

The Coming International Single Tax Conference

THERE will be held under the auspices of the United Committee of Great Britain an International Week's Conference of Single Taxers at Oxford, England, from the 13th to the 20th of August, 1923.

This will give an opportunity for friends of the movement all over the world to meet together, to discuss the present attitude of political parties, methods of work, ethics of property and cognate questions.

Land and Liberty, the organ of our comrades of the United Kingdom, will announce later the full programme and terms of board and lodging for the week at one of the colleges.

Here is an opportunity for our American Single Taxers to meet the representatives of the movement from many countries. We do not doubt that America will be well represented. The Single Tax Party here is certain to send a good delegation.

The event should arouse a world-wide interest, and in view of the unsettled condition of world-affairs should command the attention of statesmen and leaders throughout the world.

Fuller details will follow later.

The Fallacy in the Taxation of the Unearned Increment

A PROMINENT Single Taxer says truly: "The taxation of the unearned increment will be a part of the programme of one of the political parties in the very near future." This is also very likely, though unfortunate. "The taxation of the unearned increment" is a German perversion of the Single Tax, and was never taught by Henry George. To use one of Mr. Post's familiar similes, it is "a red herring drawn across the trail" to divert those who seek the Georgian taxation of land values, earned or unearned.

To tax unearned increment would raise a great revenue as it has in Germany; but it will never destroy speculation in land; on the contrary, it will make the State a partner in speculation and obstruct the Single Tax, because the State could not afford to destroy the advance in price from which it would derive a vast revenue under the "taxation of unearned increment."

There is a vital distinction between the right to the use of the earth and the right to the "unearned increment" of the earth. That this by-way is carelessly accepted by so many Single Taxers shows the pressing necessity among us now for accurate teaching and exact thought.

Therefore, it is the strongest argument for the necessity for a paper which stands uncompromisingly for the straight Single Tax, and against all such ruinous concessions in the interest of expediency or of political parties.—BOLTON HALL, in *New Zealand Liberator*.

Labor Taking Notice

AT the Massachusetts State Conference of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union last March, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS: The American Federation of Labor is on record in its Reconstruction Program as advocating a "tax upon land values of such a nature as to render it unprofitable to hold land without putting it to use; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts State Conference of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, Marble and Tile Setters endorse the above part of the Reconstruction Program, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the delegates be requested to urge their respective Unions that their delegates to the Springfield Convention of the International Union be instructed to work for the above part of the Reconstruction Program at the Convention.

At the meeting of Bricklayers Union No. 3, Mass., held September 21, 1922, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS: The burden of rent is pressing more and more heavily upon our members, now exacting in many cases more than half of their earnings; and

WHEREAS: The Reconstruction Program of the American Federation of Labor declares for "taxation upon land values of such a nature as to render it unprofitable to hold land without putting it to use"; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State Conference, in convention assembled at New Bedford, in March, 1922, endorsed the above part of the Reconstruction Program; and

WHEREAS: There is a bill now before Congress (H. R. 6773) introduced by Congressman Keller of Minnesota, which seems to be a step in this direction; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union go forward with that part of the Reconstruction Program of the American Federation of Labor which declares for taxation upon land values of such a nature as to render it unprofitable to hold land without putting it to use; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Congressman Keller be invited to appear before the Convention and explain the nature of his bill.

Finally at the National Convention of the Union at Springfield, Mass., October 12th, the last above resolution was passed with the exception of a change in the first portion of the resolution itself where the words "go forward with" were changed to "endorse."