

his village what the guest of that evening had done, there would be no need to talk so much about policies for taking the people back to the land." The misconception here is serious. We have all kinds of philanthropy at work in this country, but, although it may seem strange to benevolent people, men are going out from the midst of these attractions to outlandish backwoods, two or three days' journey from any institute or library. They have gone from this country to the number of three hundred thousand in the first six months of this year. Thousands of them have gone knowing that they will have to face hardship, to spend lonely days and more lonely nights, separate from friends whom they love passionately. They are going for land, for the freedom which land alone gives. This fundamental and essential form of freedom is becoming more and more rare in Britain.

Give us this indispensable freedom. We shall win every thing else that is necessary. We shall defend our Empire by making ourselves the indispensable friends of our neighbours; we shall educate ourselves in far better ways than we dream of at present, co-operating not only with our Colonies but with more varied nationalities; we shall build ourselves institutes and take pleasure in them. Our politicians are too apt to set about building from the roof downwards. It cannot be done. It is a ludicrous and foolish business. About the manner of building up a sound and enduring state there was never more absurd or superficial proposals made than these we have discussed. The valuation of land is the first step towards raising a new social and national structure. Let our statesmen attend to this policy, let them consider what it means with reference to trade and production, with reference to the lives of the people, for whom once more it will open the way to the use of land. For those who are not statesmen or politicians, it is possible to assist in discouraging such misleading talk. No work is more called for by considerations of business, of national prosperity, or of compassion for human suffering. While our valuation is proceeding, while our Ministers are making loose speeches, business is being disorganised, human hearts are being torn by the cruel and inexorable operation of landlordism. Every conceivable motive urges us to press immediately towards this one object of breaking the power of land monopoly utterly. To raise as prominently as possible the subject of valuation, to press insistently for its accomplishment, for the early rating and taxation of land values, to possess once again the minds of the people with this great message of hope and salvation—this is work in which everyone can help.

J. O.

DENMARK.

THE PEOPLE AND THE MOVEMENT.

To approaching visitors a country begins to show itself on the roads that lead to it. Its inhabitants come and go on these roads, and from them strangers gain the first living impressions of the country itself. No improvement in the means of travel is likely to remove this pleasant feature. On the morning of June 10th, Joseph Fels, C. J. Cawood, and John Orr joined the train for Copenhagen at Hamburg. They found seats in a compartment the other occupants of which were a Finnish gentleman, a Danish gentleman, and two Danish ladies. They spoke about things in the belief that the other passengers did not understand English. They were soon undeceived. The ladies had spent many years in America, the gentlemen had often been in England. The Danes discussed politics freely—their own and those of the world; the Finn became silent as soon as the conversation touched the politics of Finland. There was the difference between the people who had gained freedom and the people who had lost freedom. The Danes had heard of Henry George, had read some of his works. Before the train had left German territory and boarded the ferry-boat which carries it across the sound or belt which separates Germany from Denmark, the visitors from England had learned much about the modern history and character of the Danish people.

The sea journey from Warnemünde to Gjedser takes two hours. Denmark is largely a land of low-lying islands. Outside of Jutland its beauties are the beauties of woods and gently rolling country frequently broken up by water. At Copenhagen there were five members of the Henry George League to meet their guests—Miss Wennerberg, Mr. Jakob Lange, Mr. S. Berthelsen, Dr. Villads Christensen and Mr. Folke-Rasmussen. The first three had come long distances. The welcome was cordial, and from the first there was not a moment's stiffness. Both parties had too much to say and hear to allow any frigidity to interrupt the exchange of views and feelings. All fell at once to a discussion of the programme for the visit, and of the position of the Single Tax movement in Denmark. Those of the Danish friends who could wait stayed at the hotel to a late hour.

Before describing the general conditions in Denmark or the incidents of the visit, some account may be given of the origin and progress of the movement for the Taxation of Land Values in Denmark. For both tasks our knowledge is inadequate, and if we err on any point we shall ask our friends to pardon us, and those of them who are better informed to correct us.

Jakob E. Lange, now lecturer on Botany at the Agricultural School, Dalum, was studying botany and gardening at Kew, England, in 1884. He read a newspaper report of Henry George's speech in St. James' Hall, on January 9th of that year. He was so much interested in the speech that he followed George to Scotland, where the latter had gone in the course of his campaign, and overtook him in Galashiels. He heard George speak there and at Newcastle, and had some conversation with him. Returning to Denmark shortly after this, he translated "Progress and Poverty" into Danish, and had it published. The circulation of the book has been wide. "The Condition of Labour" has also been translated. With all the enthusiasm which is so common a mark of Single Taxers in different countries, Mr. Lange lectured and wrote on the subject. Dalum is a few miles from Odense, Hans Andersen's native town, near the centre of Denmark, and in the midst of an almost purely agricultural district. Mr. Lange's work, therefore, was very largely carried on among the students of the high schools and the rural population in general. Fighting single-handed for a long time, the results of the work were often discouraging, but the progress now achieved is a reward for those early struggles.

Among those who accepted the views thus taught was Mr. S. Berthelsen, solicitor, Høng, a little place on the west side of Zealand, the large island on which Copenhagen is situated. This again is the centre of a farming district. Mr. Berthelsen entered into the campaign with the remarkable energy which he still displays. In connection with the movement, he started the magazine *RET (JUSTICE)*, of which there are 4,000 copies published each month. The magazine circulates chiefly among the Husmaend, or small farmers. Indeed, the movement in Denmark has taken a direction opposite to that which it has followed in Britain, where the towns have been most favourable. The Taxation of Land Values is advocated very widely among the small farmers as a substitute for their present systems of ownership and taxation. It is received with extraordinary intelligence and favour. This work is very largely due to Mr. Berthelsen.

On Sunday, June 12th, there was a meeting of Husmaend at Odense. The meeting was held at one of the numerous agricultural schools, about two miles from the town. Diagrams published by the Henry George League were hung up in the school. The meeting-place was a little wood adjoining the buildings, in which an open circular space is left. There was a platform for the speakers at one side, and a few chairs or rude forms among the trees. The main part of the audience, between 400 and 500, stood in the open space. The principal of the school presided, and speeches were delivered by Mr. Berthelsen, Mr. Fels, and a large number of leading speakers among the small farmers. The meeting lasted for three and a half hours. The speeches were followed with interest and frequently applauded. Towards the close, a young Social-Democrat mounted the platform, and in a short speech protested against criticism of his doctrines by some of the speakers. He was heard with courtesy, although the audience was plainly out of sympathy with his views.

The movement in the towns showed itself at a meeting in Copenhagen on June 14th. This meeting was hastily convened. It reminded one of the English League meeting in Essex Hall, or of a Scottish League meeting in Glasgow. Mr. Folke-Rasmussen, president of the Henry George League, was in the chair. The three visitors from England gave an account of the work in America and Britain, their speeches being interpreted by Mr. Anders Vedel, of Roskilde High School, although a large number of the audience followed the speeches in English. At a dinner on the following evening there were interesting speeches from Dr. Munck, Minister of the Interior in the Radical Government which has since resigned, from Mrs. Björner, and Miss Regine Petersen, a lady doctor.

On the personal side the Danish Single Tax movement is peculiarly strong and attractive. In Copenhagen there is a band of leaders who devote themselves enthusiastically to the work. Among these are Mr. and Mrs. Folke-Rasmussen, Dr. Villads Christensen, Chief of the Record Office, Mr. and Mrs. Björner, Mr. T. Larsen, Dr. Severin Christensen, Dr. C. N. Starcke, Mr. and Mrs. Elback, Miss Pedersen, Mrs. and Miss Haar, Miss Regine Petersen. Others are found in different parts of the country, Mr. Berthelsen and Mr. H. P. P. Hansen in the Slagelse district, Mr. Lange and Miss Lohse at Odense, Mr. Vedel at Roskilde, while among the Husmaend there are numerous speakers, such as Mr. P. Larsen and Mr. Ellekaer, who addressed several hundred meetings during the past year.

Although unable, through permanent illness, to take an active personal part in the movement, one of its strongest supporters is Miss Brun. Besides contributing periodically to the work, Miss Brun last year endowed the movement by a gift of 15,000 kroner (or £840), the interest on which is to be used for its extension. In the letter accompanying this donation, she revealed her views and spirit. "Since," she said, "the larger part of my fortune is derived from 'unearned increment,' the increased land value due to the opening of a railway station which the State has placed on the land which I inherited, and since the State seems unable to take care of itself, to keep or take what is its own, it seems just that I should place in charge of those who would help along better conditions the money which I hold in trust, and which I cannot rightly consider mine, although no one can claim a right to it when the State will not." Living simply and quietly on the island of Fuen, near the shores of one of the belts which so often cut up the land of Denmark, Miss Brun, with her friend Miss Ida Wennerberg, follows with keen interest the progress of the movement in Denmark and other parts of the world.

In the hands of people inspired by such ideas and principles, the future of the Danish movement is very promising. Hitherto progress has been made in the country rather than in the towns. The town problems have been largely left to the Socialists. That will shortly be changed. In addition to his subscription of £220, which is doubled in Denmark, Mr. Fels has offered £500 annually to develop a new campaign in the towns, and to circulate literature more widely throughout the country. Mr. and Mrs. Björner have been appointed joint secretaries of the organisation to carry out this work, and before many months pass we shall hear of substantial progress. The Henry George League has published a large number of books and pamphlets. In Parliament not much has been done. The late Radical Government provided for an experimental valuation of land to be made in a few districts of the country. The Danish Single Taxers have not yet acquired the confident facility of the British in drafting bills and resolutions for the benefit of the Government, and in telling them what their business and duties are. We regard this as one of the supreme

virtues of the British agitator. When he has a good cause, he frankly yet courteously treats even the highest Ministers in accordance with the literal meaning of their title, as servants of this cause. The Danes have all the moral enthusiasm and courage from which this virtue springs.

THE STATE OF DENMARK.

The population of Denmark is about 2,500,000. The area of the country is 9,393,945 acres, or a little less than one-half of Scotland. Copenhagen is the only large town, having a population of 500,000. The country is flat except in the north corner of Jutland. Horatio was looking towards Sweden, and even then he had just seen the ghost of Hamlet's father, when he exclaimed:

But look! the morn, in russet mantle clad,
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill.

Much of the land has been reclaimed from the water. Most of the soil is light and requires constant feeding for the production of good crops. The Danes use more labour on their land than the British, but the proportion of capital to their labour is not as great as ours. A large part of the land is farmed by small peasant proprietors. The Husmand is a man who holds land up to six acres, the Gaardmand or farmer up to a hundred acres, and the Proprietor six hundred acres. The land of the Husmaend is worked well, but in a great many cases, just as with small farmers in Britain, it is not in sufficiently rich condition to bear crops of the average weight. Their capital is insufficient, the interest on their mortgages being a heavy drain. They are extremely frugal and painstaking. Their custom of tethering their horses, cattle and even sheep in the fields seems laborious to a Briton. But thrift is a prominent mark of the people. In Copenhagen they are only rebuilding to-day the spire of a church which was shot away by Nelson more than a hundred years ago, and they have hardly commenced to rebuild a royal palace burned down over twenty years ago.

Here is a race of people who have made themselves efficient. Strong, hardy, and endowed with a spirit of enterprise, they have won political freedom, they have educated themselves to a high degree in practical matters and in the more generous and idealistic branches. They have high schools for young men, and for young women, in which a general education of a high standard is given. The students, from 18 to 35 years of age, stay in these schools for three months, attend lectures, take part in games and gymnastics, and then return to their work at home. The High School at Roskilde, under the control of Mr. Thos. Bredsdorff, seemed an ideal institution for this purpose. The agricultural schools give technical instruction to the young farmers. There are agricultural museums and experimental farms. There is the most perfect co-operative system for the purchase of things necessary to work the land and for the marketing of produce. Taken as a whole the Danes have probably made themselves the most capable agricultural producers in the world.

In spite of these advantages, the Husmaend feel themselves fettered and handicapped by the land system which has been so much praised. They are striving hard to abolish it, a large number of them demanding the taxation of land values. Mrs. Björner has sent us a good explanation of this. "You ask," she says, "why the Husmaend favour the Single Tax. The reason is this. We have now a property tax by which the land is valued and taxed at the amount it yields. That means that the Husmaend's land is worth nine times as much as large estates and five times as much as farmers' land of the same quality. It is very plain to the Husmand that in taxing his land at this rate his work, the intense labour which makes every inch of his land yield its utmost, is being taxed. That is reason enough for seeing that the present state of things is very unjust, and as his work and whole manner of living makes him rather individualistic, the Socialist idea of improving conditions does not appeal to him, while he quite naturally likes the idea of paying revenue to the State according to the benefit he receives from it, and of keeping the fruits of his own labour. He is prepared to understand the profit to him of exempting labour and improvements from taxes, besides freeing him from all indirect taxation by putting a Single Tax on all land according to its unimproved value, making the land of large estates, of farmers and Husmaend worth the same.

"The State loans to Husmaend have proved to them that any measure of this kind only tends to make land dearer. The over-price they have to pay for obtaining land exactly covers the amount expended by the State to help them, and this they fully

realise, as none of the State-Husmaend have been able to pay off their homes. They have nearly all failed—lost their own savings."

The Danish land and banking systems have induced in the people a sort of fatal proneness towards mortgaging themselves. About the year 1900 the mortgages held by the banks amounted to £46,121,780. The banks are very largely in the hands of the Germans. This means a heavy charge on the small farmers and other industrious classes. The pressure or squeeze is very severe. The people emigrate readily in search of more freedom and scope. Conditions are producing abundant unrest and discontent, and it is with this material that the Single Taxers are working. Speaking of their work, Mrs. Björner says: "Natural causes made the iron hot and human effort has been pounding it into shape." The natural causes are the vicious systems of taxation and land tenure, and the human effort is the activity of the Henry George League.

J. O.

THE DANISH LAND SONG.

Fatherland, the people's own,
Hills and dales, by fjord and brooklet,
Nest of swans and isles of woodland,
Meadows green with flowers strewn,
With the history of ages in thy lovely name unfurled
Home—to us the dearest place in all the world.

People's land! the times unjust
Closed thy fields to those who own them,
Those who work, who till and love them,
Those who serve their country best,
All in bondage to the mighty, threatened poor, in dreary dread,
Are thy children, slaving for their daily bread.

People's land! 'tis thine and mine;
Let us wield our rightful power;
Give the labour back its dower;
Give the land thy work and mine;
Put a tax on those who hold it, so the riches of the earth,
Shall be given to those who'll work and draw them forth.

People's land! the land of homes,
Let their rights be given duly,
So thy youths and maids may truly
Build on thee their hearths and homes,
There to breed new generations in the spirit of the free,
Listen to the noble thoughts invading thee.

People's land! the home of right,
May each reap as he hath sown,
Each be paid as he deserveth,
Ended each oppressor's might,
Those who suffer undeserved and are helpless on the land,
In the people's name and thine, they shall not want.

People's land! our freedom's own,
Thousands of the homes thou fostered
Will send forth, when they are mustered,
Men and women straightly grown,
Song on lips and happy hearted, given their birthright by the past,
They will meet and rule the future for the best.

People's land! our people's home,
On the rock of right, and freedom,
We will build thee 'mongst the nations,
In the time that is to come,
Peace and happiness secure thee, so thy flag may be unfurled,
Honoured, o'er thy homes and ships in all the world.

(From the Danish).

On the Continent the fabric of rural society is undergoing the same process of disintegration which England first underwent at the close of the 15th century, and our agricultural problem is beginning to arise there.—Arthur H. Johnson in THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SMALL LANDOWNER.

HERE AND THERE.

The Budget for the current year has been introduced. It continues unchanged the taxes under last year's Budget.

The STANDARD of July 25th says Mr. W. H. Long has bought the Innsworth House Estate, Gloucestershire. Can this be our Mr. Walter H. Long of the Budget Protest League?

The headmaster of Eton, chairman of the Committee of the Public Schools Emigration League, acknowledges receipt of £150 from Lord Strathcona and £26 5s. from the Fishmongers' Company towards the funds of the League.

In the Campine region of Lower Belgium there is a coalfield which, according to experts, contains eight thousand million tons of coal. The whole district suffered from want of drinking water. An immense underground reservoir has now been discovered which will provide water for a large mining population.

Nearly one voter in every twelve is in favour of confiscation of property. Are you doing anything to check this growth of Socialism? The Anti-Socialist Union is in need of funds and your assistance is earnestly invited.—All subscriptions. . . . STANDARD, July 8th, 1910.

If every Britisher knew more of the Empire of which he forms a part it would be better for the Britisher and for the Empire. A journal published entirely in the interests of those who claim their share in the British Empire, THE STANDARD OF EMPIRE is as interesting and instructive as it is unique.—THE STANDARD.

In the month of June, 51,367 passengers left the United Kingdom for places outside of Europe as against 37,001 for the same month for last year. For the six months ending 30th June 301,057 left the United Kingdom as against 215,366 for the same period of last year.

A correspondent, Mr. A. C. Nichols, Euroa, Victoria, Australia, writes:—"I have just finished reading 'A Further Plea of Urgency' addressed to the Government, a copy of which has been kindly sent to me. It is another admirable item in the splendid work being done for the relief of industry by the United Committee."

Those who witnessed the spirit in which the Budget was welcomed in the North—the readiness to tax the classes who were fortunate, the earnestness with which the cry was put out "Give us the land"—would realise what was the spirit to which Mr. Lloyd George was appealing.—H. J. MACKINDER, M.P., at a meeting of Liberal Union Club.

The correspondence of the Land Union shows conclusively that the business side of the land industry will receive a blow from which it will never recover unless it rouses itself to resist the taxes as they at present exist. The industry has been dislocated by the Budget. Sales are being delayed everywhere.—STANDARD, p. 4, July 23rd.

From the activity displayed in the estate market just now, it would appear as if parties are hurrying matters in order to derive the benefit of the improvement now apparent. This activity is not only noticeable in the increase of investments listed for sale, but in the many private treaty sales effected in the offices.—STANDARD, p. 5, July 23rd.

The Duke of Bedford says that he has decided to sell his Tavistock estate "in deference to the social and legislative tendencies of the day." We cannot doubt that as time goes on the same sentiment will weigh with other great landowners, and the ultimate consequence can only be that we shall find ourselves with a comparatively landless aristocracy. That is always a social and economic disaster.—ESTATES GAZETTE.

Socialists must be puzzled by the actions of their leaders. Mr. Hyndman, in a long letter to the MORNING POST, declares that conscription and preparation for war are the most pressing questions for Britain. Mr. Blatchford and the CLARION writers have all gone the same way. Their motto now is "Conscription, and down with Free Trade!" Mr. R. B. Suthers says that Free Trade is anti-national, anti-patriotic and anti-socialist.