

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

The Dutch Branch of the International Union, which we stated in a previous issue was about to be organized, has now been formed and among its leaders are D. de Clercq, A. Sevenster, J. Tuinman, J. Buma and P. Kleblad. The Branch has started operations with a piece of real good work, having published a special pamphlet *Verlag van het Derde Internationale Congres voor Grondwaardebelasting en vrijen Handel* (Report on the Third International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade). The publication is illustrated with a portrait of Henry George and the Badge of the Movement "True Liberty Means Equal Liberty—Tax Land Values." It opens with a brief account of Henry George's life and work, mentioning his chief writings. It relates the proceedings at the Copenhagen Conference and reviews many of the addresses; after describing the Danish legislation for land value taxation and the small holdings created out of the formerly entailed estates, it gives the Dutch version of the Resolution on Principle and Policy adopted by the International Conference. Finally it makes the "coping stone" of the pamphlet (which extends to 16 pages) the formation of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, naming the chief officers and the headquarters—11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. There is an earnest call to sympathizers to join the Union and contribute with their activity, financial help, ideas and influence. We congratulate our Dutch friends on their fine enterprise and hope with them that the new pamphlet will not only have a wide distribution in Holland but will also succeed in attracting members for the Union and its important mission.

Another excellent account of the International Conference is given in *La Terre*, monthly journal of the French and Belgian Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values. The latest issue is a special number dealing with the Conference, reviewing the proceedings, quoting the resolutions adopted and printing in full the Presidential Address by the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy and the Address of M. Sam Meyer both at the Conference and at the Liberty Memorial celebration. M. Sam Meyer also puts on record his impressions of the Conference in a most appealing statement and the last page of the paper earnestly invited all readers to join the International Union. We would persuade anyone who reads French to subscribe to *La Terre*, sending the annual subscription (40 francs) to 26-28 Rue des Minimes, Brussels.

The *Square Deal*, organ of the Tax Reform Leagues of Canada (100, Lombard Street, Toronto, editors: Alan C. Thompson and Ernest J. Farmer), contains in its November-December number a reprint of the summary of the Conference proceedings as published in September *Land & Liberty*, and extends to its readers the invitation to join the International Union.

Last month we cordially invited all Leagues and Associations standing for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade to affiliate with the Union. The first organization to be entered on the roll of affiliation is the Henry George Foundation of America, from whom we have received hearty fraternal greetings in the

following letter from the Secretary, Mr. P. R. Williams: "In response to your recent communication inviting us to become a member of the International Union, I wish to advise you that the trustees of the Henry George Foundation of America, in order to express their friendly interest in the work of your Union, have authorized me to send you the enclosed check for \$25 as a small contribution toward the expenses of your organization. If an organization such as the Henry George Foundation is eligible to membership in the International Union, it is our desire to affiliate ourselves with you to the end that the various forces working for the advancement of the cause of Henry George may co-operate." The Secretariat of the Union responded gladly accepting the affiliation, and trust that the example set by the Foundation will be followed by all other organizations definitely adhering to the practical policy of land value taxation and free trade.

We welcome the first issue of the new Hamburg paper *Land und Freiheit* (Land and Liberty), edited by Mr. Alfred Schär (Fliederweg, Hamburg-Fulhsbüttel) who was one of the German "delegation" present in Copenhagen. The paper contains an article by Dr. Julius J. Pikler of Budapest, in which he examines in his own competent way the pleas for a land value tax levied at a graduated rate (on the lines of the faulty Australian Federal Land Tax and of proposals that have been made by Dr. Damaschke in Germany) and he shows how serious are the objections to any such scheme of things in its absolute departure from principle. We hope to take something out of Dr. Pikler's criticism in a later issue. Other articles in *Land und Freiheit* are Mr. Schär's able statement on "The Conception of Land Value" and reprint of his address at the Copenhagen conference on "The Distribution of Landed Property in Germany."

Twenty-seven countries are now represented on the membership roll of the Union. The latest recruits write from England, Scotland, South Africa, Australia, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Palestine, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Cuba, Canada and (United States) from New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Moline, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas.

Mr. Ingjald Nissen of Lilleaker, Norway who was present at the Conference in Copenhagen writes expressing great enthusiasm for the Union and its purpose of promoting real Free Trade. Mr. Nissen intends to translate for Norwegian consumption the pamphlet of the Conference "The True Pathway to World Peace" and is eager to promote the objects of the Union "in its great and significant work." He has published special reports of the Conference in the important paper *Arbeiderbladet* (the Labour Journal); and in *Norway's Women*, his sister (who is editor of the last-named) has written several articles on the same subject, devoting attention particularly to the Free Trade "Address to the League of Nations." Mr. Nissen says of the Conference that "in respect of organization, scope and vision it was a unique event and one of the greatest importance for a clearer understanding of the world's economic problems. For all who took part it was an experience that will live long in their memory."

In addition to those already received, gratifying letters come to hand from designated members of the Pro-