

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Press Service of the International Union for Land Taxation and Free Trade

DENMARK

Mr Bue Björner writes thanking for the marked copy of *Progress and Poverty* which he states will be a great help for checking up the translations of the Henry George School "Teacher's Manual" and Lesson Assignments. "The first class started on 20th October with 18 students enrolled and is being held in the Sailors' Home where a room has been placed at our disposal. This will be more or less a teachers' training class, a different student acting as tutor at each lesson. This will give the chance to test the translations and any necessary changes in practice. We should then be in the position to start a couple more classes in and around Copenhagen shortly after the New Year."

The marked copy of *Progress and Poverty* sent (from the Henry George Foundation in London) was an American edition showing, by reference to Mr Jacob E. Lange's abridged translation, the actual paragraphs and passages that had been left out in making the abridgement.

We have received with glad recognition a number of copies of the latest Danish publication in handy pamphlet form: *Free Trade and Laissez-Faire* by W. R. Lester, being a translation by Caroline Björner of the paper of same title presented at the International Conference. Another compliment in the same sense is the translation being made by Mr Henry Sandau of Mr Frank McEachran's Conference paper on *Henry George and Karl Marx*.

A new Danish pamphlet is also *Opportunities for Employment and Land Policy* for which Pastor Chr. Norlev, one of the Danish members of the London Conference, is to be congratulated. It is a reprint of a special article that appeared in *Social Demokraten*, Copenhagen, of 19th June.

It was with deep regret we noticed the death of Frederik Nielsen and we join our Danish friends in the tribute paid to his memory. Mr Nielsen had lived enthusiastically for the movement and gave support most generously from his small earnings. He will be remembered by those from other countries who attended the Copenhagen Conference, and *Land & Liberty* loses a faithful subscriber of many years standing. He was a gardener by occupation. His story was of much interest. When he lived in Brooklyn he noticed great public interest in a certain funeral and inquiring was told that Henry George had died; but not politically-minded then, the further information that this was the author of *Progress and Poverty* made no impression upon him. It was later when his employer at a country house gave him the free run of the library that he picked out *Progress and Poverty* by association of ideas. The book gripped him and when he eagerly studied every thing he could discover about the life and work of the author, he found that he had actually been Henry George's next door neighbour in Brooklyn.

HOLLAND

The Henry George movement in Holland is organized as a political party under the name of "Justice and Freedom." We have received an appeal for assistance from it to which we are glad to give publicity by the following extracts:—

"In 1931 our present party was founded under the direction of Mr Kolthek who has a many years' political and parliamentary experience. He was a Member of the Dutch Parliament from 1918 till 1922 and from 1919 till 1922 also town-councillor in Amsterdam, the capital of Holland. He became an adherent of Georgeism in 1927 and already in 1929 he gave a Dutch translation of the book *Protection or Free Trade*. A translation of *Progress and Poverty* by him will soon be completed.

"Our Party bears the name: 'Justice and Liberty.' It publishes a weekly of the same name. It has existed now five years, edited by Mr Kolthek.

"We started our propaganda in one town, viz., Groningen. In 1931 we participated in the election of the municipality

for this town. We obtained over 900 votes, sufficient for one seat, which was taken by Mr Kolthek. In 1933 we also nominated candidates for an election for Parliament. But we had no money for carrying on agitation. Yet the nomination resulted in almost 5,000 votes. In 1935 our Party participated in the election for the provincial Government of Groningen. We obtained 4,500 votes in this province and had one seat assigned us, which is occupied by Mr Kolthek. In the same year 1935 the municipality of Groningen had to be elected again. Our Party obtained 6,606 votes and had five seats assigned in it.

"In the beginning of 1937 the Dutch Parliament will have to be elected again. Since the last election in 1933 the suffrage law of our country has been altered, however. Each Party, wishing to participate in the election, must deposit a sum of 750 pounds or 6,000 guilders as a guarantee. This sum is refunded if the party obtains 75 per cent of the number of votes necessary to obtain one seat. The Dutch Parliament counts 100 members. In Holland there is the system of proportional representation. Men and women of 25 years and over have the right of voting. We are convinced that our influence is great enough to secure a seat in Parliament. But it will only be possible if we can carry on an energetic election campaign.

"This campaign requires an amount of at least \$8,000 or 1,550 pounds so that the total amount we shall want is \$12,500 or 2,300 pounds. Our own Party is not able to gather more than 750 pounds or 6,000 guilders, so that for the rest we appeal to our friends internationally.

"We hope and trust that the support asked for will be granted us. For Georgeist Propaganda in Holland our energetic participation in this election is necessary. Who knows the character of the Dutch people has no doubt about it. The Dutch people are reserved, persevering but fanatically fond of its liberty as is proved by its history. Only the Georgeist Party 'Justice and Liberty' has a practical means to offer, viz., land value tax to restore liberty and guaranteeing it for ever. There is, except ours, not any political party in Holland, stating anything in its programme relating to the problem of the land."

GERMANY

Recent issues of *Bodenreform* contain important news of progress in the direction of land reform. The Government has decided to bring to an end the Osthilfe (Help for the East), under which hundreds of millions of marks have, since 1927, been advanced to the landowners of East Prussia and other districts on the pretext of helping agriculture. Extracts are quoted from an article by Professor Hunke, the expert in agricultural economics of the National Socialist Party, in the official paper *Deutsche Volkswirtschaft*, who describes the Osthilfe as one of the most needless and unpleasant chapters in German economic history. The greater part of the money was given to large estate owners, who were in difficulties through their own fault. The plan was extended to Brandenburg and Saxony, and Dr Hunke stigmatizes as grotesque and insane the expenditure of public money to help landowners just outside the gates of Berlin with its four and a half million population. More than half the money went to undertakings of more than 125 hectares. Instead of promoting land settlement it actually prevented it by keeping up the price of land.

Another interesting item of news is that the Government has decided to make a statistical survey of the distribution of landownership in Germany. Dr Hunke is quoted as saying that 412 large landowners possess 2,600,000 hectares, which is as much as is held by one million small peasants. "No one can belittle the significance of the fact that in Germany there are 3,000,000 small landholders who hold and must live on an average of 3.2 hectares apiece, while 1,722 large landowners have an average of 2,800 hectares."

It is also interesting to see in other issues of *Bodenreform* articles on the Cause of Unemployment with quotations from *Progress and Poverty*, and on the separation of the