

ODENSE CONFERENCE ECHOES

The Eighth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade is over. But its work continues and its influence grows. Members have returned to their homes throughout the world and are now engaged in the all-important task of making public the conclusions reached and the resolutions passed at Odense. Through the correspondence columns of newspapers, at meetings, and in other ways, they are broadcasting the message that, given conditions of equal freedom, men and nations will prosper and live together in peace and harmony; that the community-created value of land belongs of right to the whole people who create it by their presence and activities, and is peculiarly the proper source of public revenue; and that the removal of tariff barriers, quotas, licences, managed currencies and other obstacles to trade will do more to achieve peace and prosperity than any amount of armaments and vast international free gift schemes. We give here a first selection of propaganda activity so far undertaken.

Obeying the instruction given by Conference, the Secretary of the International Union has sent the text of the main Conference Resolution (and a copy of the August-September LAND & LIBERTY) through their diplomatic representatives in this country to all those governments which have embassies, consulates or offices in London. Among the many acknowledgments so far received are those from the embassies of the Belgian, Danish, Irish, Japanese, Mexican, Netherlands, Swiss, United States, Western Germany, India and Pakistan governments, the U.S.A. Ambassador remarking that he greatly appreciated the Resolution being brought to his attention.

Mr. Ashley Mitchell's scathing denunciation of tariffs and tariff-bargaining conferences, quotas, licences, state trading, Customs Unions and Exchange controls is assured an influential and much larger audience than that for which it was written. It has been published in New York in the *News Bulletin* of the British Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in the U.S.A., an organisation which includes the leading American importers and the leading British exporters. Mr. Mitchell writes that he had sent copies of his address to various business associates in New York and that one of them cabled asking for permission for it to appear in the *News Bulletin*. He gave his consent gladly and adds that the free trade message will reach quarters where it is sadly needed. It has appeared also in the October issue of the *Danish Merchants' News*, which has already published in its September issue Dr. Sven Rydenfelt's talk, "The Way out of the Dollar Shortage," and a brief review by Dan Bjørner of the Conference. "International Trade—Without Statistics" also occupies the front page of the October edition of the *Henry George News*, U.S.A.

Mr. Rupert Mason, President of the International Union, on his way home from the Conference to San Francisco, addressed an important meeting of the Easton (Pennsylvania) Rotary Club, attended by members of the City Council and other local dignitaries. The *Easton Express*, August 22, reports that he spoke strongly in favour of a tax system based on benefits received, which he said was the traditional American method and the principle of Thomas Jefferson. The sixteenth amendment to the United States Constitution in providing for income taxes had abandoned that principle and had replaced it with the contrary principle of ability to pay, which Mr. Mason condemned. He praised, as an important first step, the permissive legislation introduced last year in Pennsylvania which enables 47 cities to exempt from taxation buildings by levying local taxes on land values.

The following day Mr. Rupert Mason was the guest speaker at a banquet given at the second annual conference of the Ohio Henry George School of Social Science, held on the shores of Lake Erie. He gave a summary of the progress of land reform around the world, stressing the need for increased application of the principles of Henry George if civilisation is