

TRANSVAAL

In the Transvaal, in South Africa, land value taxation has prevailed in most localities since 1916.

GERMANY

It should be noted that the new constitution of the German republic declares that "All the increase in land values not due to the expenditure of capital and labor must be used for communal benefits." This clause, going beyond a merely permissive declaration, is the first instance of such a statement in the organic law of any nation. No step has yet been taken to make this declaration operative.

I have purposely made this article a record of achievement. The time when the entire rental value of land will be taken for public purposes may be yet a long way ahead, but events are crowding one another and nearly every country in the world is making some favorable gesture toward the principle.

(Through the generous gift of Mr. Harry H. Willock, of Pittsburgh, we are enabled to offer this article in pamphlet form for free distribution in quantities on the payment of postage alone.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.)

Shall There Be Another International Conference?

IN view of the great importance of The International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values last August in Oxford, in calling general attention to our ideas and strengthening international cooperation for freedom and justice it has been suggested by different parties that these international gatherings be continued.

At the conference in Oxford it was proposed by Senor Antonio Albendin from Spain, that the next conference should be held in Copenhagen, 1926. The delegates were in sympathy with that proposal, and the Danish conveners appreciated the honor and promised to bring the proposal before the friends in Denmark.

Such a great undertaking as an international convention, however, can only be carried on by strong and united cooperation and careful preparation. Therefore the delegation has secured the support of the different Danish organizations working for the taxation of land values or the collection of the economic rent of the land, namely:

The Danish Henry George Union (den danske Henry George Forening) the Danish Smallholders Organizations, (de samvirkende danske Husmandsforeninger), the Christian Social League (kristeligt socialt Forbund) and the League of justice (Retsforbundet). Those organizations were in hearty agreement with the proposition and desired to aim at having the conference already in August 1925, as that time was considered most opportune for the cause in Denmark.

The four organizations named appointed a committee to make the preparatory arrangements.

In behalf of those organizations we wish to communicate with our friends and cooperators singly or as representatives for their respective organizations and put to you the following questions:

1 Does your organization intend to send a delegate to the third international Conference on the Taxation of Land Values to be held in Copenhagen 1925 or in 1926?

2 Does your organization wish to participate in a financial guarantee in order to secure the considerable expenses incurred by such an undertaking?

3 What time do you wish the Conference to be held?

4 Would you kindly inform the Secretary of other existing organizations in your country, which also work for the taxation of land values and from which participation in the Conference may be expected?

If the Conference meets with general approval and the necessary accession is secured, it is supposed to last 8-10 days. Part of the time will be used for lectures and discussions, and part of it for excursions to places of interest to the delegates.

The committee suggests, that each country by itself ought to appoint its official speakers and after the opening of the Conference an international committee is to be elected, which is to conduct the proceedings of the Conference.

With faith in our cause and hope for its victory for the benefit of the suffering humanity, we greet you as friends and co-workers.

INGENIOR F. FOLKE, President of the Henry George Union.

REV. CHR. NORLEV, Secretary of the Christian Social League.

M. HENRIKSEN, Secretary of the Danish Small Holders Organizations.

FRU SIGNE BJORNER, Vice president of the League of Justice.

ABEL BRINK, The Secretary of the Conference.

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From The Condition Of Labor

WE propose leaving land in the private possession of individuals, with full liberty to give, sell, or bequeath it—simply to levy on it for public uses a tax that shall equal the annual value of the land itself, irrespective of the use made of it or the improvements on it. And since this would provide amply for the need of public revenue, we would accompany this tax on land values with the repeal of all taxes now levied on the products and processes of industry, which taxes, since they take from the earnings of labor, we hold to be infringements on the rights of property.

This we propose, not as a cunning device of human ingenuity, but as conforming human regulation to the will of God.—HENRY GEORGE in his Answer to the Pope.