

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## BRAZIL

REVISTA DO IMPOSTO UNICO, in its March issue gives the place of honour to a portrait and biography of Ruy Barbosa, a great Free Trade Brazilian statesman of the last generation, to whom was given (as so seldom) in his old age the knowledge that "Free Trade is not enough"; and, like John Ruskin and Tolstoy, his last years were given to proving the fuller evangel of Georgeism. A truly good and brave man, great enough to fight his own partly enlightened past.

Of exceptional value is the Act (21st March, 1925) by Dr. Octavio da Rocha, Mayor of Porto Alegre, the capital (with nearly a quarter of a million inhabitants) of the State of Rio Grande do Sul—probably the leading Georgeist centre of the world to-day. He has set up a "Cadastral Register," or as we say a Valuation Department, with adequate funds, powers and staff, for a prompt valuation of the city with particular reference to the site value per square metre as an avowed step toward concentration of city taxation on the site values so assessed.

Among other items of interest are Press reviews of the Georgeist Revista from all parts of Brazil, several cordial letters from State Governors, and a further instalment of the official explanation of the Single Tax by Dr. Caio Moura, preceding its unopposed adoption in the State of Bahia.

Georgeists have to mourn the demise (16th March, 1925) at the early age of 47 of one of our best, Dr. Ildefonso Pinto, Secretary of State for Public Works in Rio Grande do Sul.

Dr. Pinto began public life as a telegraph boy in the service of the Uruguay-Pto. Alegre Railway; his intelligence attracted the patronage of Senator Pinheiro Machado, who offered the lad an entry in the Military School. This was accepted and as young Pinto had no money to buy text books he studied after hours and at night on borrowed books not then required. His second year he maintained himself by tutoring first-year students and finally passed with distinction as a Lieutenant of Engineers in 1901, with several University degrees. He was employed as Professor of Physics and Economics and rose to be Captain in 1918. In 1908 he took a University course in Law, passing "with distinction" in 15 of 18 subjects in 1912, as one of the five graduates officially laureated. In 1915 he became editor for 2½ years of A FEDERACAO, the great Georgeist Press organ, and was elected to Parliament in that year, both National and State Chambers. In 1917, as "Intendente," or Mayor, he introduced the Municipal Single Tax in the City of Garibaldi, the first Brazilian city to adopt our reform. He retired from Parliament in 1918 on being appointed Secretary for Public Works; and in 1924 was appointed a Director of that same Railway Company in whose service as telegraphist he had first been employed. A single taxer of the greatest professional and literary ability, of a metal which success could not taint, has been removed in full usefulness. He was happy to see in his State and City a realization of his hopes so nearly complete as to justify in practice the truths he had grasped in logic. In a sense, we may say his task was completed.

REVISTA DO IMPOSTO UNICO for April has the very important news that Colonel Aurelio Porto (the leading Georgeist journalist of Brazil and its editor) is appointed head of the new City Valuation service in Porto Alegre, the State capital of Rio Grande do Sul, for the practical introduction of the substitutionary land value tax in the city. This is probably the greatest step in our movement since the capture of the city of Sydney, and the brilliant

introduction of the single municipal tax in Montenegro by Colonel Porto is security that his duty will now be well done.

The Labour Party of Rio Grande has formulated a ten-plank platform of which No. 4 is as follows: "Extinction of private (landed) property by gradual increase of the territorial tax": this shows signs of the usual Marx-George conflict, and its value depends on the basis of valuation excluding improvements.

A meeting of Intendents (Mayors) of the State is considering abolition of the murderous *octroi* taxes on exportation, which have been replaced in several places by a land value tax already, and no other substitute is available. A general law of reform seems very probable.

There is a laudatory article on Baron de Cotegipe, who in 1874 laid a tax of two per mill (say ½d. in the £1) on economic rent in Bahia, where he was Governor. To this physiocrat is largely due the absence of any opposition to the great extension of substitutionary land value taxation in the State of Bahia last year by Dr. Caio Moura, the Georgeist Governor.

There is highly appreciative mention of exchanges from LAND & LIBERTY, and the Oxford Conference report.

News from other States continues wonderfully good. Dr. Sergio Loreto, the Governor of the great and prosperous State of Pernambuco, in his Legislative message proposes to set up a State tax at per hectare, dividing the State into zones with a tax rate in each appropriate to the average site value. This seems original and well calculated to give rapid and uniform results over the whole State as a preliminary. More exact methods will be needed as the tax increases.

Dr. Oscar Fontenelle is carrying on a very promising agitation in the metropolitan State of Rio de Janeiro, and has a "good Press"; he is upheld by a similar agitation in the capital itself in which Dr. de Azevedo Sodré is a leader.

Dr. Arthur Bernardes, the recently retired Governor of the State of Minas Geraes, had the privilege at a final special Session to suppress a whole series of taxes on foodstuffs and production as a stage in the replacement of the whole system by the single tax on land value. There appears again to have been no form of legislative opposition to this sweeping reform.

A speciality in Georgeist journalism in Brazil is two columns of orders and commendations from municipal authorities of all sorts, including ten lines of names of cities in the State of Rio Grande ordering copies and giving support.

## A FRATERNAL GREETING

Sr. Aurelio Porto, Editor of the REVISTA DO IMPOSTO UNICO (Jose do Patrocinio 29, Porto Alegre) writes:—

"In a previous letter I have already taken the opportunity to thank you for the fine courtesy of your letter of 1st March, accompanied by a volume of that notable publication LAND & LIBERTY, which deservedly takes a front place among the Georgeist periodicals of the whole world. Your letter and the gift will be a real stimulus to the work of propaganda which we have taken up in this remote corner of South America. Our REVISTA will draw always from the summary of Georgeist reports which LAND & LIBERTY publishes, there being thus a wider diffusion in the Portuguese tongue of these striking facts, in our propoganda of the Single Tax.

"Agreeably to your letter of 8th April I have sent an exchange to Madrid, and hope sincerely for the receipt of LA CIUDAD LINEAL. In Spain I maintain

correspondence with Sr. Antonio Albendin, who had the courtesy to send me a complete bound file of EL IMPUESTO UNICO.

"With much pleasure and always at your service. . . ."

We heartily reciprocate Sr. Aurelio Porto's greetings and congratulate him and his co-workers on the excellent work being done in Brazil to promote the principles of Henry George.

#### A REPORT ON CZECHO-SLOVAK LAND LEGISLATION

O PAIZ of Rio de Janeiro (19th March, 1925) has a note on the confiscatory land laws of Czecho-Slovakia, from the Brazilian Legation of that country. It is very sad to read. There is evidently bitter need of land for the people, but President Masaryk (who is instructed in Georgeism) has passed a law on the old Irish model, expropriating some large holders for the benefit of their tenants because their ancestors were foreigners in the seventeenth century and their families have since opposed national aspirations. The maximum injury to security and production has been done which was consistent with a minimum benefit to the poor and landless. Czecho-Slovakia should be thoroughly popular in ruling circles in London and Paris!

### ARGENTINA

REVISTA DEL IMPUESTO UNICO for April has a special article on and portrait of Mazzini, who so nearly caught the Vision Splendid. The Supreme Court of Argentina has invalidated the Betterment Tax (so dear to Liberal leaders here) for new great roadways, seemingly on the point of definition of area and injustice to frontagers in paying for a road principally for non-frontagers at terminal points. The decision of the Court would not apparently obstruct a flat tax for roads on all site values over large areas. There is sympathetic reference to the late Albert Cauvel, the eminent Belgian Georgeist, who was long resident in Argentina. A statue is at last to be erected to Rivadavia on the centenary of his State land conservation legislation. Experience there and elsewhere shows that State-owned land rented even on the fairest terms to users is a prey to military or lawyer usurpers such as Rosas or our Reformation nobility, in a degree unlikely when the title is ceded and the confiscation of rent is by a tax. The erection of the monument by the authorities of the National University does great honour to their wisdom and patriotism, for without doubt the ignoring hitherto of the greatest civilian hero of the emancipation is on account of his great merits, and not of the slight imperfection through which apostles of the "glittering sword" wrecked his emphyteusis code. A specially important item is Prof. Denegri's continued article on the philosophical basis of Georgeism: very "stiff" reading, but most helpful in setting out exactly what one is doing, in Scottish love of metaphysics.

The other day Mr. R. Figgis, an Australian who has spent thirty-five years in the building trade in New South Wales, called at this office to unburden his soul about the way we are trifling with the housing shortage. Mr. Figgis urges that Australian experience shows that the rating of land values is the best means of bringing land into the market at low prices—WESTMINSTER WEEKLY, 20th June.

## LAND-VALUE POLICY

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## UNITED STATES

We take the following interesting items of news from the latest (May-June) issue of our contemporary LAND AND FREEDOM, published at 150, Nassau Street, New York, the subscription to which is \$1 a year including postage.

The City Assessor of San Diego (U.S.A.), Mr. H. L. Moody has been assessing land at 100 per cent; personal property 50 per cent; class A buildings 25 per cent; class B 20 per cent; class C 15 per cent for eight years; but has been stopped by a court order on complaint of a few land speculators.

Arkansas legislature have invited the people to vote on a constitutional amendment to exempt textile factories from taxation on the plea that it will bring industries that will employ labour.

The Cleveland PLAIN DEALER of 8th April contained a portrait and sketch of Billy Radcliffe, Single Taxer. On his seventy-fifth birthday he received from his fellow employees in the Auditor's Office of Cleveland a gold watch. County Auditor John A. Zangerle made a little presentation speech, saying: "We are giving you this watch so that you will know when to quit work at night." (The Auditor's office is the Department of Assessments of Cleveland where John A. Zangerle does his brilliant work and produces the land value maps of Cleveland which are of exceptional interest to students of practical land valuation. Mr. Radcliffe is frequently in communication with the United Committee.)

A dinner was given by the Manhattan Single Tax Club on 24th April at which several university professors were invited guests. The attendance was about 100. A good report of the proceedings appeared in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Dean of the Law Department of the New York University, Frank H. Sommer, said that the wide spread of the doctrine of Single Tax in the next five or ten years was the only way of solving the "increasing muddle of municipal taxation."

Dr. F. W. Roman, of New York University, who presided, pleaded for greater tolerance for the economists who ventured to express their opinions in favour of Single Tax. He could mention half a dozen well-known economists who had been "ousted from their positions as many as six times because the trustees of their institutions disapproved of their views."

James R. Brown's lecture work for the month of March shows a list of twenty-five addresses in eighteen cities of New York from Brooklyn to Buffalo. These were delivered before Rotary Clubs, church clubs, chambers of commerce and other bodies. In the month of April Mr. Brown delivered nine addresses in nine cities in Pennsylvania.

### CANADA

The following news items appear in LAND AND FREEDOM, 150, Nassau Street, New York City:—

The Toronto DAILY STAR, in its issue of 15th May, has an article entitled "Single Tax Idea Blooming in the Village of Fort Erie" (Ontario). This village now enjoys, according to the STAR, an exemption of 80 per cent on all improvements and exemptions on all businesses and all incomes. The STAR says: "Accordingly nearly everybody but the large vacant landowner has prospered under this system."

Hon. Archibald Hogg, alderman in the city of New Westminster, British Columbia, writes: The Council of some years ago abolished the tax on improvements after the people had voted on it by a majority of about ten to one in favour. The proposal to reimpose taxes on improvements has been before the Council lately, and has one or two strong supporters but the question seems to be shelved for some time.