

Third International Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Free Trade :

Address to the League of Nations

Resolved to transmit to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva for the Consideration of the Council and the Assembly of the League of Nations the following

DECLARATION

We, the members of the Third International Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, assembled from twenty-six nations in the Danish Houses of Parliament, Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926, respectfully submit for the consideration of the League of Nations our earnest hope that the League may be led to promote the peace and prosperity of the world by undertaking the removal of the obstacles that now interfere with common understanding and progress.

We believe that until there is a frank recognition of the root causes of international misunderstanding and discord, and a sincere and earnest determination to remove them, there will be no permanent peace or progress in the world. The peace promised by the Treaty of Locarno, even if ratified, would be but a gesture of goodwill, leaving untouched the evil economic realities out of which grows the enmities, hates and fears which are the common causes of war.

Disarmament alone cannot assure permanent peace, and is indeed inconceivable so long as powerful and privileged monopolists can contend for the control of the world's natural resources, and selfish national policies, designed to benefit one people by inflicting injury upon another, arouse suspicions and antipathies on all hands.

This Conference urges the League of Nations to recognize the simple truth that free commerce among the peoples of the earth would be the greatest civilizing influence that the world could know; it would serve increasingly to promote those friendly human contacts and understandings that make for an ultimate appreciation of the essential kinship of all mankind. Untaxed and unrestricted trade would put an end to the isolation or the self-sufficiency of any nation. It would, in time, bring into being a League of Peoples more potent for peace than any league of political governments could be.

We affirm, therefore, that the curse of war may never be ended until the leaders of nations come to recognize and deal with the fundamental causes of international contention and strife. These, it is now generally seen, have their origin not alone in hostile tariffs and the struggle for markets, but in the economic imperialism which exploits the natural resources of distant and undeveloped lands, not for the common interest, but for the enrichment of favoured groups of monopolists in every country.

In conclusion, this Conference exhorts the leaders of the League of Nations to influence their Governments to depart from the old ways that must inevitably lead to new wars for domination and conquest, and to guide humanity along the road we have pointed out which leads to abiding peace and prosperity.

Formation of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Resolved by the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade as follows :—

I

This Conference hereby resolves to establish an International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

II

The objects of the Union are the promotion of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade as taught by Henry George, and the holding of International Conferences.

III

The condition of membership of the Union shall be acceptance of its objects as set forth in paragraph II hereof.

IV

The headquarters of the Union shall be in London, England.

V

LAND & LIBERTY shall be recognized as the official organ of the Union.

VI

The Hon. President and the Secretaries of this Conference shall occupy corresponding positions in the Union, until the holding of the next International Conference.

VII

The officers shall conduct the business of the Union in consultation with a provisional committee of not less than 15 members appointed by them.

Principle and Policy

We, the members of the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, assembled in the Danish Houses of Parliament, Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926, reaffirm the declaration of principle and policy adopted by the International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values held at Oxford, England, August, 1923, and

Whereas this Conference has adopted an Address to the statesmen of the League of Nations, pointing out that the chief causes of International discord and of war have their roots in the private monopoly of the world's natural resources and in the economic barriers that governments erect to prevent the free exchange of goods and services between friendly peoples; now be it known, that

This Conference not only favours freedom of trade across national frontiers, but also affirms that if governments would establish peace, contentment and prosperity within their own borders they must apply the principle of free trade among their citizens at home. To apply this principle fully they must give equal access to natural opportunities, and abolish all

legal and artificial restrictions upon or impediments to the right of men to freely produce wealth, freely to exchange it and freely to enjoy the results of their labour. This can be accomplished only when governments repeal the taxes that now interfere with, or impose penalties upon, production and exchange.

Declaring that the land of every country is, by right, the common property of the people, we affirm that the value of land due to the presence and activity of the community should, by concentrating taxation upon land values, be taken for public purposes in the place of the taxes that now so grievously burden industry and interfere with the natural rights of man.

Land Monopoly and Unemployment

Resolved by this Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade that:—

Land monopoly and a wicked system of taxation, national and local, are the root cause of unemployment. This social plague can be cured only if we break up land monopoly by the taxation of land values, and set free industry to make the best use of land by abolishing taxation on industry and improvements.

Fraternal Greetings

We, the members of the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, assembled in Copenhagen, 20th to 26th July, 1926, send fraternal greetings to all organizations and individuals standing in other countries for these policies, and earnestly call upon each and all to be vigilant in the cause, now more than ever.

The Conference unhesitatingly declares that the teaching of Henry George reveals the economic principle and practice that must be observed by the nations if they would aim at securing international peace and goodwill.

The Conference urges all students and public spirited men and women throughout the civilized world carefully to examine for themselves the case for removing from industry the growing burden of taxation and placing it upon the monopoly value of land, as put forward in *Progress and Poverty* and its related literature.

Appreciations and Thanks

1. The members of the Conference express their appreciation of the hospitality and kindness extended to the Conference by the Presidency of the Danish Parliament by placing the Joint Assembly Chamber and the Parliamentary Committee Rooms at their disposal.

2. The Conference desires to pay respect to and congratulate the people and Government of Denmark on the passing of the recent Law for the further Taxation of Land Values with the corresponding remission of taxes on buildings and improvements, a policy which is the basis of this international gathering.

3. We desire to express our best thanks to the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Hauge, to Dr. O. C. Kragh and Mr. Ove Rode as to Mr. Ole Hansen for the helpful and invaluable support they have rendered the platform and proceedings of this International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade.

4. The members of the Conference express their high appreciation of the way in which the Danish Press, and particularly the newspapers of Copenhagen, have brought the Conference and its message prominently before the public.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

Headquarters:

11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1

Invitation to Join

As a reader of "Land & Liberty" you are cordially invited to become a member of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, authorized by the recent splendid Conference at Copenhagen.

The Union is designed to promote more effective co-operation among those who in many lands see the way to world peace and prosperity through the teachings of Henry George. It appeals for, and, we believe, deserves, your support.

A membership form is enclosed with this issue of "Land & Liberty" for return with your enrolment and such contribution (any sum) which you may be disposed to give towards the necessary expenses of maintaining the organization. Contributions may be made payable to the Treasurer, Mr. Ashley Mitchell, at 11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

We will gladly send you the Booklet (16 pp.) just published by the Union, containing our summary of the Conference events and print of the eloquent Presidential Address by Senator Charles O'Connor Hennessy. The Booklet is admirably suited to give to all friends interested in the most notable and significant gathering ever held of the followers of Henry George.

The official report of the Conference proceedings and transactions will be published by the Union and is in preparation. There is much other work awaiting the Union in the wide and promising field that the Third International Conference and its predecessors have cultivated so well. The Union speaks for a full measure of your active interest in its work by your ready response to this our invitation.

For the President, the Provisional Committee and the Secretariat:

JOHN PAUL.

A. W. MADSEN.

During the first few sessions of the Conference in Copenhagen welcome greetings were received from many parts expressing best wishes for success. We regret limitation of space prevents the printing of these messages, which came from (to name a few): Charles T. Root, in behalf of the Schalkenbach Foundation, New York; Mrs. Joseph Fels, New York; George Evans, Pittsburgh; Louis F. Post, Washington, D.C.; R. L. Outhwaite, Chichester; Dr. Alexander Hirsch (nephew of the late Max Hirsch), Berlin; A. Daudé-Bancel (Secretary of the French Land Reform League) and Maxime Toubeau, Paris; Senator George F. Comings and Edward Nordman, Wisconsin; the Argentine Single Tax League and the Geogest Liberal Society, Argentine; W. F. Snel, Holland; Manuel Martin, Juarez, Chile; Louis P. Jacobs, sojourning in France; and Mather Smith, Warmbaths, Transvaal.