

"Therefore, this Society which, for some time past, has been fighting in the name of Labor for the establishment of this rational and equitable tax in our State, feels rejoiced at this judicious decision of Your Excellency. We feel that, once converted into a reality, it will mark a new era in the history of the fiscal life of our country.

"In general, the creation of new taxes is not viewed with approval by the taxpayers. But in the present case an exception is made, since it is the conviction of all that it is the intention of the honorable administrator, who with clear vision is directing the destinies of our State, not to create a new super-tax upon the laboring classes, but to substitute the present objectionable method of taxation by a more just system, which the land tax (upon the value of the land) is; a tax in force for some time past in countries of advanced civilization.

A Protest From the "Diplomatic Mission of the Irish Republic In the Argentine

THE November issue of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico* the organ of the Argentine Single Tax League, contains the following interesting items of news—under the caption: "Ireland and the Land League—A Diplomatic Protest":—

"Following the publication, in our last number, of the notable article by Eca de Queiroz, entitled 'Ireland and the Land League,' we have received the following note from the 'Diplomatic Mission of the Irish Republic':—

"To the Director of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico*:

The attention of the Special Envoy of the Irish Republic has been called to an article published in your October number, entitled 'Ireland and the Land League,' written in the year 1886.

"I have been instructed to inform you that the statements and suppositions were incorrect at the time the article was written and that the agrarian situation in Ireland has been changed so much since that time that the article is no longer pertinent to the present situation and is therefore a misrepresentation. A proof of its deceptive power lies in your own note prefacing the article. The doctrines of Henry George were known and rejected in Ireland.

"Presuming that the object of your publication is the truth, I ask you to publish this rectification.

"Thanking you for your courtesy. Yours truly,
N. GONZALEZ REVILLA, Private Secretary.

Commenting on the above note, the *Revista del Impuesto Unico* adds:—

"We shall not trouble to defend the great Portuguese writer, who was so valiantly able to combat with inimitable irony the errors and iniquities of his epoque. The memory of Eca de Queiroz needs no defender. But we should like to

make it clear that the one who is not well informed as to the agrarian situation is Ireland (which, by the way, is not much different from that of other countries) is the 'Special Envoy of the Irish Republic' himself. This we do not consider at all extraordinary, since we are sure that in the same position as regards our own country are almost the whole phalanx of Ambassadors, Charges d' Affairs and Consuls representing us abroad.

"Accordingly, we do not interpret the above note as a rectification of the ideas and facts given in the article referred to, but as a very natural patriotic gesture of anyone believing the affairs of his country treated with irreverence. In the same way, if any European newspaper should expose the exploitation of which settlers in the Argentine are victims, our diplomats would certainly protest indignantly, saying that this is a beautiful land of liberty, etc. But the reality of the facts would not be changed thereby; just as the declaration of the Envoy of Ireland cannot modify the unfavorable conditions of life of the agriculturists of his nation and the iniquitous exploitation exercised there, as everywhere, by those who call themselves 'owners of the land.'"

The note in the October issue of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico* which provoked the protest of the "Diplomatic Mission of the Irish Republic," above quoted, ran as follows:

"We consider," it said, "of great actuality the reproduction of a little known article by Eca de Queiroz, upon the land question in Ireland, whose complicated situation it is usual to attribute solely to political or religious causes. Henry George already in his work, 'The Land Question,' had luminously handled this point of view; and it is interesting to find that a literary man of the prestige of the great Portuguese writer, on studying the same question, arrives at almost identical conclusions, affirming that exploitation by land owners is the fundamental cause of Irish unrest."

CORRESPONDENCE

REASONS FOR NOT TRADING

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Here in Canada we dare not have free trade with the United States because it is too rich, nor with Italy because it is too poor, nor with China because it has a famine, nor with Russia because they have Soviet government, nor with Great Britain because of its slums, though God knows, they are probably no worse than those in Montreal. So we have all come to the conclusion that the only chance to do business here is to find a neutral country—one that is neither hot nor cold, rich or poor, red, yellow or white—a sort of indefinite type of eunuch that will be absolutely harmless to this or any other country.
Calgary, Alta., Can. R. J. DEACHMANN

FROM CALIFORNIA'S SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I wish to thank you for a marked copy of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW for November and December, 1921. I note on page 163 thereof that you have written an article concerning a recent action of mine in reference to essay contests in the public schools dealing with the Single Tax.