

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GERMANY

The Movement in Hamburg

We greet our friends in Hamburg who have been doing most excellent work. They are united in the local branch of the German Land Reformers among whom they stand out, as a body, as determined and active advocates of the Henry George policy. They publish their own journal, named until now *B.D.B.*, which stands first and foremost for land value taxation and free trade. Among the leaders of this staunch group are Mr. A. Schär (now a member of the provisional committee of the International Union) and Mr. Klindwort, the editor of *B.D.B.* They threw their energies into securing as much support as possible for the Copenhagen Conference, where Mr. Schär himself was in attendance, and read an illuminating paper on "The Distribution of Land in Germany." The April-May number of *B.D.B.* and previous issues devoted much space to advertising the Conference and emphasizing its importance. These notices were backed by an eloquent appeal, "Should we go to Copenhagen," written by Dr. Alex Paletta, our Berlin colleague, now also on the Committee of the International Union. We have since received from Mr. Schär the August issue of *B.D.B.* containing an informing account of the proceedings at Copenhagen and in much detail. It is in fact a "special Conference number," faithfully and well put together. Mr. Schär writes: "The whole issue has been produced with the object of winning as many as possible of the German land reformers to embrace the idea of international co-operation. Of this issue we have printed 1,000 extra copies which have been sent by post to as many representative addresses in Germany to gain their sympathy and interest."

Mr. Schär supplements his welcome letter with the pleasing intimation that the Hamburg group have now decided to rename their journal, and its title will in future be *Land und Freiheit* (Land and Liberty), making it a national organ. The sub-title is "Land and Liberty by means of land value taxation and free trade." The publishing offices are at Fliederweg, Fuhlsbüttel, Hamburg. We convey our hearty good wishes to our contemporary that its healthy influence may spread through an ever-increasing circle of readers.

The Copenhagen Conference and the German Press

We are indebted to Dr. Arnold Schwarz of Berlin (also member of the Committee of the International Union) for the illuminating book of Press clippings he has compiled from German newspapers and reporting (often at considerable length) or commenting upon the International Conference in Copenhagen. There are also numerous contributed articles expounding the taxation of land values, inspired both by the recent Danish legislation and by the transactions at the Conference itself. The collection includes also announcements, notices and reports printed in many newspapers and "syndicated" by the correspondence bureau established for the purpose by Dr. Schwarz and his friends. The matter thus circulated was taken up by the Social Democratic Press Service, and after being expanded with editorial views on the purpose of the Conference was passed on to associated newspapers. Accordingly, very full accounts appear in such organs as *Vorwärts* (Berlin), *Hamburger Echo*, *Volksstimme*

(Chemnitz and Mannheim), *Fränkische Tagespost* (Nürnberg), *Volksblatt* (Anhalt), *Barmer Anzeiger* (Barmen), *Volksblatt* (Potsdam) and *Landwacht*. Similarly, the democratic Press devotes much space to the Conference, the reports in many cases coming from the regular correspondent in Copenhagen. Other specially contributed articles describe agricultural conditions, small holdings, folk schools, etc., in the "peasant democracy," and various pictures from the Conference are published. It is gratifying to see the publicity in favour of land value taxation and free trade in such important newspapers as the *Berliner Tageblatt*, the *Berliner Volkszeitung*, the *Vossische Zeitung* and the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. The Press of the "Centrum" and "People's Party" have also done well through the columns of the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, the *Kölnische Zeitung* and the *Neueste Nachrichten* (Bielefeld). Over and over again in the newspapers of all the parties named, special importance is attached to the message sent by the Conference to the League of Nations, and the formation of the International Union is acclaimed.

The publicity in favour of the Conference and its aims has not been without effect on hostile opinion and so we find the organs of the German "National Party" (the German "Land Union") obliged to notice the Conference and criticize its findings, according to the fashion of ultra-conservatism. Typical examples of this attitude (with the altogether gratifying breach of the "conspiracy of silence") appear in the *Grüne Woche*, the *Anzeiger* (Rostock) and the *Landeszeitung* (Darmstadt).

The book of clippings so kindly compiled for the International Union by Dr. Schwarz contains also some of the most recent of the articles on land value taxation contributed by various advocates to such Berlin papers as *Die Welt am Montag* and the *Beamtenbund*. On the whole, the collection speaks volumes for the widespread influence of the Conference and its work in the international field. Our German colleagues and co-workers are heartily to be congratulated on all this splendid publicity, bringing the principle and policy to which they are devoted before the public in so many places—Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Nürnberg, Barmen, Anhalt, Rostock, Mannheim, Chemnitz, Potsdam, etc. Many of the contributed articles were written by members present at the Conference—Otto Albrecht, A. Schär, H. Peus, A. Barteld, E. Remmer and Otto Nuschke, while the case for land value taxation was also stated by others including H. v. Gerlach and Karl Schewe.

The International Conference in Copenhagen has certainly achieved some renown in Germany; its good work has made a powerful impression on not a few organs of the public Press in that country.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

International Conference in Vienna

Mr. Pavlos Giannelia, the official delegate of the Greek Government at the Conference in Copenhagen, attended the International Housing and Town Planning Conference, in Vienna, on 14th to 16th September, as the representative of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, at the request of his co-workers in Austria. Mr. Giannelia made good use of his opportunity to urge the case for land value taxation and the exemption of buildings and the building industry from their present burdens. In his speech he recalled the address delivered by Joseph Fels at the Town