

INTERNATIONAL UNION NEWS AND NOTES

With this issue we provide as a supplement the German translation of the Conference Declaration and Resolution. The document has now been translated into Danish, Norwegian, French, Spanish (both Castilian and Catalan), German, Italian, Dutch, Hungarian, Greek, Hebrew and Chinese. Arrangements are being made to publish several of these translations each in separate 4-pp. pamphlet form, beginning with the French, Spanish, German and Italian, and they will be available free from the offices of the Union. Overseas readers are asked to send their orders for quantities and by that demand we shall be able to know whether to proceed with the pamphlet-printing in languages other than the four just named.

Mr. Rupert Mason, as President of the Union, exhorts all fellow-members to do their utmost to spread the circulation of the Conference Declaration and Resolution; and obeying him, they should write at once to Headquarters for as many copies as they can handle—alternatively, or in addition, to give US names and addresses of persons and organisations where they should be sent. Mr. Mason himself has already handled 5,000 copies and is calling for thousands more. Most encouraging was the message he received from the Librarian of the United Nations requesting a fresh supply for dissemination among the Delegates. Such a request justifies the good deal of trouble (and expense) the Union has been put to in producing the *Translations* of the Document. The Union is in need of all the financial support that its friends can afford for a work that can be immensely developed. In Mr. Mason's "armoury" are also LAND & LIBERTY subscription and International Union membership forms which he uses to good advantage and by which he has helped materially to increase our mailing list.

Bue Björner's many friends will be grieved to learn that he lies on sick-bed very seriously ill and with a painful affliction which overtook him shortly after he returned home to Denmark after the International Conference over which he presided with his accustomed wonderful charm and ability. He underwent two operations before Christmas but his condition not improving, on the contrary, becoming worse, he had to return to hospital where he may have to remain for several months. We sympathise with him and his wife Caroline and the family in their great ordeal, which is, however, lightened by Bue's own spirit. Friends are free to write (briefly) to the home of Bue and Mrs. Caroline Björner, 15 Ridehusvej, Gentofte, Denmark.

Mr. Rupert Mason sets the pace for a wide circulation of the Conference Resolutions by the postal card which he has had printed as from his address, 1920 Lake Street, San Francisco. Many are thus receiving this message from him as President of the Union: "The Human Rights Declaration adopted in England by our 7th International Conference goes far beyond the Declaration on Human Rights released by the United Nations General Assembly, December, 1948. Clearly and unequivocally it outlines the economic principles necessary for freedom and equality of opportunity. Finely printed in England, it is suitable to give or mail to influential leaders both here and abroad, with a cogent letter. Will you help by suggesting names or mailing some yourself? Copies will be supplied gratis. How many may I mail you?"

Halfdan Hansen, one of the Union's Vice-Presidents in Norway, has produced a translation of the Conference Resolution and published it in a nicely printed folder. In the course of the translation he has expanded some points which he considered necessary because of special conditions applying in Norway. 1,500 copies have been printed and these are being distributed to Parliament and local authority members, as well as to the Press, generally accompanied with a short description of the Conference and the work of the Union. A specimen of such publicity is the article which he contributed to the *Bergen Times*.

Mr. Rupert Mason and Mr. Wilfrid Harrison attended the three-day "Decentralist" Conference, which was held at Hershey in Pennsylvania, December 1-3. The "Decentralists" formulate policies like unto the Individualists in England. An important group of people, almost all holding official positions in Washington and various States, were present. Mr. Mason and Mr. Harrison, with their sympathisers, were successful in seeing an excellent resolution adopted unanimously containing declarations which give something for the English "Individualist Society" to emulate. For example, "Government must protect the inalienable and prior right of the individual to his person and to the products secured through his labour and exchange. . . Government should not forcefully take from an individual his earned income; it should secure its proper revenue from the economic rent of land. This provides the individual equal opportunity of access to natural resources and an equal opportunity to work." "We believe in the full restoration of the free market. This involves the equal right of every person of access to land, to credit and to produce goods and offer services without interference by Government, by institutions or by other individuals." A journal of the "Decentralists" is *The Interpreter*; Editors, Mildred J. Loomis and R. Borsodi, Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, Ohio.

There is heartening news from Spain.

Lemos Ortega of Sevilla has been successful in getting the Conference declarations published in the Madrid weekly, *Nueva Economía Nacional*, the New National Economy, with whose late editor (he died in December) Mr. Ortega has had several years' correspondence overcoming the mistake of combating Georgeism. He was Professor of Political Economy in the Central University of Spain. In the editorship of the journal he has been succeeded by a University professor in another faculty, who has expressed himself as in accord with the theories Mr. Ortega upholds, and welcomes articles on the subject.

Santiago Serra of Barcelona sends his translation (into Catalan) of the Conference declarations which he has had duplicated for circulation within his circle. He is glad to speak of the publicity which writers in the movement are getting for their articles in such journals as *La Vanguardia* of Barcelona and in technical reviews like *Economía Mundial*, *Economía* and *Campo* of Madrid, Sevilla, etc. There is a great future for the movement when liberty of the general press is restored.

From Mr. Anglada, of Barcelona, who maintains correspondence with Georgeists in many parts and is a vice-president of the International Union, we have had an interesting letter. He has given us his translation in Spanish of the Conference Resolutions, which is now the fourth we have received and we are thus able to be sure

that the one we are publishing in pamphlet form is letter perfect. He is writing articles on "The Encyclopedias and Political Economy," the first instalment of which has appeared in the Madrid periodical, *El Mundo Financiero*. Another of his contributions is a Spanish translation of "The Future of our Civilization," by Dr. Edgar Culley, of Melbourne, which has appeared in the Greek-Spanish paper, *Akropolis*, of Buenos Aires, Mr. Pavlos Giannelias having been instrumental in getting the article to that destination.

Mr. Anglada further writes that he wishes to make an Esperanto translation of the Conference declarations, which should be ready for extensive circulation long before the next Esperantist Conference, to be held in Paris, August 5 to 12 this year. Meanwhile in *La Praktiko* (published in Holland) he had his article on "Two International Conferences," which reviewed our and the Esperantist Conference of last year. This advertised the I.U. and brought enquiries from several countries, and in his replies he enclosed his article (in Esperanto), "What is Georgeism?" as well as, in Esperanto, a ten-lesson brief course of lessons in Fundamental Economics, based on material he has received from the Henry George School at our address.

In the Rome economic review *Orientamento* (64 pages) of December, Robert Major has his article in *extenso* on "Italy's Approach to the Land Question." It is in fact the second section of Mr. Major's Conference Paper which ends, as members of the Union know, on a critical note, that the present Italian project will not bring the desired result. It is good to have it said to Italian economists that: "The only solution is to prevent the unjust accumulation of wealth at its source, by making just distinction between private property and public property, scrupulously respecting each and giving every person an equal right to land. The earth must be made free for the people."

The November number of the important Paris Revue, "*La Revue Socialiste*" (Librairie Marcel Riviere, 31 Rue Jacob) carries a long and informative report written by M. Daudé-Bancel on the proceedings at the Swanwick Conference. This is supplemented by a translation, made by Pavlos Giannelias, of the resolutions which were adopted at the Conference. M. Daudé-Bancel has written that he is securing from the journal some thousand reprints of the report and the resolutions for distribution to leading personalities and periodicals in both France and Belgium.

M. Max Toubeau, another of the Union's vice-presidents, contributed to the leading Orleans daily, *La République du Centre*, an article with full account of the International Conference and describing also the progress made in various countries in the practical application of the land values principle. In this description Denmark had special notice because of the appeal, as a country of peasant proprietary, it ought to make to the French agricultural community. We have again received numerous clippings demonstrating the sustained activity of M. Daudé-Bancel's pen. He is to be complimented on the instructive articles which he contributes almost weekly to such journals as *La République de Normandie*, *La Journée Viticole*, *La Coopérateur de France*, and *La Journée du Batiment*.

Under the auspices of the Liberal Union "Podium," which is affiliated to the Belgian Liberal Party, a meeting

was held in Antwerp, addressed by vice-president of the International Union, Marcel Cortvriend. It had been well advertised by means of invitation cards sent to about 2,500 retailers in Antwerp. The attendance numbered about 150, presided over by Attorney Mr. Van Peetersen, with Mr. Joris, the Deputy Chairman of Parliament, also on the platform. Mr. Cortvriend had spoken on the need for reduced taxation and discussion was so keen that it was decided that "Podium" must make a special study of Henry George, and a further meeting was to be arranged. Furthermore, a resolution on land value taxation is to be submitted in Parliament by Mr. Joris. M. Cortvriend is concerned to promote study classes in conjunction with the Henry George School, and he is busy also at present in collaborating with M. Daudé-Bancel in producing the French-Belgian journal, *Terre et Liberté*.

Mr. Denis Silagi, who is on the public relations staff, A.C.A. (B.E.) British Troops in Austria, and also edits the fortnightly journal, *New World and the Jewish State*, is closely associated with the work of the International Union. He reports a useful conference lately held in Vienna with Mr. Schwarzl and others, including Mr. Paul Wild, a Budapest refugee and former pupil of Dr. J. J. Pikler. The object was to reorganise the Austrian Land Reform Union, but under a new name because of the stigma that now attaches to the words "land reform," after what has been carried out in Eastern Europe. The "Union for Land Value Taxation" is favoured. Efforts are being made to produce a regular bulletin and to circulate other literature throughout Austria in which much use will be made of the publications of the International Union. Also in their plans is the publication of the important main economic work of the late Siegfried Sitte, the eminent leader of the Austrian Movement.

Dr. S. Vere Pearson is on the way to Jamaica, partly on holiday and partly to investigate for himself the social conditions, with special reference to the land question. He hopes to gain intimate contact with the leading political personalities and ascertain how the position lies with regard to land value taxation. He takes with him a large number of reprints of the article which appeared in our previous issue, which, by the way, had to be slightly amended. The reference we made to Mr. L. C. Harris, who had gone to Jamaica (but has since returned to London to take up professional duties in this country) as having been Valuer for the Borough of Kingston was incorrect. Mr. Harris was formerly Valuation Officer to the County of Surrey.

"Danish industries are active in promoting an extension of international economic co-operation, namely, by the removal of Customs barriers and import restrictions. They have grown up under low tariffs, and so they readily appreciate the great benefits conferred by the freest possible international exchange of goods. Danish industries would like to see the liberation of world trade from the bonds which now bind it and the ultimate establishment of free trade among the nations of the world, for the advantage and benefit of all."—From an article by P. Wonsild, President of the Federation of Danish Industries in the Danish Foreign Office Journal, September, 1949.

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