International Aspects of the Land-taxes.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, junior, son of the single-tax apostle, has been interviewed by the "Daily Chronicle" whilst passing through London, and has communicated some interesting dicta regarding the Budget. Naturally he is most attracted by the land-taxes, and he warmly praises "the magnificent courage" of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in bringing this principle into English politics and so giving a lead to the rest of the civilised world. Mr. George is newly come from Japan—a country whose renaissance has been accompanied by enormous land increments and speculation—and he found the Japanese statesmen and publicists eagerly discussing this new departure of their ally. In America also Mr. George thinks the proposals will have a great effect in moulding public opinion, and he points out that the tax on ungotten minerals applied to such a country as Pennsylvania would "force into use vast areas of iron, coal, natural gas, and petroleum" which are being held up for speculative reasons. There, as here, the task of freeing the land is the condition of defeating Protection, but Mr. George considers that battle will be fought from masked positions in the United States—as the means of breaking the tyranny of the Trusts rather than for the establishment of Free-trade as a principle. Perhaps the most interesting part of the interview for English readers is that in which Mr. George deals with the valuation bogey. As already explained in a Parliamentary White-paper, this has proved a rapid and easy matter in the United States. New York is perhaps as difficult a city to deal with for this purpose as London, yet New York is valued annually with very little challenge by the owners. Mr. George lays stress on the benefits which the American land reformers achieved when they secured, five years ago, the publication of the assessors' valuations in separate columns of site values and buildings, and the "equalisation" system whereby the big properties were mulcted at their correct proportional rate. If the outcry about valuation is raised in the supposed interest of agricultural holders the critics may be referred to the case of New Zealand. There it was found possible to bring the Act into force three weeks after it passed. In an old and settled country like England the process will no doubt be more complicated, but not so much more as the alarmists make out. The fact is, as the Prime Minister shrewdly observed

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