

each apartment, in a multi-family dwelling. This has led to the construction of new dwelling houses that would not have otherwise been built, amounting in value to several hundreds of millions of dollars.

New York, unfortunately, still taxes thrift and industry by taxing mortgages, machinery, etc., and still imposes that class of nuisance taxes called licenses. In that respect Pittsburgh is far in advance. She has struck shackles from capital and labor by raising all her revenue from real estate and the greater part of that by taking a large slice of the economic rent. I firmly hope and verily believe that I will live to see the day when that great American city will not only abolish the remnant of the tax on buildings but will go further than mere revenue demands by taking the entire economic rent.

I will make bare mention of a few more facts showing that the light is beginning to penetrate. Two-thirds of the revenue is derived from land values in Portland, State of Oregon, and in Houston, State of Texas. In San Diego, State of California, the 1919 assessment figures were as follows: Personal property 9 millions, buildings 6 millions; land values 72 millions.

I may have wearied you with my numerous citations of figures; these were necessary in the discussion of the subject assigned to me. I would have preferred the philosophical and ethical rather than the fiscal side of the teachings of Henry George. But we must always remember that the Prophet himself, who honored me with his personal association forty years ago, showed that the road to freedom and happiness is travelled by keeping step with the march of public opinion.

Resolutions Adopted At the Conference

PRINCIPLE AND POLICY

We, the members of the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, assembled in the Danish Houses of Parliament, Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926, re-affirm the Declaration of Principle and Policy adopted by the International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values held at Oxford, England, August, 1923 and

Whereas this Conference has adopted an Address to the statesmen of the League of Nations, pointing out that the chief causes of international discord and of war have their roots in the private monopoly of the world's natural resources and in the economic barriers that governments erect to prevent the free exchange of goods and services between friendly peoples; now be it known, that

This Conference not only favors freedom of trade across the frontiers, but also affirms that if governments would establish peace, contentment and prosperity within their own borders they must apply the principle of free trade among their citizens at home. To

apply this principle fully they must give equal access to natural opportunities, and abolish all legal and artificial restrictions upon or impediments to the right of men to freely produce wealth, freely to exchange it and freely to enjoy the results of their labor. This can be accomplished only when governments repeal the taxes that now interfere with, or impose penalties upon, production and exchange.

Declaring that the land of every country is, by right, the common property of the people, we affirm that the value of land due to the presence and activity of the community should, by concentrating taxation upon land values be taken for public purposes in place of the taxes that now so grievously burden industry and interfere with the natural rights of man.

Free Trade and World Peace

RESOLVED that we transmit to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva for the consideration of the Council and the Assembly of the League the following Declaration:

DECLARATION

We, the followers of Henry George from seventeen nations, assembled in the Danish Houses of Parliament at Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926, at the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, respectfully submit for the consideration of the League of Nations our earnest hope that the League may be led to promote the peace and prosperity of the world by undertaking the removal of the obstacles that now interfere with common understanding and progress.

We believe that until there is a frank recognition of the root causes of international misunderstanding and discord, and a sincere and earnest determination to remove them, there will be no permanent peace or progress in the world. The peace promised by the Treaty of Locarno, even if ratified, would be but a gesture of goodwill, leaving untouched the evil economic realities out of which grow the envies, hates and fears which are the common causes of war.

Disarmament alone cannot assure permanent peace, and is, indeed inconceivable so long as powerful and privileged monopolists can contend for the control of the world's natural resources, and selfish national policies, designed to benefit one people by inflicting injury upon another, arouse suspicions and antipathies on all hands.

This Conference urges the League of Nations to recognise the simple truth that free commerce among the peoples of the earth would be the greatest civilizing influence the world could know; it would serve increasingly to promote those friendly human contacts and understandings that make for an ultimate appreciation of the essential kinship of all mankind. Untaxed and unrestricted trade would put an

end to the isolation or the self-sufficiency of any nation. It would, in time, bring into being a League of people more potent for peace than any league of political governments could be.

We affirm, therefore, that the curse of war may never be ended until the leaders of nations come to recognise and deal with the fundamental causes of international strife. These, it is now generally seen, have their origin not alone in hostile tariffs and the struggle for markets, but in the economic imperialism which exploits the natural resources of distant and undeveloped lands, not for the common interest, but for the enrichment of favoured groups of monopolists in every country.

In conclusion, this Conference exhorts the leaders of the League of Nations to influence their Governments to depart from the old ways that must inevitably lead to new wars for domination and conquest, and to guide humanity along the road we have pointed out which leads to abiding peace and prosperity.

Messages to the Conference

Edward Nordman, Commissioner of Markets of Wisconsin wrote, as follows:

"We cannot much longer survive a condition that divests wealth from its rightful owners, who are the producing masses, to the pocket of the privileged classes and get away with it. The stability of industry, and therefore of society demands that wealth be distributed on a service basis, and if this is done the actual producers of wealth will acquire the necessary purchasing and producing power to keep industry going."

"There can be no such equitable distribution so long as the privileged few are permitted to absorb the vast sums that are involved in the unearned increment. This maladjustment of the distribution system is confusing the markets to such an extent that the producer never knows where he is at. There will be no cure for this evil until leaders at least, get the idea of its source, which is the absorption of the unearned increment by private individuals.

"But let us take courage in the fact that nature is on our side in this great fight. Perhaps nature does not come right out and tell us what the remedy is, and how to apply it, but she does put obstacles in the way of trying to apply wrong remedies and so it is simply a matter of pounding away at the problem and sooner or later the world will stumble onto the real remedy and try it out. When this remedy is applied it will be found to work perfectly and receive nature's approval."

George F. Comings, former Lieut. Governor of Wisconsin, sent this message to the Copenhagen Conference:

"I envy you this opportunity of meeting in this International Conference the brilliant liberal spirits who will gather and give earnest thought to one of the greatest problems of society—taxation.

"One great American has said that it is the greatest force for good or evil known to peaceful society.

"Another American economist has said, that taxation may create monopolies or it may prevent them, taxation may concentrate wealth or it may diffuse it; taxation may promote liberty and equality of rights or it may abolish them.

"May this conference direct the eyes of the world to a system of taxation that promotes a just distribution of wealth, strengthens liberty, and leads away from war by removing the causes of armaments and wars. May it send a cheering message to all the nations of the earth of good will, of justice, of peace yet to be."

Notice to Our Readers

This issue of LAND AND FREEDOM has been delayed two weeks to await a report of the Copenhagen Conference. The excellent summary of the proceedings by Chester C. Platt, together with the two addresses and resolutions, which appear in this number are all that we can publish now. Other material will appear in subsequent issues.

MR. ANDREW McLAREN, M.P., speaking at the Queen's Hall, London, said:—"Have you ever noticed that it is your land when there is a war on and that it costs you £800 or more per acre after you have defended it? There is a human tragedy behind that. I was told at church that God made the land, but it is not God who comes round for the rent every Monday morning."

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P., speaking in the House of Commons, said:—"The value of the landlord's property is increased by public expenditure; while he sleeps he grows fat. I have stated before in this House urban land values were never increasing more rapidly than they are to-day, in view of the extension of motor transport. Therefore, we believe in the full ownership of the land by the people and we would take immediate steps to appropriate for local and national purposes every penny of the value of land which is created by the energy, enterprise and capital expenditure of the community."

Two kinds of farmers farm relief demand.
One farms the farmer and one farms the land.—

ALL titles bad begun must badly end—
None can be right that right cannot defend.—

Since Man was cursed in Eden all his care
Has been to find new backs his load to bear.—

Man suffers, like a bull tied to a tree,
In sight of plenty. Yet he might be free.—

WE pray for peace, and as we pray we howl
For hostile tariff laws—let Europe scowl.—HORATIO.