

a book upon the fundamental principles of national economy in which he proves the correctness of Single Tax views by arguments hitherto not commonly used.

Carl Marfels, born 1854, is vice chairman of the League, editor of the *Watchmaker's Journal*, and chairman of the League of German Watchmakers.

Max Romer, another of the vice presidents, is one of the leading land reformers in Rhenish Prussia, and is a most enthusiastic friend of the movement in Germany and its most liberal promoter.

Heinrich Erman, born in Berlin 1857, is chairman of the Land Reform League's branch in Westphalia. From 1883 to 1902 he was Professor of Laws at Lausanne and Geneva, and since 1906 Professor of Laws at Munster.

Prof. Dr. W. Rein, another active land reformer, was born 1847, and since 1886 has been Professor of Pedagogy at Jena.

Karl Frederick William von de Leeden, whose picture appears among the others in this issue, died in 1909. He was born in 1828, and was a member of the Prussian Diet in 1861. From 1880 he took a most active interest in the movement for land reform in Germany, and gave it his untiring support.

Among others whose portraits appear in this number are A. Karl Polenske, vice president at Halle, whose pen is active in land reform work, and Rudolph Sohm, born 1841, who was Professor of Laws at Freiburg in 1870, at Strassburg in 1872, and at Leipzig in 1887.

Last but by no means least is Dr. W. Schrameier, born 1859 and living 25 years of his life in China. First he was in the Consular service from 1885 to 1897, living in Peking, Shanghai, Canton, Tientsin, Hongkong, Chefoo; after the taking of Kiaochow he was transferred to that place as Imperial Commissioner in order to organize the Civil Administration. It was on his suggestion that taxation was based there on strict Single Tax lines. In 1910 he left the service on account of failing health.

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## THE DRESDEN CONFERENCE OF GERMAN LAND REFORMERS.

(See frontispiece.)

The annual conference of the League of German Bodenreformers took place last June, from the 4th to the 7th. A few days prior to that there had been a dinner of eighty persons, which had been arranged for by Mr. von Schwerin, one of the most active members of the League. At this dinner were the mayor of Dresden and an admiral of the fleet.

Mr. Adolph Damaschke delivered an address, on "What are the social duties of our upper class?" We quote from a report of this speech as sent to the *Public* of Chicago, July 28, 1911, by Dr. W. Schrameier:

"He recalled the times when the courtiers around Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette felt bored by the demands of the Physiocrats, Turgot's 'impot unique,' and ridiculed their warnings. The evil sores on the public body that originated from misusing land, 'the original inheritance of the whole species,' they thought to cure by laying on the perfumed rouge of charity. Mr. Damaschke then dealt with the social abuses in this country in connection with the unjust distribution of wealth. He gave statistics as to the number of married women working in mills and factories, statistics as to human dwellings where one room has to suffice for five—men, women and children,—statistics as to criminal offenses and corporeal diseases. Could these evils be removed by charity? Was there no other way that led out of this misery? Lassalle had not detected it. Quite unjustly he arraigned the employer, and expected everything from advanced wages and pecuniary assistance; he did not recognize the fact that advanced wages will be absorbed by an increase of rent. We had still to learn the truth as proclaimed by Henry George, that Bodenreform is at the bottom of every other reform. Ground rent belongs to the community and should return to it, not to a few speculators nor to those who regard land as something created by men.

After Mr. Damaschke had finished, Mr.

von Schwerin while thanking the speaker, added a few instructive remarks on the Physiocrats, Henry George and the Single Tax."

Later Mr. Damaschke furnished a gratifying report of the progress of the League. Receipts and expenditures had risen to 54,000 marks, and the treasury showed a balance of 4,000 marks. Public bodies and professional associations to the number of 583 had joined the League, and these represented a membership of 800,000 persons.

Mr. Damaschke spoke of the future policy of the League. The first step was the valuation of land. The League would endeavor to secure the taxation of the site values of the colonies. It would urge the same policy for the whole empire. He pointed out the anomaly of a poll tax in Germany which countries like China and Turkey had discarded.

Mr. Joseph Fels spoke of the activities being urged in other countries and praised the city of Vancouver as being the first large community on the American continent to adopt the Single Tax. He told the story of his own conversion as are formed monopolist, and aroused much enthusiasm.

Among those present at this conference, whose faces are shown in the frontispiece, were A. Damaschke, Berlin; A. Pohlman, Detmold; W. Topp, Erfurt; Jos. Hirsch, Melbourne; Dr. von Schwerin, Berlin; Dr. Kühner, Eisenach; Dr. Schrameier, Berlin; Dr. Kuhn, Leipzig; Max Romer, Opladen; A. Diener, Gotha; Joseph Fels, London and Philadelphia; R. Berg, Berlin; Dr. Liebetrau, Gotha; Max Knorr, and many others.

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In the *Kansas City Times*, of March 14, W. E. White answers the Single Tax queries of R. P. Lukens.

## THE LAND REFORM MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

AT THE PRESENT DAY.

(For the REVIEW)

By GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

About five and twenty years it is now, since the first timid beginnings of the Land Reform movement in Germany, since a few ardent souls began preaching the doctrines of Henry George, the economic creed that values created by the community belong to the community. The quarter century of earnest labor for the cause has, in some ways, been astonishingly successful. The last twelve-month has crowned it with the official acknowledgment of an Imperial Government Act making it a universal law for the German communities to take their share of the unearned increment.

The test of a great Truth lies therein that it may be taught and practiced in many different ways without sacrificing its fundamental qualities. The surface unessentials may be adapted to suit differing conditions, but the basic principle remains the same always. The Land Reformers, as the German Single Taxers style themselves, have had to make their fight along different lines from the methods used by the followers of Henry George in his own country. They have advocated some measures which to us here seem unnecessary and cumbersome, but the preaching of their acknowledged leaders, as can be seen in some of the articles published in this number, has held fast always to the great basic principle of restoring to the community, for the good of all its members, that part of the wealth which is produced by the community as a whole, and not by the exertions of any one individual.

The fight has been made in Germany largely through organization,—and through an organization, at that, which has kept itself rigorously aloof from all affiliation with party politics. In this country such a policy would mean nothing but a barren campaign of education, valuable enough as part of the work but insufficient to