

ment, to make as radical a proposition as to Land Value Taxation as may at any time or in any city be considered worth making; dependent, however, upon one thing which the cities have not yet got, but in favour of which public opinion is growing rapidly, namely, the granting to cities by the States of the right to control their own taxation.

What with the tariff question in its present shape in national politics, the conservation question also in national politics, and the Commission form of government and local option in taxation, it looks to me as if we are likely very soon to make progress, and not only progress, but substantial and irrevocable progress.

When you get the campaign book from Oregon prepared for the election to occur in November, be sure to read it very carefully and to grasp its significance, that within a very short time we shall have a battle royal for Land Value taxation, which is bound to send that issue far ahead in the State of Oregon and probably nation wide for the discussion it will get; and this regardless of victory or defeat; and it is by no means improbable that the battle will end in victory.

Enquiring friends will be glad to know that we are constantly in communication with Tom L. Johnson, and that he is improving in health. He has been at the sea-coast for quite a couple of months, where he is having a quiet time. He writes:—

"I like the way you are taking hold of things in Wales and generally. You seem to have the movement well in hand. The trip to Denmark seems to have been well worth while; judging from your news, when I come to see you again I should surely take in Denmark.

"The Address to the Lord Advocate was most appropriate. I shall never be satisfied until I go to Scotland again. I have been at the sea-shore four weeks, and expect to see another five. I have made steady progress; play golf in the forenoon in one way or another, and rest quietly in the evenings.

"Give my love to all your people.

"The report of your Committee is most important and encouraging document.—Yours devotedly, TOM L. JOHNSON."

DENMARK.

THE CONDITION OF LABOUR THROUGH A PROFESSOR'S GLASSES.

By KARL MORTENSEN, HUSMAND, in RET.

Prof. Cl. Wilkens, of Copenhagen, last winter delivered a series of University Extension lectures on "Productive Labour and Its Conditions." The promising title of the lectures and the opportunity to listen to the views of a representative of the University about the condition of labour attracted interested audiences.

In the first lecture the Professor treated the three factors, Labour, Land and Capital. Speaking on population and land the Professor showed himself as a rather strong supporter of the Malthusian theory of population, "that population had a tendency to increase beyond the means of subsistence." He also supported the present capitalistic and monopolistic system. In reply to a question put to him: "Are the conditions of productive labour equally good if ground rent goes to private people, as if it is taken and used for public purposes?" the Professor, after some quibbling, said:—"I think that the conditions of productive labour no doubt would be better if ground rent was taken for public purposes, as the labour in that case would be free from taxes. There can be no question about that." In reply to a second question—as to whether this view could be regarded as representing the standpoint of economic science, the Professor said that his opinion was his own, and that perhaps it would not be true if the land was parcelled so much, that for instance every third inhabitant was a landowner, and further the Professor said: "The question is of little interest, as ground rent is now private property, bought and paid for according to existing rights (existing laws?). *Economic science can never advocate a change of these rights.*"

We may compare with this what the Professor said in his first lecture:—"A landowner has no shadow of right to demand the increase of rent for himself; this increment exists irrespective of his doings and the only way the owner is connected with ground rent is that it is flowing as a perpetual stream of gold into his pockets. If society can find a method by which it can take from landowners this increment, he has no justification for grumbling." Later the Professor remarked that when

he said this, he was speaking about future ground rent; as if there was any difference! The audience following the series of lectures from first to last to get the important question cleared up, had doubtless only their wishes half satisfied in this respect by the Professor. Six lively and entertaining lectures were given in which they learned something of productive labour under the present system of society, but the natural conditions of productive labour were not made clear; on the contrary the audiences got the opinion that labour conditions in modern society were so complicated that even a man of science, not to speak of a layman, was unable to understand them.

It was clear that the Professor was afraid to oppose the present system. The work of the men of science was limited beforehand because of this, and every attempt made outside these boundaries had to be given up. But as long as scientific economists are building further on present ground without investigating if this ground can be used, as long as they are afraid to hurt private interests, as long as they do not dare to advise any changes in our present conditions if they are wrong, so long is science useless. The "education" of these scientists and their "conclusions" are misleading instead of instructive.

Is it not time for the people to ask that scientific investigation in this sphere shall make clear what is correct, irrespective of private interests or prejudices connected with the present system of society? It will rest with the people to determine whether they will realise the right order of things or not.

The annual meeting of the Henry George Society will be held on September 12th and 13th at Langeland.

Mr. S. Berthelsen, Mr. P. Larsen and Mr. Johan Hansson (Sweden) after attending the Free Trade Congress at Antwerp came to London for a few days. They made full use of their time, discussing the progress of the movement in Great Britain and in their own countries.

SWEDEN.

The Economic Freedom League in Sweden, which was started a little more than a year ago, is going to have a three days' conference in Stockholm, on the 16th, 17th and 18th September. The programme will be as follows:—

"Economic Freedom League and its Purpose." Lecturer, J. Hansson.

"Justice and Charity." Lecturer, Dr. Knut Kjelberg.

"The Land Question in Sweden." Lecturer, Carl Lindhagen, M.P. (Mayor of Stockholm).

"Henry George and the Land Question in Denmark." Lecturer, Mr. S. Berthelsen.

"Experience with Land Value Taxation and Land Nationalisation in Foreign Countries." Lecturer, J. Hansson.

"The Tariff Question."

(1) Tariffs and justice;

(2) The demand for full free trade under present conditions. Lecturer —

"The Taxation of Unearned Increment (future values) and Land Value Taxation." Lecturer, Nils av Ekenstam, LL.B.

"Smallholders and Land Values Reform." Lecturers, Peter Ellekjær, Gustav Johansson (leader of small farmers in Sweden), and Anders Larsson-Kilian.

Other questions will be taken if time permits.

Attendance at the meeting is expected also from Norway, Finland and Denmark. It will be the first large conference of the Association and much good is expected from it. Resolutions on several questions concerning our case will be put, and they are expected to be carried. People who are connected with social work as writers or speakers are specially invited to take part in the meeting.

GERMANY.

The Annual Conference of the German League of Land Reformers is to be held at Gotha on October 2nd—4th. During the three days of the meetings various aspects of the social problem and land reform will be discussed. British and American friends who can find time to attend will be welcomed.