

dents of the tariff question in its larger relation if we have not discovered that.

We are poor students of Henry George, too, if we are oblivious to this seldom regarded aspect of the question, and we invite our readers to the consideration of the following weighty words from the master:

"Instead of looking to importation for the supply of food stuffs and raw materials, which our agriculture can easily and cheaply supply from our own soil, we shall draw them from their source * * * Production at home will expand in all its branches, *and will therefore repel foreign competition.*"

And again:

"Every observer who will study attentively the course of foreign trade will be struck by the extraordinary and ever growing importation of heavy merchandise and bulky goods. Every year, the imports and exports of the great nations amount to millions of tons. *Yet all this displacement of matter is in no way necessary for the well-being of a civilization that is set on a right foundation.*"

There are many more neglected passages of Henry George that might be cited, but these must suffice. The attention of our critics is invited to these and like teachings of Henry George, which we do but humbly reiterate.

Germany and the New International Free Trade League

FREE TRADE IS ONLY POSSIBLE BETWEEN FREE PEOPLES

UNDOUBTEDLY the removal of tariff barriers, the free commercial intercourse of nations, makes for peace. Yet the struggle for trade supremacy has been, and continues to be, an active factor in fomenting war. Much diplomatic intrigue of a very dangerous character has been undertaken for the promotion of commercial advantages.

Doubtless much of such intrigue is entered into with an entire misconception of the nature of foreign trade. It has been assumed that great volumes of exports somehow result in a flow of money into the country, and that excess of imports tends to impoverish. But not all of such diplomatic intrigue is based on misconception. Many great industrial monopolies are actually so closely linked with the government as to form part of it, and constitute an *imperium in imperio*. These seek concessions through diplomatic channels. Ambassadors are their commercial travellers, those nearest to the government being the specially favored objects of this international intrigue. Patent rights, tariff concessions, natural monopolies and other considerations, form factors in this intrigue. The effort is made to enlist prominent financiers and native capital to play off foreign as against domestic industry.

When, as in the case of Germany, the great industries are linked to the government, do in fact form a part of the government, this policy is identical with her war policy. She has commandeered all trade and commerce to speed her war policy. It has been the deliberate one of strength-

ening her war resources and weakening the defensive power of her rivals.* To favor free trade or reciprocal tariffs, and protection and export bounties where the former would not serve, has been her unflinching course.

It is idle to preach the beauties of free trade in this connection. German industries have never been free to form their most favored connections. And international trade relations have with Germany been the most subtle form of securing that war supremacy to which her every activity has been directed with a thoroughness and completeness of which the world is only just now gaining a slight but shuddering knowledge.

In view of this knowledge, which has burst upon the world like an apparition, it would seem that it were very treason to humanity itself to start at this time a movement for world-wide free trade that should embrace an unrepentant Germany. Should this war leave a sullen, impenitent, plotting nation, such as she has been for years, it would seem that a closed door of commerce is the only deterrent to further wrong-doing on her part. Moral and ethical values, as we have contended (see editorial in March-April issue) must be considered in any proposition emanating from whatever source for the establishment of trade relations with her.

Perhaps the Coming Slavery

WHAT Herbert Spencer called "the coming slavery," was the reign of socialism. This foremost exponent of individualism as the true philosophy of society was not to be deluded by the humanitarian professions of the socialist; he discarded the perfectly well-meaning intentions of this class of "reformers" and preferred to look at men and things as they are.

Dove, in his "Theory of Human Progression," the work in which, long in advance of George, this remarkable Scot gave us the true social remedy of the Single Tax with a depth of reasoning equal to Henry George, but in a style much inferior to the great author of "Progress and Poverty," said that society would try socialism before it accepted the Single Tax.

Today there is every evidence that we are facing the menace of socialism in a form not hitherto looked for. It is idle to think that the socialism made necessary to government by the needs of war will be readily relinquished when the war is ended.

And this leads to certain reflections. The masterful intellects that have taken advantage of what socialists call the "capitalistic" state of society to build their institutions of privilege, will be able to use governmental socialism to secure for themselves the same economic advantages. And the masses of Americans, lulled into a false security, will be easy victims of the new slavery. As wages decline, a hopeless reaction will set in, and the slavery which Spencer predicted will be complete.

*Economic war is as important as military war, and therefore a war aim of the first importance.—Dr. Dernberg. In this spirit Germany has made business as she has made war.