

in 1910. The publications of the League comprised the "Bodenreform" and the "Annual of the Bodenreform," besides the "Newspapers Correspondence" sent out twice a month to the Press. To the list of pamphlets six new ones had been added during the year; altogether 60,000 pamphlets and 520,000 leaflets had been distributed, some of them gratuitously. Mr. Damaschke went on to make some striking remarks on the work and the progress of the movement in general; he mentioned the good work performed by our English friends during the Budget campaign and expressed a hope ere long to see the Land Duties carried into effect by our Parliament also. But whatever the result of our present campaign might be there was no question that the Increment Duty alone did not put the principle for which we stood into operation. It was only a beginning, and for having our object achieved the work had to be continued and extended. Mr. Damaschke's effective speech was received with enthusiasm.

At about 11 o'clock the discussion began. It was introduced by the Mayors of the German cities of Ulm, Posen, Lennep and Rheine, who narrated their practical experiences on the right of redemption, the offering of land by the municipalities for charitable purposes, on small holdings leased out or sold by the Government and on the lease system in general. The addresses have been published in full in the League's Annual. The discussion was animated throughout and opened some new aspects to the question. It was regretted that public laws were sadly behind the reforms either introduced or wished for by the municipalities, and the announcement made that the Organisation of German Lawyers had resolved to open a discussion on the legal status of the new forms of landed property as recommended by the League with a view to have legislation set into work.

In the evening some formal business was gone through, the elections for the ensuing year were made and some slight alterations adopted in the rules of the League. A resolution was carried reprobating the sale of a large drilling ground near Berlin by the Government for speculative purposes.

Of far greater actual importance than the debates of the first day of the Conference were the proceedings of the second, when the Increment Taxation in its manifold relations to public life was examined. The greatest German authority on financial questions, Professor Wagner, had arrived to publicly stand out for advocating the adoption of this measure by the Government and to throw the weight of his learning into the scale. In spite of his 70 years his words were as vigorous as ever. Addresses were delivered besides by Prof. Köppe, Prof. Emminghaus, Mr. Boldt, town councillor at Dortmund, urged the necessity of having our rating system changed; other speakers were Messrs. Victor, von Schwerin, Marfels, Freese, Flügel and on behalf of the Christian Workmen's Association, Mr. Behrens, M.P.

During the discussion many details were touched upon, such as the financial prospects of the increment duties, the equitable adjustment and the apportionment of the taxes between Municipalities, States and Empire, the Preference shown in the Bill to rural districts and others. Mr. Pohlman pointed out that the League was perfectly willing to perform detail work and had proved it by working out an amendment to the Government Bill in opposition to the amendments as proposed by the House of Parliament sitting in Committee, but the Conference ought not to overlook the fact that for them the measure was not so much a fiscal one as an entering wedge for the introduction of justice into the management of human affairs.

In his closing remarks Prof. Köppe said that it was a question of paramount importance to have the idea of taxing Land Values, of which the Increment Duty only formed a part, introduced into the legislation of the Empire. He regarded the Bill as a great step in the direction of Land Reforms. If the present Parliament would not approve of the Bill it, surely, would be passed later. The motto of the League was: Labour and not despair! They would go on with their work before them and never cease until that part of the property which was created by the community at large was turned into public use.

In the evening, Prof. Erman, Admiral Boeters, Messrs. Boldt, Pohlman and Damaschke delivered addresses on various subjects in connection with Land Reform at Mühlhausen. This meeting brought the Conference to an end. The Congress has proved of greatest value, not only for bringing into personal touch with one another the many workers in all parts of the country, but also of getting them better acquainted with the many questions arising out of the movement.

Henry George's teachings are making progress in Germany.

A. SCHRAMMEIER.

SWEDEN.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM LEAGUE CONFERENCE.

The first conference of this League was held on September 16th, 17th and 18th, and proved to be a success. Several Labour, Temperance and Co-operative Societies sent delegates. The delegates from Denmark were S. Berthelsen, Dr. Severin Christensen, and two Husmaend, Peter Ellekjaer and Carl Mortensen. Mr. S. Wielgolaski attended from Norway.

The President of the League, Mr. Johan Hansson, opened the conference with a speech on the League and its purpose. Mr. Nils av Ekenstam (member of the Swedish Fels Fund Committee) was then elected Chairman, and Mr. S. Berthelsen (Denmark) Vice-Chairman. Then followed three lectures on "The Smallholders' interest in Land Values Taxation." Messrs. Ellekjaer and Mortensen spoke from the Danish point of view, and Mr. Gustav Johanssen, in a brilliant speech, from the Swedish point of view. Each speaker testified to the great benefit which small landowners would also derive from Land Values Taxation.

In the evening of the first day a public meeting was held, at which, among others, Johan Hansson spoke on "Temperance Reform and Land Values," and Dr. Knut Kjellberg on "Charity and Justice."

On the second day the members of the conference, at the invitation of the Mayor of Stockholm, inspected a new garden suburb which is being erected on ground belonging to the City of Stockholm, which is leased, not sold. Later in the day the "Taxation of Future Land Values" was discussed. This discussion was opened by Mr. Nils av Ekenstam, who explained the proposals put forward by a Royal Committee. He did not favour any scheme for special taxation of future values, but favoured an all-round tax on Land Values.

The next subject discussed was the tariff question. Mr. Berthelsen spoke on "Tariffs and Justice," and in a clever and interesting speech showed the iniquity as well as the absence of necessity for tariff taxation. Mr. Fabian Mansson, a labour man, explained in a rather drastic but practical manner the moral effect of protection and its unsoundness from an economic point of view. Some discussion followed.

In the evening a public meeting was held on the tariff question. Fabian Mansson and S. Berthelsen spoke again, the first on "Labour and Protection," and the latter on "Old and New Free Trade," explaining in a most powerful way how the Free Trade movement has naturally grown to be a Land Value Taxation movement also.

The third and last day was devoted to the land question. The Mayor of Stockholm, Carl Lindhagen, spoke on "The Land Question in Sweden," Mr. Berthelsen on "Henry George and the Land Question in Denmark," and Mr. Johan Hansson on "Experiences in Foreign Countries of Land Nationalisation and Land Values Taxation." Mr. Hansson was able to show how the former method had failed, while attempts to tax Land Values had had such beneficial effects, that practical politics were forced to go more and more along this line.

Before the conference closed four resolutions were passed: one to the temperance advocates; one to the peace advocates; one to the organised women; and one to the smallholders—all urging them to consider the cause of economic freedom, the abolition of economic privilege, and, above all, the abolition of private ownership in land. It was decided to lay a petition before the Government, urging them to take steps for the solution of the land question by the introduction of universal Land Values Taxation.

Among those sending greetings to the conference were Mr. Joseph Fels and the well-known Swedish woman philosopher, Ellen Key.

The Swedish movement has made a good forward move as the result of this conference. Much discussion has been raised in the Press, representing different shades of opinion. Similar conferences will be held in different parts of the country from time to time.

BOOK NOTICE.

"PROGRESS AND POVERTY" FOR FOURPENCE.

Mr. John Bagot, editor of the MIDDLETON GUARDIAN, has for some time been engaged in revising the current issue of Henry George's famous book, "Progress and Poverty," by the author's edition and the fourth edition, which Mr. George himself corrected at the time he added his masterly "preface." This new edition, unabridged, will be issued about the middle of the present month and will be sold at the astonishingly low figure of 4d. The publishers are John Bagot, Ltd., GUARDIAN Office, Middleton, Manchester.