which for a number of years he was a subscriber, brought us in touch with this devoted soul. The movement in Germany, and indeed throughout the world, is poorer for his passing.

ON the land we are born; from the land we are nourished: to the land we return—children of the soil as truly as the blade of grass or the flowers of the field.

—*Progress and Poverty.*

BOOK NOTICES

THE DANISH FOLK SCHOOL

Under this title Olive D. Campbell has given us an inspiring picture of the Danish Folk School and some very interesting phases of Danish life. The work is profusely and finely illustrated and the pages are replete with the most charming pictures of a people more happy and contented than those of any other nation in the modern world.

She has succeeded in conveying to the reader that pervading spirit of Denmark's high patriotism and intense national idealism which have influenced the moulding of her institutions. Lovers of freedom these descendants of the Vikings, and jealous of the laws and customs which have grown up through so many years of peaceful struggle.

No people to the same extent, or in which so large a part of the population has taken part, have ever sought to attain the secrets of real culture. This intense spirit has moulded her education, which for the most part has been conducted on right lines. The real heroes of Denmark are the men like Gruntvig and others who have contributed to this cultural development. He is the real father of the Danish Folk School. The astoundingly small percentage of illiteracy in Denmark speaks volumes for the success of the system, with which our own Jakob Lange is so honorably and prominently connected.

The secret of Denmark's greatness—greatness measured not in terms of conquest or military prestige, but in the happiness and contentment of her people—rests perhaps in her democratic ideals. Mrs. Campbell has given us the clue when she says: "The Danish people above all others believe that the land belongs to the people and more than any other nation has taken long strides toward realizing this ideal."

Elsewhere she says: "Since 1902 their watchword has been equal tax on equal land, this including national and local taxes on real estate. They have been greatly aided by the Henry George movement which

has a strong following in Denmark. They have also the support of the House-Tenants Association, with a membership of fifty thousand."

Again we quote: "A land valuation apart from improvements has been sought from the first. In 1922 the Radical, Moderate Liberal and Social Democratic parties came together and succeeded in passing a small entering wedge in the form of a law which imposed a uniform national land value tax operative in both town and country without exemption to any class of owner, at the rate of one-half kroner per thousand of capital value. On March 31st., 1926, another step was taken, this time bearing on community taxes. All Denmark was turned into a debating society over the law which, as finally passed, gives to municipal councils the opportunity to replace the old tax on land and houses as a whole with a land tax, the taxes on improvements being at the same time reduced. A greater measure of land-value taxation to do away with the remaining taxes on improvements, tariffs and the earnings of industry, seems likely to follow before long."

Our old friend, Jakob Lange, whom Single Taxers of this city will remember on his visit to this country for his fine and beautiful devotion to the spirit of our leader and our philosophy, is frequently cited throughout these pages.

The work is published by Macmillan Company of this city, and a word of praise should be added in commendation of the fine typography of the book and the beautiful type and paper so befitting the author's artistic treatment of her subject.

The work comes to us with the compliments of John Paul to whom we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness.

J. D. M.

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM NORMAN THOMAS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

This is just a note to thank you for the very friendly references you have made from time to time to me and to our Socialist municipal campaign.

No Single Taxer can believe more firmly than I that landlordism blocks the way to the City Beautiful. Those who believe that need to fight hard and fight together.

New York City.

NORMAN THOMAS.

FROM AN OLD PRINTER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I read with interest your comments on Mr. Thomas' site-tax declarations.

I think it would be more profitable for Georgists to concentrate their propaganda on those who desire a social change of any kind than by preaching to the indifferent ones, with the view of converting them to the necessity of making any kind of a change—plus the necessity of explaining our economic remedy.

N. Y. City.

JOHN H. KELLY.

MRS. DONALDSON APPROVES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

My daughter and I attended the Socialist meeting of Nov. 16th. Mr. Thomas appeared to me to show a great willingness to cooperate with any people having the betterment of humanity at heart with, of course, natural and seemingly reasonable, but not obstructive reservations.

Mr. Thomas was asked, "What would you do if you were elected to a high office such as, president, governor, or mayor?" He answered, *placing it first*, "I would collect the entire ground rent for public expenses."

My daughter exclaimed, "There, that's just what you want. Why don't you join them. I'm going to."

Here is a big enthusiastic gathering with eager, earnest youth all