

MIDLAND LEAGUE: Chapman Wright, Secretary, 20, Cannon Street, Birmingham.

The motion in reference to the Rating of Land Values which Councillor G. F. Sawyer placed on the agenda of the Birmingham Board of Guardians has been postponed to the October meeting in order that it may receive full consideration. In view of the large sum needed weekly for relief of unemployment in Birmingham, a new source of revenue is essential and land value rating offers the only just and practical solution. The Secretary has addressed a number of open-air meetings since last report but inclement weather is now interfering with this propaganda.

THE MANIFESTO TO RULERS IN ALL LANDS

The United Committee, as instructed by the International Conference, has translated the Manifesto to Rulers of all Lands into French, German, Spanish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Magyar, Italian, Portuguese, and Esperanto.

The document (in the English version and with the translation attached in certain cases) was posted to the Monarchs of thirteen countries and to the Presidents of twenty-six Republics and to the Vatican.

It was communicated to the League of Nations at Geneva and to the League of Nations Union in London. It was sent to all the Esperantist journals in the world.

Acknowledgments have been received from the King of Spain, the King of Belgium, the League of Nations and the League of Nations Union. The journal *ESPERANTO TRIUMFONTO* of Cologne has expressed thanks for the Manifesto and stated it will be published. The Esperantist society in Paris, "Internacia 'Esperanta' Komercio," has written to ask for copies of the document, from which it would appear that it has already circulated in Esperantist circles.

As stated last month the Manifesto was cabled through Reuters to the chief news agencies on the Continent. The German socialist paper *VORWAERTS* of 28th August published the cabled version, making a comment quite in line with the orthodox Marxist attitude, and adding that the resolution "in spite of its Utopian setting," is a valuable contribution to the question of Land Value Taxation. The Belgian papers *LE NEPTUNE* and *LE PEUPLE* of 20th August also give the matter publicity.

The Press in Denmark, Norway and Sweden has given much notice to the transactions of the Oxford Conference, and many have published the Manifesto. Mrs. Bjørner writes enclosing a poster (size 20 in. by 14 in.) setting forth the Manifesto in Danish. It has been put up on all the bill-stands in Copenhagen and in a good many other towns.

Letters were sent to the Embassies and Legations in London of all the chief countries, and to the High Commissioners of Agents-General of British Dominions. Acknowledgments have been received from the representatives of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, the United States of America, Japan, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, and Mexico. The representatives of four of the British Dominions and of six foreign countries stated that the Manifesto had been sent as requested to their Governments.

Members of the Conference from countries overseas have undertaken on their return home to circulate the Manifesto as widely as possible in the Press and in special reprints; this in addition to the published information they will broadcast regarding all the transactions of the Conference.

Any of our readers who wish to have translations of the Manifesto should apply to our office for copies. As they will

need to be specially typewritten in each case, a small sum to cover the cost will not be out of place. It may be possible in a later issue of *LAND & LIBERTY* to publish some of the translations.

ARGENTINA

Land Value Taxation adopted in Buenos Aires

The *REVISTA DEL IMPUESTO UNICO* (SINGLE TAX REVIEW), of Buenos Aires, brings news of "A Great Triumph of Georgeism" in the Federal capital of the Republic. On 24th July the Municipal Council of Buenos Aires adopted, by 20 votes against 8, a proposal for a general tax, or as we should say, rate, for lighting, sweeping and cleaning, to be levied on the selling value of land, apart from improvements, at the rate of 10 per mil (=1 per cent), estimated to produce about 30 million pesos (Argentine dollars) or 43 per cent of the whole income of the city. The tax is to be paid half-yearly in advance, and comes into force during the present year. It replaces the old general tax, levied on the rent of houses and on trade. The assessments will be made on the basis of a provisional valuation made in 1919. The city is divided into 67 "zones," and a sort of standard value is attributed to the land in each zone, varying from 1,200 pesos per square metre in the business centre to 1 peso in the least favoured blocks. A valuation by separate plots will be immediately undertaken within each zone. The fixed zonal value will apply to all plots within the zone having a depth of 30 metres. "For each metre of greater or less depth, the (zonal) rate of valuation will be diminished or increased by 1 per cent." (Art. 2), but the diminution can in no case exceed 35 per cent. (Art. 3). The whole city is divided into blocks, and corner plots are considered to belong to the street upon which their longer side abuts (Art. 3).

Our contemporary points out that the provisional valuation fixes values which are "notably inferior to the true values, as can be easily proved by recent sales in the capital. Even so, this valuation gives us 3,426 million pesos (equivalent, at the normal value of the peso, to about £300,000,000—the population of the city is 1,721,000). There is no doubt that the real value of the land, apart from improvements, in our city, exceeds 5,000 million pesos, which fact will be verified when the detailed valuation is complete."

"The step which the Council has taken," adds the *REVISTA*, "means the initiation in our capital of a new rating policy of far-reaching importance. It is the result of nine years of propaganda, maintained with enthusiasm and tenacity by the Argentine Single Tax League, in the midst of general ignorance and indifference—ignorance of the doctrine and indifference to the problems presented—which were being overcome, little by little, by propagating, firmly and unweariedly, through the Press, by leaflets and popular lectures, the principles of the Georgeist creed, in the full conviction of the final triumph of the truth which, as the Master said, 'will not be easily accepted, will be often obscured, but will prevail at last.' This first step towards the Single Tax is no more than a small advance on our road, but it is the *initial* advance which cannot now be stopped. The social value of the land is only taxed a little, but withal we have managed to introduce 'the thin end of the wedge' into the old trunk of the privilege of private property in land, and the wedge will go on penetrating until it destroys it completely."

Our hearty congratulations to our Argentine comrades.

F. V.

The postage on this issue of the paper is One Penny.