

## China's Forlorn Hope

"When the defeated Chinese Nationalists retreated to Taiwan in the late Forties, many doubted that its mountainous land (only one-fourth of it arable) could ever support a population that has now grown to 12 million, or about 800 people per square mile. In 1949, however, the government began a sweeping land program based on Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's 'land to the tiller' theories. The U.S. supplied the money and the work was pushed forward by a Chinese-U.S. Joint Commission . . .

"The reformers cut farm-tenant rents (which had run as high as 70 per cent of the crop), sold public land to landless peasants, and in 1953 forced landowners with large holdings to sell some 350,000 acres of land to the government. The land was then redistributed among former tenants who were given 10 years to pay for their plots. At the same time the reconstruction commission, which annually spends about \$12 million in U.S. aid, introduced advanced techniques, improved seeds, pest and disease controls.

"Yields on Taiwan farms are now among the highest in the world."

We are again indebted to Elmer Russell Greenlee of Muncie, Indiana

whose Bluebird Letter carried the above quotation from Fortune magazine of March, 1964. Mr. Greenlee added the explanatory note, that "after his withdrawal from the office of Provisional President of the Great Republic of China, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen laid down a program of economic reform. Interviewed by various American reporters, he said: 'I intend to devote my future to the promotion of the welfare of the Chinese people . . . The teachings of your single taxer, Henry George, will be the basis of our program of reform. The land (value) tax as the only means of supporting the government is an infinitely just, reasonable, and equitably distributed tax, and on it will found our new system. The centuries of heavy and irregular taxation for the benefit of the Manchus have shown China the injustice of any other system of taxation . . . These reforms China is certain to adopt, and under them we will grow into an industrious, peace-loving, prosperous people'."

Taiwan would have been wise to have observed these principles instead of engaging in land distribution schemes.

### Another First!

The first graduate of the Henry George School in Thailand is Suthon Hinjiranan, who took the correspondence course in Fundamental Economics and was so enthusiastic about *Progress and Poverty* that he decided to translate it into Thai.

In proceeding with his translation, Mr. Hinjiranan has kept in touch with the New York Henry George School, asking for clarifications of the meaning of the text. Among the items his sharp eye has detected is an error on page 83, line 9 of *Progress and Poverty*, where "the form of productiveness" should read "the form or productiveness." We checked into previous printings and editions of the book and found the same error repeated. We had to go back to a 19th Century edition, printed by Henry George himself, to find that Mr. Hinjiranan was indeed right in his correction.

Our new Thai convert has also been helpful in getting newspaper publicity in his country for the correspondence course.