

DIARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND CONDENSED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

PRELIMINARY MEETING

(Monday, 19th July)

The members of the Conference met on the evening of Monday, 19th July, in the Joint Assembly Chamber of Parliament. They had been called together as a "Grand Committee" to draw up rules governing the course of procedure and transact other formal business.

Mr. F. FOLKE, Chairman of the Danish Land Values Committee and President of the Henry George Union, called the meeting to order. After a few well-chosen remarks of welcome to all in attendance, he asked the President-designate, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, to occupy the Chair and control the meeting.

Mr. CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY, having suitably replied, explained the objects of the preliminary gathering. He had been privileged to consult the Danish Land Values Committee that morning along with the British secretaries of the Conference, and they had agreed to recommend to the members of the Conference, there assembled in "Grand Committee," certain rules and resolutions for the guidance of the Chair. They had also to report certain changes in the programme and additions; and they had to record their deep regret that two of their vice-presidents, Bailie Peter Burt of Glasgow, and Governor Hans Krüger of Luneburg, Germany, would not be able to join them.

Resolutions were then moved as follows, and carried unanimously:—

1. Adopting the form of invitation to the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, and the programme of proceedings prepared by the Conveners.

2. Appointing the secretaries respectively of the convening organizations to act as a committee on credentials.

3. Designating the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy as Hon. President of the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade.

4. Appointing Messrs. F. Folke, Abel Brink, John Paul and A. W. Madsen as Secretaries.

5. Giving the Hon. President power to appoint a Resolutions Committee, it being the function of this Committee to prepare for the consideration of the Conference suitable resolutions expressing the sentiments and decisions of the Conference.

6. Declaring that any resolution proposed on the floor of the Conference must be in writing and be referred without discussion to the Resolutions Committee for consideration and report, save in such case as said resolution is at once adopted without objection taken.

7. Setting a time limit (extended only by general consent) to speeches following the opening addresses.

The meeting thereupon adjourned till 9 o'clock the following morning, and at that session the President announced the names of members appointed to the Resolutions Committee as follows: Ashley Mitchell (Chairman), Jakob E. Lange, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Dr. Julius J. Pikler, Dr. S. Vere Pearson, Dr. Otto

Karutz, Dr. Axel Dam, Miss Colbron, F. C. R. Douglas, K. J. Kristensen, A. Albendin. The President himself and the Secretaries acted as ex-officio members.

* * *

On all hands there were enthusiastic expressions of delight to meet so many friends from distant parts or to renew acquaintances that many had made at the Oxford International. It was a delightful sensation to feel that the Conference would have its home for a whole week in no less distinguished a place than the Danish Houses of Parliament, with the Joint Assembly Chamber and many Parliamentary committee rooms at full disposal. The visitors to Denmark had words of grateful appreciation for the way in which they had been received and helped by the eager band of workers in the Danish movement, who were busy enough in all the arrangements for the week's events.

The Conference papers were distributed to each member, containing a printed and numbered list of all enrolments and a folder which fastened together the programme of the Conference and printed copies of the addresses, some in full and some in abstract, and for the most part both in English and Danish. Certain of the addresses were printed also in German or in French, according to the nationality of the author.

The folder, with its contents, proved invaluable to the members throughout the ensuing sessions—and still more to the Press. Without the splendid facilities given to the reporters in this way, it is questionable whether the Conference business would have had anything like the publicity it enjoyed. The Danish Committee is warmly to be congratulated on its enterprise in printing and circulating so much matter in advance.

Besides the Conference papers, each member was presented with the emblem of the Conference, bearing the Liberty Memorial stamped in gilt on enamel and fastened by a pin to a neat ribbon of Danish white and red. A number on the ribbon revealed the identity of the wearer by its correspondence with his or her number on the membership list. The emblem with its ribbon attracted much attention wherever the wearer went; and as the week progressed, the looks of passers-by, caught by the simple and dignified badge, turned from curiosity to understanding. Not in vain were the newspapers informing the public that an International Conference on Land Values was being held in Parliament.

On the morning of Monday, 19th July, the President had an interview with a large corps of Press correspondents. The interview had magnificent reports. Mr. Hennessy had spoken with confidence of the advance of the Henry George movement in many parts of the world. He had testified to the enormous encouragement all advocates of land value taxation had got from the legislation recently carried in Denmark and remarked on the significance of the fact that the Conference had been granted the use of the Danish Parliament Buildings for its meetings.

In this short review of preliminary happenings we should not forget to mention the hospitality extended to the party that arrived in Esbjerg on the evening of the 18th July on their way to Copenhagen. They were met and heartily received by the Esbjerg Georgeist circle. It was a happy introduction to Denmark, and a foretaste of the overflowing kindness members experienced

Diary of the International Conference—*continued*

at the hands of Danish friends in the movement wherever they went.

OPENING SESSION

(Tuesday, 20th July)

The sunshine streaming through the great windows of the Joint Assembly Chamber, the Conference assembled for its inaugural meeting on Tuesday morning, 20th July. The large audience included more than 200 representatives from 17 different countries, and there had come as honoured visitors many men and women prominent in Danish public life. At the back of the platform stood a bronze bust of Henry George, mounted on a pedestal draped with the "Dannebrog," the Danish national flag.

The meeting was opened by Mr. F. Folke, acting as Chairman for the Conveners, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and the Danish Land Values Committee. In his eloquent address of welcome, he called on Senator Charles O'Connor Hennessy of New York to accept the position of Hon. President of the Conference.

The whole assembly rose in their places and acclaimed Mr. Hennessy with cheers.

The President's Address

THE PRESIDENT, deeply moved by the enthusiastic reception, expressed his sense of the honour bestowed and the responsible duty entrusted to him. He was quickly at home with his audience and captivated all by the inspiring lead he gave to the Conference in his Presidential Address. We have set forth the text on preceding pages. Mr. Hennessy was repeatedly supported by warm-hearted applause, which resounded again as his address was read in Danish translation by Mr. Jørgen Pedersen.

Letter from the Danish Home Minister

MR. F. FOLKE rose to convey to the Conference an important message from Mr. C. N. Hauge, the Minister of Home Affairs which excited the greatest animation. Next day the reports, editorials and comments in the Press revealed how significant was such a public announcement from a member of the Danish Cabinet. As many newspapers declared, it was "the sensation of the day."

MR. C. N. HAUGE expressed his regret that he was unable to be present and take part as a Vice-President of the Conference. But as he did not like by his absence to give the Conference or the public the impression that the land values question did not have his unqualified interest, he wished to state on the contrary

"I am glad to be able to lay stress on my opinion that it is absolutely fit and proper that the community should assert its right to appropriate the economic rent of land. In this connection I can only regret that I did not succeed in getting carried through an even better act for local land value taxation than that which was passed in the last session of Parliament. Similarly, I have to deplore very much the fact that under the law, taxes must still be imposed upon the homes much needed for the people. However, the step was made in the right direction, and seeing that, as it often happens, the most difficult thing is to make a beginning we may well hope that progress in the right direction will inevitably follow as the result of what has been so far accomplished. I cannot prophesy as to this progress. The pace depends essentially upon in what degree we can succeed in persuading the great mass of the people of the need to



C. N. HAUGE
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

conduct affairs in agreement with the undeniable truth that the land cannot rightly be an object of speculation of a few to the hurt and harm of others and the whole community.

"With such words as these it was my desire to bid welcome to the Conference. . . . I must be content to send you these lines and beg you to be so good as to convey to the Conference my sincere hope that it may have success in carrying forward good and fruitful work for the freedom of the people and for social justice."

The letter is an earnest of the Danish Government's intentions to develop the policy of land value taxation and it is in harmony with the notable statement made by Mr. Bramsnaes, the Finance Minister, at the Conference banquet six days later.

International Greetings

After the striking interlude of the letter from Mr. Hauge, the Conference welcomed in turn representatives from various countries and gladly received the greetings they brought from their home land.

MR. ANTONIO ALBENDIN (Spain), Vice-President, said he profoundly regretted some of his friends at home had been unable to accompany him to the Conference. The Spanish League was waiting better times when it would be able to resume publication of the journal *El Impuesto Unico*. Meantime they were doing all they could individually. A distinguished member of the Spanish League, Dr. Jose Garcia Vivas, had been successful in organizing in Melilla, the Spanish town of North Africa, a branch which was promoting land value taxation for local purposes. Mr. Albendin spoke also in behalf of co-workers in South America and mentioned his friend, Mr. Herrera y Reissig, who would be able to say more about that part of the world. Last May the first centenary of the enactment of the Agrarian laws of Bernardino Rivadavia, first President of the Argentine Republic, was celebrated and in view of Rivadavia's outstanding place as a land reformer all present would appreciate the importance of that event. He was gratified at the thought that they were assembled in Denmark where the ideas of Henry George had made such great progress and he warmly congratulated Danish colleagues on having got a real start in legislation along the lines of land value principle and policy.

MR. WILLIAM REID (Great Britain) taking the place of Bailie Burt of Glasgow, Vice-President, brought good wishes from the members of the Scottish League, many of whom had spoken to him of their regret that they could not be present. Above all he had to regret

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the absence of Bailie Peter Burt himself, and the cause of his absence, namely, the indisposition of Mrs. Burt. Bailie Burt had been one of those who had welcomed Henry George on his first visit to Scotland and had been a giant in the movement ever since. Henry George spoke to minds capable of thinking out the solution of a problem. The reason why after so many years of propaganda there had not been more progress might be found in the scriptural saying that the eyes of the fool are on the ends of the earth. Too many people in Britain had thought of the Empire on which the sun never sets and in which cynics like himself said the tax-collector never went to sleep. He had not come to Denmark to teach them anything; he had come to learn. Already in 180 miles travelling he had seen a cultivated and smiling land in Denmark. In his own country the places that once had produced warriors were now handed over to the sheep and the deer.

Mr. JOHAN HANSSON (Sweden), Vice-President, said that during the last twelve months in his country there had been an awakening; several young people had stepped forward and shown not only an interest but considerable ability in working for the advancement of the cause the Conference had at heart. And an interesting feature of this new move was the devotion of the women to the principle. There were Europeans and Americans who did not know anything about Sweden but they knew two Swedish names and both of them belonged to women. They were Selma Lagerhof and Ellen Key. Sweden was famous because of famous women; and with their aid and very largely because of their work Sweden would, he felt sure, when the next Conference was held, send women representatives to take a prominent part in the deliberations.

Mr. ALEX PALETTA (Germany) spoke for Governor Hans Krüger of Lüneburg, Vice-President, whose illness had unhappily prevented attendance. He read a letter Mr. Krüger had written to the Conference emphasizing the vital necessity of free trade. "The serious crisis afflicting the countries of Europe is not confined within the borders of each taken separately, but leaps over the frontiers like the frightful pestilences of the middle ages. The lesson is that we can overcome the crisis only if we make an end of the reciprocal policy of exclusion and isolation and remove the obstacles raised against trade and traffic from one country to another. . . . No new tariff barriers but the overthrow of those existing. This is the demand of the day. Thus land reform and free trade are the urgent questions for all the nations. We welcome the fact that these ideas should be discussed at international conferences, for the struggle in one's own country is easier when it is known that faithful companions are fighting for the same cause across the frontiers. . . . We German land reformers will never forget the revered figure of Henry George who powerfully sounded the alarm from the new country beyond the ocean to the European mother-countries and exhorted not the least among the peoples to the struggle for better social conditions."

By HENRY GEORGE

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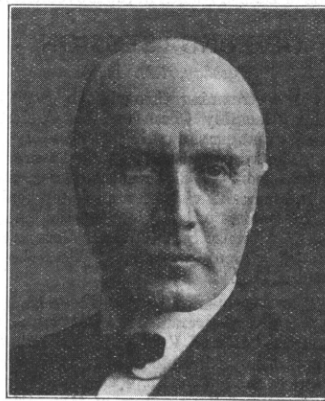
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F. FOLKE

Mr. SAM MEYER (Belgium and France), Vice-President, said that the movement for Land Value Taxation in the countries he represented had begun quite recently. The League in France was just being organized while that in Belgium had been established by their co-worker, the late Albert Cauwel, two years ago. The journal of the Belgian and French Leagues, *La Terre*, was being published regularly and copies were sent to many public representative men and bodies. Recently there had been re-printed the French translation of *Progress and Poverty*, but otherwise, the countries that had produced the physiocrats Turgot, and de Laveleye, and writers like de Collins and Walras were lacking in literature on the land question. The Leagues had now about 200 members and were building up steadily, but they had much to do.

Dr. JULIUS J. PIKLER (Hungary), Vice-President, said that the hard times of which there was complaint in every country were a little better or a little worse in Hungary than elsewhere. The people generally believed that the bad situation in each country was due to the great war and thus had to be attributed to causes of yesterday or of a day before yesterday. But there were a few in Hungary, as in other countries, who realized that the "hard times" of to-day must be ascribed to wrongs, not of yesterday, but to wrongs that were working to-day; wrongs which worked before the war and continued to work in even greater degree to-day. The cause had to be removed before hard times could pass away and the few Georgeists in Hungary, realizing that truth, looked with the keenest interest and joy to the Conference in Copenhagen. There were no political or national limits for such feelings. They were all united and linked in the unwavering faith in the inalienable rights of man and he besought the Conference to accept a sincere and fraternal message from the co-workers in Hungary.

Mr. S. WIELGOLASKI (Norway), Vice-President, briefly conveyed a greeting from his country, saying how heartily they had to congratulate Danish friends on the recent legislative advance and what it meant in educative work in all the local areas. Such an example from a country with which Norway had such close relations was a matter of the greatest moment.

Mr. V. M. AVENDANO-LOSADA (Venezuela) directed attention to the eighteen self-ruled countries of Spanish-America, which were considered to be the most homogeneous unit in the world, and said that an extraordinary

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activity was visible there in mining and road-making which rendered the land question of immediate import. With Georgeist developments in Argentine, he added, everyone in the movement was well acquainted. He would watch with interest events in Spanish-America, which held possibilities, in his opinion, of the greatest value to the stumbling civilization of Europe. A parallel was drawn, in conclusion, of Columbus and Henry George, which was appreciated. "It is remarkable that the new world of peace and justice to which we are steering should have been proclaimed from the very Continent which was once regarded as fantastic."

Mr. PAVLOS GIANNELLA (Greece and Austria) spoke as the official representative of the Greek Government which had delegated him through diplomatic channels to attend the Conference. As a resident in Vienna he was also officially delegated by the Austrian Land Reform Union. He attracted all by his lively and facile manner, alternately speaking in English, French, German and Danish. He said that long ago, already 25 centuries had passed away, Solon had introduced the principle of a proper relation between the privilege of land holding, the right of governing and the duty of defending the State. The fruit of that policy, the wonder of the Acropolis, still stood to-day and the principle established by Solon would never be suppressed in spite of all the opposing private interests since Pisistratos to this day. The principle was observed in Asia Minor, in the most glorious days of the Byzantine Empire among the soldier-peasants of Romanos Lecapinos, Nikephoros Phokos and Basil II., who extended the empire from Sicily to Armenia. That principle was revived after the fall of Constantinople in the military confines of the German Empire when only men able to bear arms were allowed to possess the land and keep it. And where the principle of single tax on land values was codified for the first time, those military confines were, by the destiny of fate, abolished in the very same year in which Henry George published his chief work, *Progress and Poverty*. He knew that definite progress did not consist in the replacement of a few owners of large properties by many owners of small ones; but only in preserving the land user from dependence upon the land owner; in securing the fruit of labour and capital to the worker and in appropriating the economic rent of land for society proportionately to the advantage each one enjoyed from the co-operation of society. He knew very well that unless Greece (which lately had broken up big estates by compulsory purchase) returned to the basic principle established long ago by Solon of a proper relation between a landholder's advantages and his obligations—a principle which in its most modern form is beginning to be realized in Denmark—all the wonder of the "Phoenix of Asia Minor," that made a garden of the Macedonian desert, would be appropriated in a few years by the landowners, reducing the wages of labour to the minimum level. To his friends in Denmark he said: "When we were a kingdom you gave us our good king; now that we are a democratic republic, we come to you to learn the example of the most democratic form of taxation."

Mr. D. DE CLERQ (Holland) said he was one of the old guard as he had started his interest in the movement in 1887 with his old friend, Jan Stoffel, of Deventer, who had died in 1924. In 1888, Henry George came to Holland, and now in 1924 the second start came from Friesland, where a young and able smallholder, Mr. Sevenster, of Wier, had unfurled again



ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE

the Single Tax banner. They had now once more a small monthly paper, *The New Earth*, and were doing what they could with their limited means. The small Democratic Party had put their aims on their platform but they had to persuade the Social Democrats, the biggest group in Parliament, holding 32 of the 100 seats. About 50 per cent of the land holders in Holland were proprietors, but were heavily mortgaged, and the rest were leaseholders. There were few big estates so the circumstances were in their favour. They much needed a spur from the international field and the new Danish experiment, which was supported by the Danish Social Democrats, must have a good influence on the Dutch mind.

Mr. MANUEL HERRERA Y REISSIG, Consul-General in Switzerland for Uruguay, was present but postponed his message till a later session, explaining then that he had been confronted by the language difficulty. His speech was translated from Spanish by Mr. Antonio Albendin. He brought greetings from co-workers in South America. The centenary of the great Argentine statesman, Beruardino Rivadavia, had just been celebrated. Rivadavia was a disciple of the French Physiocrats and gave to his country the wonderful Agrarian laws that would have killed the wicked institution of private property in land had they been in operation a sufficient time. His legislation had provided that economic rent should be the only source for meeting the public expenses and abolished all kinds of taxes, including the custom house itself, thus establishing Free Trade in its full meaning. In his (Mr. Reissig's) own country of Uruguay, another great man, Andres Lamas, a true precursor of Henry George, who did not know the teachings of the Prophet of San Francisco, wrote an immortal book entitled *The Economic Work of Rivadavia* which is almost on a level with *Progress and Poverty*. It was correct in economic principles. There one will find the law of rent, the criticism of the Malthusian theory and of protection and finally most of the substance found in Henry George's works. Lamas' book was circulating widely in South America not only among Georgeists, but also in the universities. In the language of noble Spain many economic philisophers had flourished such as Vives, Mariana, Florez Estrada; and many brilliant writers like Joaquin Costa, who

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commended Henry George's teachings as soon as the French translation of *Progress and Poverty* was published. All the works of Henry George has been translated into Spanish and he wished to suggest to the Conference that it would help the movement materially if the works of those Spanish and South American precursors of Henry George (especially Andres Lamas) were translated into English.

The President, having announced the names of those appointed to serve on the resolutions committee, called the adjournment. It had been a long and eventful session, well advanced into the time set aside for luncheon interval. All the speakers had responded with their best to the magnificent occasion. The Conference was at once stamped as a triumphant success, making a deep impression not only on all privileged to give their message but also on the listeners and above all on the commentators, who as the ample press reports of the next day proved, had made notes for a faithful and informing story for the whole Danish people.

The Conference adjourned in a body to the Dining Hall of the Parliament Buildings and sat down to "Danish breakfast" in festive company, thus, by courtesy of the Danish Government, occupying one more of the apartments exclusively reserved for the use of Members of both Houses of Parliament. After that function, the members were photographed in a group at the entrance to the Parliament buildings.

Economic Emancipation

At the afternoon session of Tuesday 20th July, the President gave the Chair to Dr. O. C. Kragh, vice-president, ex-Minister of Home Affairs, who, expressing his pleasure at being present, called in turn upon Mr. Jacob E. Lange and Mr. Frederick Verinder.

Mr. JAKOB E. LANGE, vice-president, spoke on "Economic Emancipation," his address tracing the history of the Danish peasant from the notable liberation enactment of 1788. It will be given in full in the final report of the Conference according to the English text, printed in the papers distributed to all members present. The theme will be found in Mr. Lange's able contribution to *LAND & LIBERTY* on "Henry George and Denmark." Expanded and illuminated as it was in the spoken word, it pleased and gratified the Conference beyond measure. The opening statement, rich in metaphor and in tune with all the rest, drew a happy parallel: "We know in our hearts that it is not the tempest that tells, but the still wind. And we feel ourselves, be we personally ever so weak, not as moths to be wafted away by the strong currents of the times, but as *fireflies* of the species called by scientists Prometheus, bearers of that celestial light which is named truth. This light we have not robbed from the gods. It was kindled for us by our great leader, Henry George. And it is our precious privilege to carry the torch, to enlighten mankind, all over the world."

The observation did not pass without comment in the press. A leading article in a Conservative provincial daily associated it with Mr. Hauge's important letter to the Conference and added its warning to the Moderate Liberals for having gone so far in supporting land value taxation: "It is not remarkable that the Georgeists are holding their world congress here in Denmark, because in this country there are actually people who believe in such Utopias; and not only believe in them, but in their activity have shown that they can get a majority of the politicians to take steps in that direction."



ASHLEY MITCHELL

CHAIRMAN OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Of course, the Moderate Liberals, who made this step possible, strained every effort to persuade their members that the Land Values Act had nothing whatever to do with Georgeism. It will be with strange feelings that they read the reports of the congress now being held in Copenhagen and in such a distinguished and official place as the Joint Assembly Chamber of Parliament. The proceedings of the congress have there some weight, not only because (among other things) . . . the chief priest of the Moderate Liberals Dr. Kragh took a place in the Chair but the most significant thing was the letter sent by the Home Minister Mr. Hauge in which he regretted that he had not been able to carry a more thorough-going measure of land value taxation. . . . According to *Politiken*, the unreserved admission on the part of the Social Democratic Home Minister in favour of the land values idea created a real sensation. In most parts of the world the Social Democrats are very hostile to Henry George's pronounced individualistic land values principle. . . . It is certainly a fact that in zoology the light of the fireflies ('celestial' as Mr. Lange declares) is found in a gland on small nocturnal animals. Hitherto we have been inclined to think that Danish Georgeism was also glandular in its occurrence and that the "firefly" itself, as on the hats of ladies in Cuba, was simply used to adorn the Radical programme here at home. But after the letter from the Home Minister we are obliged to view these tropical phenomena rather more seriously."

Unemployment

Mr. FREDERICK VERINDER, following Mr. Lange, addressed the Conference on "Unemployment" and the members had before them a résumé of his paper which like other matter will be taken up in full in the final record. Mr. Verinder's argument was largely based upon and convincingly illustrated by the facts surrounding the present crisis in the coal industry. In a final sentence he declared: "Land monopoly and a wicked system of taxation, national and local, are the root causes 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 the land."

It was an excellent summary of the matter and

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these words appealed at once to many members as a suitable form of declaration to put on record as a resolution.

Proposed Motion

Mr. K. J. KRISTENSEN thereupon took the platform and in agreement with Mr. F. Folke, formally moved resolution accordingly. The President, who had resumed the chair, put the question to the vote.

Mr. EDMUND C. EVANS, of Philadelphia, rose to make objection stating that he was against the wording employed. By the rules of procedure adopted at the "Grand Committee," the motion having been proposed on the floor of the Conference (and objection having been taken) was referred without discussion to the Resolutions Committee for consideration and report. The Conference then adjourned till the next morning.

SECOND DAY

(Wednesday 21st July)

Mr. ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P., by invitation of the President, occupied the Chair, and in his introductory remarks, pointed to the way in which the land question was being mishandled by the present Conservative régime in Great Britain. A Small Holdings Bill based on public land purchase, certain to harden land monopoly all over the country if it was passed, had just been introduced in Parliament. Unemployment was greater than ever and the problem would become still more serious when hosts of miners would be permanently thrown out of work by the closing of the non-paying mines. The subsidy to the industry has merely disguised the gravity of the situation. He and his colleague Josiah C. Wedgwood and others in the House of Commons kept pointing to the example of Denmark which showed what could be done with the land.

Land and People

Mr. SOPHUS BERTHELSEN, whose paper on *Land and People* had been distributed among the members in Danish, read the chief points in English from a translation, wishing to say how much he was indebted to others for that. Taking a broad general view of the relation of the people to the land, he insisted that the cause of poverty and the social evils that arose out of poverty was not the private possession of land but the private appropriation of economic rent. Henry George had taught the remedy—to appropriate the economic rent of land by taxation. In the application of that principle, the vital thing was to make a right beginning through a straight tax on land values, and while relieving industry at the same time secure a sound basis of valuation that more and more carefully distinguished between land values and labour-created values. In that way popular support and understanding of the policy in actual operation would be gained, leading to a further and bigger step and ultimately to the full adoption of the principle. Very informing was Mr. Berthelsen's discussion of the mortgage system in



ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P.

Denmark and his facts in regard to the working of the co-operative credit associations.

Native Land Rights

The REV. MERVYN STEWART followed with a scholarly paper, distinguished by its profound research and, in the delivery, clothed in the garment of a charming rhetoric. He had entitled his address *Primitive Geocist Legal Bases* and a resumé will be found in another column. In one of his closing paragraphs Mr. Stewart illustrated labour's dependence on the land by this allegory: "The Greeks of old knew all philosophy. They told us the myth of a wrestler from Libya, who overthrew every challenger. He was the son of GE the earth, and when thrown to the earth drew new vigour from contact with his mother. A Greek guessing his secret and being clad in full armour lifted him off his feet by the throat and strangled him. 'Raise him to a higher level' and separate him from the soil and he will perish." Mr. Stewart's description of the social conditions in Malaya and Northern Nigeria prompted the daily paper *Köbenhavn* of the next morning to remark: "It was a convincing example of the merits of Henry George's doctrines. The speaker declared that the management of Malay's finances was so eminently good that there was no parallel to it in the world. The Finance Minister, Mr. Bramsnaes, was not at the meeting to hear that, otherwise he might have been tempted to spend his next year's holiday in Malaya."

In the discussion on Mr. Stewart's address, Mr. Frederic C. Leubuscher and Mr. MacLaren (from the Chair) took part, the latter paying a tribute to the work of the late E. D. Morel and to the ever zealous interest of Col. Josiah C. Wedgwood in upholding the rights of the natives in British Dependencies.

At the close of the discussion, the President resumed the Chair and announced that an eagerly expected member of the Conference had arrived that morning—the daughter of Henry George, Mrs. Anna George de Mille, accompanied by her two daughters. He wished on behalf of their World Conference that had come together in the name of Henry George and his teaching, to bid them most heartily welcome.

Mrs. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, who was received with a storm of applause, said she was overcome by all the

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generosity shown to her in such a welcome. Although a daughter of Henry George, it was as one of his humblest disciples that she was there to-day. She had travelled all the way from California to be in Copenhagen with them and with so many representatives of the Henry George movement from all over the world. For her it was a thrilling adventure to be in the room and now to know Denmark of which she had heard so much. She had been but a few hours in the country but already could say it was not true that there is "something wrong in the state of Denmark," however true that might be of California where, as in her home town of Hollywood, the present real estate boom promoted by the land speculators was sure to react upon the people and cause the greatest disasters.

Henry George Library Inaugurated

During the adjournment for luncheon, there was an interesting ceremony in the Library of the Houses of Parliament. Mr. Ole Hansen, President of the Upper House, attended to receive members of the Conference and inaugurate the new Henry George Library, which as a public institution is the first of its kind in the world. It was founded in March last by Mr. Sophus Berthelsen's gift to Parliament of his whole private collection of Henry George literature, comprising some 300 volumes. Books and pamphlets have since been presented to this valuable material by friends in Denmark and other countries; and the whole is now housed in a special section of the Parliamentary Library, a large bust of Henry George standing by the shelves. Members of the Conference brought with them gifts to the library for the occasion—various translations of Henry George's works and kindred publications in several languages—and Mr. John Paul gave a set of bound volumes of **LAND & LIBERTY**.

Mr. S. BERTHELSEN spoke in the name of the Conference and formally presented the Henry George Library to the Houses of Parliament.

Mr. OLE HANSEN, acknowledging the gift on behalf of Parliament, said that members of both Houses when consulting the library would no doubt find many grains of silver in it and perhaps also grains of gold. To which Mr. Berthelsen replied, while thanking Mr. Ole Hansen for his presence, that the Members would certainly find in the books something that was still better—grains of seed, the seed of truth that would take root and grow.

Housing and Land Legislation

At the afternoon session of Wednesday, 21st July, Mr. Bolton Hall was named on the programme as Chairman, but as he had not yet arrived, the President offered the vacant place to Mrs. Anna George de Mille, who, on taking her seat, was loudly acclaimed. Addresses were delivered by:—

Mr. ASHLEY MITCHELL on "House Famine as the Result of Poverty and Unemployment";

Alderman F. C. R. DOUGLAS on "Land Value Taxation, Housing and Town Planning";

Dr. OTTO KARUTZ on "Land Legislation in Germany and Sweden," being a statement on subsidized small holdings established by State action and by the aid of land purchase, and noting with regret that land value legislation was not in operation to produce better results; and

Mr. SAM MEYER on "The Land Value Taxation Movement in Belgium and France," covering the ground briefly reported in our record of the first day's proceedings.



ANDERS VEDEL

Resumés of these addresses were contained in the papers distributed to members among other Conference papers and from them we hope to print in our next issue Mr. Mitchell's searching examination of the housing-subsidy policy in this country, which, by the way, had an excellent notice in the Copenhagen dailies.

Mrs. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE (in the Chair) said a few words bearing on Mr. Mitchell's final remarks. She spoke reminiscently of Henry George and recalled how much she had been impressed, even as a young girl, by his power of vision and his conviction that the truth would prevail if not in his time then in hers.

Mr. PAVLOS GIANNELIA and others joined in the discussion on the various papers that followed after Mr. Sam Meyer had spoken.

The PRESIDENT, resuming the Chair, complimented Mrs. de Mille on the graceful way in which she had presided, and called on the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee for a report.

Mr. ASHLEY MITCHELL stated that the Committee had considered the proposed motion on land value taxation and unemployment referred to it the day before, and wished now to report the resolution favourably to the Conference. That was the decision of the Committee by a majority of 10 to 1, two not voting.

The motion was submitted by Mr. Mitchell. An amendment was moved by Mr. Edmund C. Evans,

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Diary of the International Conference—continued

seconded by Mr. M. Warriner, intended to eliminate the words "taxation of land values" and to make the words after "break up land monopoly" read: "by collecting the annual rental value of land and set free industry to make the best use of land by abolishing taxation." As the hour for adjournment had arrived, it was agreed to take the discussion on the motion and the amendment on the conclusion of the ordinary business next morning.

THIRD DAY

(Thursday, 22nd July)

The PRESIDENT opened the Session and invited Mr. Johan Hansson (Sweden), Vice-President, to take the Chair in place of Mr. J. L. Björner who was unavoidably detained.

Free Trade

Mr. JOHAN HANSSON introduced Mr. Anders Vedel and said that his own countryman, Mr. Fabian Maansson, M.P., who should also have spoken on Free Trade, had at the last moment telegraphed his regrets at being unable to leave for Denmark.

Mr. ANDERS VEDEL, having emphasized the real meaning of Free Trade—the freedom to produce as well as the freedom to exchange—faithfully reviewed the trend of public thought and action on the fiscal question during and since the war: the German proposal in 1915 for a great Custom union, the counter-stroke of the Paris resolutions; then the championing of Free Trade by President Wilson in the third of his famous fourteen points, followed by the much diluted provisions in the League of Nations Covenant. Later came the Brussels Conference in 1920, and such demonstrations for Free Trade as the report of the League of Nations on the economic situation of Austria, the advice of the League's finance committee on the reconstruction of Hungary, the warnings of Sir Henry Strakosch, the proposals of M. Loucheur, and so on. We had hoped to print the full text of Mr. Vedel's brilliant statement this month. The type has been set, but for want of space it must unfortunately stand over (with much else) till later.

Mr. BOLTON HALL, for whom there were many calls to speak, joined in the discussion and in the course of a thoughtful speech said Cobden had accomplished a great work towards the freedom of trade. And Cobden saw the land question. He saw even the decided importance of it, but having got Free Trade, and perhaps because he had not the money for a land campaign, he stopped at Free Trade and left the torch for us to carry forward. "You cannot teach anybody anything they do not want to learn. The wisest thing that the wise man ever said was, 'My son, give me your heart and then you shall be able to hearken to the voice of my understanding'."

Mr. S. BERTHELSEN, FRED. C. LEUBUSCHER and CHESTER C. PLATT were among those who followed, Mr. Bertelsen bringing out strongly Mr. Vedel's references to the League of Nations and hoping that the Conference would resolve to press their demands through that channel.

* * *

Lengthy interviews with Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., appeared in the Copenhagen dailies *Social Demokraten* and *Politiken* of 22nd July and in the Aarhus *Demokraten* of 29th July.

At the conclusion of the discussion on Free Trade: the PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and announced that there would now be taken the proposed resolution on unemployment, as reported by the Resolutions Committee, and the proposed amendment.

Debate on Unemployment Resolution

Mr. WM. REID asked for a ruling that any amendment to strike out the words "taxation of land values" and substitute something else should be declared out of order because it was in disagreement with the avowed object of the Conference, which had been called to promote the Taxation of Land Values.

The CHAIR declared the point of order well taken; but as his Danish friends had made a special request to him that opportunity for the discussion suggested in the amendment should be given, he would request Mr. Reid to be generous enough to withdraw his point of order in the meantime. This Mr. Reid gracefully did.

A prolonged debate ensued, which proceeded on more or less familiar lines, except that there developed a diverting clash of opinion among those who wished the words "taxation of land values" deleted and replaced by other words. The attack on the resolution began with the demand for the taking of the whole economic rent of land at once and denounced any step that would as a beginning take some economic rent for the community and correspondingly get rid of some taxation on industry. This attitude of hostility to any step in advance that introduced something less than the full principle was taken up alone by Mr. Edmund C. Evans and Mr. M. Warriner, the mover and the seconder of the amendment. Their supporters were not against the "step by step" method, or not so much; they were concerned to "change the name" and suggested that if the name was only changed they would revise their belief in the "all at once" as a *sine qua non*. If only the name was changed "the step by step policy might be all right"! At the Oxford International in 1923 the same disputants came with the "all at once or nothing" cry in alliance with an American "Single Tax Party." At that time there was not the same objection to the word "tax." At Copenhagen, the action taken was confined to a call for "a change of name." A few members of the Danish group that has a political party of its own, called the Justice Party, were concerned with the argument; but as to their attitude, and practical policy, readers interested are referred to our observations on page 208, under the caption "From the General to the Particular."

There spoke for the amendment, besides the mover and seconder: Dr. S. Vere Pearson, Dr. Axel Dam, Mrs. Johan Hansson and Miss Schetter; there spoke against: Messrs. F. Folke, S. Bertelsen, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Wm. Reid, John Paul, E. M. Ginders, Anders Vedel and A. W. Madsen. Miss Colbron, Mrs. Skeele and Miss Hicks raised sundry matters bearing on the discussion. A question asked by Mr. Bertelsen and widely reported was not answered: Did the sponsors of the amendment maintain that the steps forward they had taken in Denmark had not been worth while? Did they think

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Diary of the International Conference—*continued*

that it would have been better if the steps had not been taken? Did they censure the friends of the land values movement in Denmark for having given their support to the Land Values Act that was carried last spring?

The amendment being put was defeated by 72 votes to 19. The resolution was thereupon adopted, four voting against it.

Moral Law and World Peace

Mrs. SIGNE BJÖRNER presided over the Afternoon Session of Thursday, 22nd July. The addresses delivered by Dr. Axel Dam, Mr. W. R. Lester and Dr. S. Vere Pearson took the Conference into a most important field of inquiry and promoted a thoughtful discussion.

Dr. AXEL DAM spoke on "World Peace through Education." The first condition of world peace, he said, was not the establishment of an international court of arbitration but of universally recognized rules of justice. If these had to be created by way of voting they would lack the character of self-validity. Real principles of justice must be self-evident rules in human nature. As long as the nations trusted to utilitarianism instead of justice within themselves there was no possibility of seeing justice triumph in international relations.

Mr. W. R. LESTER's address on "Natural Law in Social Life" was based upon the fine statement he made last spring at a meeting of the London Henry George Club. He has worked upon the theme and developed it into a real classic, which has so impressed a number of friends that it will be published shortly by the United Committee in special pamphlet form. A fuller announcement will be made later about this very valuable addition to the literature of the movement.

Dr. S. VERE PEARSON had as the title of his paper "Moral Justice and World Peace," of which we had hoped to print the resumé this month, but the text is in type for early publication.

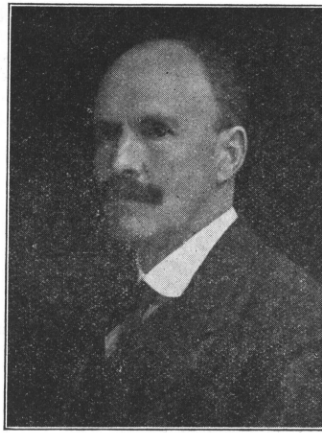
Discussion followed, and among those who took part were Mrs. Henriette Beenfeldt, Mr. Heinrich Pens (President of the Anhalt Diet), Miss Colbron and the Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart.

Mrs. HENRIETTE BEENFELDT said she had been delegated, with Mrs. Sonne Hald, as a member of the Conference by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, of whose branch in Copenhagen she was the Chairman. The League was at that moment holding its international congress in Dublin. In their circle they helped the propaganda for land value taxation and free trade by inviting speakers on the subject to address them. She was convinced that the only true and lasting way to promote peace was to alter social conditions in the spirit of Henry George.

Fairhope

Thursday, 22nd July, was a very full day for Conference members, there being three sessions in all. At the Evening Session, with Mr. Fiske Warren in the Chair, the subject on the programme was "Georgeist Enclaves" with special reference to Fairhope.

Mr. E. B. GASTON, of Fairhope, described how that settlement had been established and how, since the land was acquired, the principle of land value taxation had been applied for financing the community and paying the real estate taxes levied by county and State. He was able to draw a number of useful lessons from Fairhope's experience, saying, however, that the creation of "Georgeist Enclaves" was not at all proposed as a



W. R. LESTER

solution of the problem of getting land back to the people; it was an example of "propaganda by demonstration" based on the faith that the land values idea was so sound that its application, on however small a scale, would show results that would commend it to those as yet unconverted. The address was illustrated by lantern slides of Fairhope. Mr. and Mrs. Gaston had come all the way from their home to be present at the Conference and members gave them a cordial welcome.

South America

The address on Fairhope was preceded by the cordial reception of Mr. Herrera y Reissig, Consul-General for Uruguay in Switzerland.

Mr. ANTONIO ALBENDIN was glad to have the privilege of introducing Mr. Reissig, who had been brought into the movement in 1905 by Dr. Felix Vitale. It was he who suggested the holding of the International Conference in Ronda (Spain) in 1913. Returning to his own country, he organized with the help of Dr. Vitale and the late Charles N. Mackintosh, whose memory they honoured, the Georgeist "United Committee of South America," and was the author of its now famous "Declaration of Principles."

Mr. HERRERA Y REISSIG, in his address, which we report in an earlier column, urged the importance of the lately discovered book by Andres Lamas on "The Economic Work of Rivadavia." His proposal that efforts be made to publish the book in English was seconded by the Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart, who suggested that a guarantee fund be opened to cover the cost.

THE NEW POLITICAL ECONOMY

Address by John B. Sharpe before the Young Men's Civic Club of Pittsburg.

H. R. (Kent) writes: "THE NEW POLITICAL ECONOMY by John B. Sharpe is certainly among the very best things you have published. It would suit admirably as a text-book for a class. I should like to have a few copies of the pamphlet."

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Diary of the International Conference—*continued*

To this Mrs. Emily E. F. Skeele, of New York, responded by the offer of \$50 (£10) and the offer was at once duplicated by Mr. Stewart. We will be glad to hear from other friends interested in the matter.

FOURTH DAY

(Friday, 23rd July)

As a change from the many meetings indoors, members of the Conference were glad to take a day in the country, combining recreation and instruction. The large company journeyed by steamship to Elsinore, visited the Castle of Kronborg, and inspected its treasures. They drove out to the International High School, where the principal, Mr. Manniche, spoke on "The History and Aims of the High Schools." The excursion went further to the Castle of Frederiksborg, Denmark's great national historical museum, and then to the People's High School at Frederiksborg. There an address was delivered by the principal, Mr. Holger Begtrup, on "Grundtvig and the People's High Schools," in both English and German. Danish folk songs were sung by the maiden pupils of the school, and the company, congratulating themselves on having spent a most profitable day, returned by train to Copenhagen.

Radio Talk by the President

All Danish friends have recognized the exceptional value of the Conference to the Danish movement itself. The tremendous Press publicity must have reached out to hosts of people who thereby learned that land value taxation and Henry George's teachings were matters of first-class importance to them as citizens. But not all this publicity achieved so much in the way of direct and informing educational work as the service rendered through the Government Radio Station, which on Friday, 23rd July, at 7.15 p.m., gave the President a welcome opportunity to get the ear of hundreds of thousands of listeners for the Henry George cause. Mr. Hennessy spoke for twenty minutes on Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, conveying to that audience the message and the spirit of his opening address at the Conference. He was accompanied by Mrs. Signe Bjørner, who excellently repeated the whole speech in Danish. This forty-minute exposition in both languages was surely, in its lesson taught to a vast public, one of the most profitable of all the "sessions" of the Conference.

We are struck with a note that appears in the journal, *Det Frie Blad* (Mrs. Bjørner, Editor) of 14th August: "Some literature was sold as the result of the President's Radio Talk. Among other books in demand, *Progress and Poverty* was sent to a sailor who had heard the talk on the steamship 'Elbe.'"

Later in the evening of Friday, 23rd July, a large muster of members met in one of the Committee rooms in Parliament, under the auspices of the German



K. J. KRISTENSEN

"delegation" at the Conference. Admiral F. Oldekop presided, and a general discussion took place on Free Trade in relation to the policy of the German Land Reform Union as directed from Berlin.

FIFTH DAY

(Saturday, 24th July)

The session was devoted to a discussion on the principles and practice of valuing land, apart from improvements, led by the distinguished authorities, Mr. K. J. Kristensen, of the Danish Valuation Board, and Dr. Julius J. Pikler, of Buda Pest. An equally great authority, whose name is something to conjure with in this department of public life, Mr. Lawson Purdy, of New York, had written especially for the Conference a brilliant paper, which was submitted and read by Mr. Frederic C. Leubuscher.

Land Valuation

Mr. OVE RODE, M.P., Danish Ex-Minister of Home Affairs, was in the Chair.

Mr. K. J. KRISTENSEN's address went over the ground which is partly covered in our extract from his statement reported in *LAND & LIBERTY* of January last. He urged the importance of reviving the provision that was dropped out of the recent Land Value Taxation Act during discussion in Parliament—that the valuation should not take account of any land value tax levied. He maintained that the assessment should show the full land value due to the community, the value that represented what a reasonable purchaser is prepared to pay in capitalized rent whether the rent is payable as land value tax or otherwise. It would be necessary to alter the valuation rules in that sense when land value taxation is materially increased. Otherwise, the valuation rules in Denmark were good and serviceable in every practical respect. Mr. Kristensen had displayed in the vestibule of the Joint Assembly Chamber the land value map of Copenhagen, which was studied with keen interest by many members.

Dr. JULIUS J. PIKLER has furnished us with the complete manuscript of his paper, the resumé of which, printed in another column, gives only an inadequate impression of the wonderful charm, pleasantry and simplicity that the author employs, like no one else,

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Diary of the International Conference—continued

to enlighten what others may on first thoughts regard as a "severe" subject. In that respect Dr. Pikler excelled himself in Copenhagen, to the eminent delight of his audience.

Mr. LAWSON PURDY was well represented by his spokesman, Mr. Leubuscher, in the reading of his paper, some part at any rate of which we hope to take up in an early issue of *Land & Liberty*. It will of course appear in full in the final record of the Conference.

The Conference adjourned till Monday morning, 26th July. The events of the afternoon of Saturday, 24th, are given special space elsewhere in our columns.

SIXTH DAY

(Sunday, 25th July)

The excursion to the Manor of Spanager, in the neighbourhood of Køge, a formerly entailed estate now subdivided into small holdings, gave members an occasion to see something of the agricultural life of Denmark. The "colony" of small holdings is one of those established under the Act of 1919, the provisions of which were fully described in a Conference paper by Mr. Jørgen Pedersen. The small holdings were inspected under the guidance of Mr. Niels Frederiksen M.P., and Mr. Poulsen, chairman of the local "Housemen's Association." Thereafter a largely attended public meeting was held in the neighbouring Lelling Wood at a much frequented holiday spot. The speakers included Mr. S. Berthelsen, Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., Mr. Heinrich Peus, Dr. Alex Paletta and Dr. J. J. Pikler. A feature of the occasion, as of most if not all occasions when Danes congregate, was the singing of a number of songs. All were able to join in unison, for the words of each song had been printed in both Danish and English; and the Danes were able in their own language to swell the chorus of the English "Land Song."

SEVENTH DAY

(Monday, 26th July)

Land Value Taxation in Practice

Many addresses had to be compressed into the second-last session. The organizers had hoped to find time on the programme for a thorough treatment of the lessons to be learned from the practical operation of land value taxation in numerous countries; and this session had at first been specially set aside for the purpose. But so many papers were submitted to the Conference in response to the invitations sent out, that plans for the exhaustive discussion of this or that question had to be curtailed, and subjects that could not be taken in the earlier sessions were included in the agenda of the seventh day.

Mr. HEINRICH PEUS, President of the Anhalt Diet, was in the Chair and used the German text of the programme as he called on each speaker. In view of the plentiful fare before them he was compelled, he said, to fix a time-limit for the addresses. As it transpired, the last paper on the list, that by Mr. E. J. Craigie on "Land Value Taxation in South Australia," down for presentation by Mr. H. REDFERN of Adelaide, had to be taken as read.

Addresses were delivered by:—

Mr. ALFRED SCHÄR, of Hamburg, on "The Distribution of Land in Germany," with diagrams;

Mr. A. W. MADSEN on "Land Value Taxation in Practice," reviewing the position in many countries.

He added, while speaking to the printed resumé of the paper, a consideration of the Danish Land Value Taxation Act and noted with satisfaction that it had not, as at first introduced, been impaired by proposing to give owners of new houses a greater exemption than others, and therefore a special privilege;

Mr. J. W. GRAHAM PEACE, of London, on "Land Holding in England," illustrated by maps;

Mr. FREDERIC C. LEBUSCHER, of New York, on "Land Value Taxation in Practice," dealing most instructively with the assessment of land value in New York City and the benefits derived in Pittsburgh and Scranton from the transference of taxes from improvements to land values.

Dr. ALEX PALETTA on "Land Taxation in Germany."

Mr. WALTER W. POLLOCK, President of the Manufacturers' Appraisal Co. (Chicago), who had interrupted a stay in Switzerland to be present in Copenhagen, took a notable part in the discussion and spoke as an authority on the question of the assessment of land values.

The matter that had been printed and distributed for Conference members included an illuminating statement specially compiled by Mr. A. G. Huie on "Land Value Taxation in New South Wales"; another by Mr. F. M. Higgs on "Land Value Taxation in Victoria"; the manifesto and programme of the Geologist Liberal Society of Argentina; and an extract from the chapter in *Progress and Poverty*, "The Law of Human Progress," submitted by the special request of Louis F. Post.

Final Session—Resolutions

The President occupied the Chair at the final session on Monday afternoon, 26th July, and said they had to receive a report from the Resolutions Committee which had worked most arduously the whole week.

Mr. ASHLEY MITCHELL, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, stated that they had drafted a number of motions for the approval of the Conference and he, as Chairman of the Committee, formally moved each resolution in its order. The terms of the resolutions thus submitted are printed on pages 187 and 189.

Free Trade: Address to the League of Nations

Dr. JULIUS J. PIKLER seconded. Resolution carried by acclamation.

Greetings to Co-workers in All Lands

Mr. JOHN PAUL seconded. Resolution similarly carried.

Appreciations and Thanks

Resolutions similarly carried: to the Presidents of the Parliament for the use of the Joint Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms; welcoming the recent Danish land values legislation; to Danish Ministers and ex-Ministers for their invaluable support; to the Danish Press and the Government Radio Station.

Principle and Policy

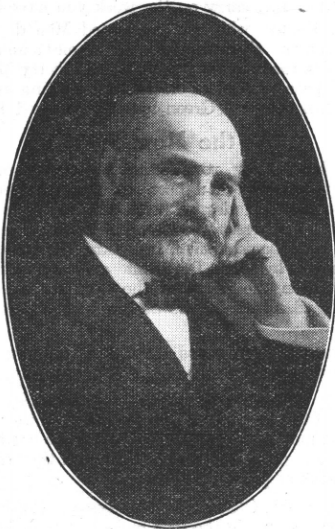
Mr. K. J. KRISTENSEN seconded and the resolution was about to be put, when

Dr. SEVERIN CHRISTENSEN rose to move an amendment that the words "by concentrating taxation on land values" be omitted.

Mr. FREDERIC C. LEBUSCHER raised the point of order that the amendment was incompetent on the ground that it was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Conference and its declared object.

The PRESIDENT, from the Chair, declared he was compelled to sustain the point of order not only because the amendment was obviously in conflict with the call

Diary of the International Conference—continued



JOSEPH FELS

PIONEER OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

to the Conference, and its declared policy implicit in its title; but especially in view of the fact that the Conference by an overwhelming vote at a previous session had already expressed itself distinctly against a substantially similar proposition. The Conference, he added, had now before it a motion as drafted by the Resolutions Committee after prolonged and careful deliberation.

The ruling of the Chair being challenged, was upheld by 46 votes to 11 and the resolution as proposed was carried by 63 votes to 22.

Formation of the International Union

Mr. FREDERIC C. LEUBUSCHER seconded the motion for the formation of the International Union. He warmly urged that out of the Copenhagen Conference should arise an international organization to link together more effectively the work of those who in all lands were striving to promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

Mrs. SIGNE BJÖRNER thought that the election of officers and the rules for the future management of the Union should be in accordance with the principles of the system known among a circle in Denmark as the "Fri Valgret" or free franchise. She moved to omit paragraphs IV. to VII. and substitute the words: "The Committee of the International Union shall be elected by all the members of the Conference and each member of it shall count for the number of votes cast for him. Officers to be elected by the Committee."

In the debate on the amendment the issues were a good deal confused, not least by the frequent demands for translations of conflicting views difficult enough to explain. It was not observed that the amendment contradicted par. III. of the motion, which, like pars. I. and II., was emphatically approved by all. The Conference was not constituting *itself* and members, both present and absent, as a permanent organization and could not conceivably do so. The Conference was being invited to build the nucleus of the new International Union whose members would be those who

accepted its declared objects and enrolled accordingly. The discussion was invaded by the advocacy of a political device altogether unfamiliar if not alien to the minds of most: that a committee or governing body or a parliament may be manned by members holding and using the votes of proxies—one member might easily have or attract to himself more votes than all his co-members put together. The friends of this so-called "free franchise" made it the occasion for demonstrating their faith in their invention and they were joined by others who supported the amendment for quite different reasons.

The hour was late, and of the many members who could not stay to the end, undoubtedly the great majority were in favour of the motion as it stood. The vote was taken and after several counts the amendment was defeated by 47 to 45. Thereupon the resolution as proposed was adopted by 41 to 27.

The Conference acknowledged the ready and considerate assistance rendered to the members by the Chief Steward of the Parliamentary Buildings and by his assistants.

Proceedings concluded with three rousing cheers for the Hon. President and a vote of thanks to him carried by acclamation for the great ability and the unflinching impartiality, courtesy and good humour with which he had presided over the Conference.

The Conference Banquet

The Banquet held in the premises of the Royal Yacht Club at the Pavilion on the Langelinie, Copenhagen's famous promenade by the Sound, crowned the events of the week with fitting celebration. Mrs. Signe Björner presided. Many speeches were made and toasts were given to those who had contributed so unsparingly of their time and energy to the remarkable success of the Conference. Songs written for the occasion were sung both in English and Danish, and one in particular caused great amusement, being to the tune of "John Brown's Body" with genial verses on the President and other personalities at the Conference. Leif and Dan Folke, sons of Mr. Folke, were responsible for this excellent pleasantry and the illustrations were by Mr. Andrew MacLaren.

Mr. John Paul, in his speech, paid a warm and endearing tribute to Joseph Fels, who, he said, was the pioneer of the international movement that had now grown to such wonderful dimensions. As a mark of respect to the memory of Joseph Fels all rose.

Declaration by the Finance Minister

We have already referred to the great political significance of the banquet in the fact that the Finance Minister, Mr. C. Bramsnaes, was present and made an important statement. He said that the Danish Social Democratic Government and the movement for the Taxation of Land Values ought to work together as long as they had objects in common. He expressed his belief that the next practical step, following the passing of the recent Land Values Act for local taxation, would be a further national tax on land values.

* * *

The tour of Denmark to see much of the country and hold meetings in various centres started from Copenhagen on Tuesday, 27th July, and was joined by a large number of the Conference members. Odense, Aarhus, Viborg, Skive, and Esbjerg were visited, and the story of the campaign and the events on this trip was told in most extensive reports in the local newspapers of each centre.

A. W. M.