

acreage of a plant is not fixed in advance, the world crop will—in relation to the prevailing demand, to existing stocks, and to the volume of other crops—always be either too large or too small. The aggregate of national acreages, however, cannot be determined without each country having a previous knowledge of its export quota; and, while export quotas can be fixed in advance, it is highly probable that they will be no more respected in the future than they have been in the past. Nor do they deserve to be respected while food is in crying demand.

VALUE OF THE OPEN MARKET

Would it not be simpler and wiser to re-establish the world market for all products and to allow each of these products to find its own volume in the universal range of goods and its own level in the universal structure of prices? This range and this structure, if unimpeded, form an organic system under which quantities and prices continually influence each other—and this without international entanglements and recriminations, and without regimentation of the individual. If tariff barriers are reduced or, still better, entirely dismantled, and all other

forms of discrimination as well as quantitative trade restrictions abolished; if governments do not interfere, and the traders on the open world market, are not prevented from discharging their proper functions; then goods are grown and manufactured in adequate proportions, price-fluctuations are confined within narrow limits, all products are distributed, nothing remains to be destroyed, and no international commodity agreements are waiting their turn to be violated.

[Mr. Paul de Hevesy is an economist with a diplomatic background. He was a member of the diplomatic service of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and later Hungarian Minister in Paris and Madrid. He was also Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, member of the Wheat Advisory Committee, London, and of the Committee for Post-War Reconstruction at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), London. He is the author of *World Wheat Planning* (Oxford University Press, 1940) and of *Le Problème Mondial du Blé*, which won the Gold Medal of the French Academy of Agriculture. He is a brother of Professor George de Hevesy, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1943. Mr. Paul de Hevesy has resided in London for the last 15 years.]

THE FATE OF LIBERAL THOUGHT IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

The Liberal Liberty League, 4, Great Smith Street, S.W.1, has received the following letter from Mr. R. Kopecky, Chairman of the Czech Liberal Association, at 118, Sutherland Avenue, London, W.9. Mr. Kopecky is a former political correspondent of the National Liberal daily NÁRODNÍ LISTY, and Editor of NAROD.

"As a foreigner I am not entitled to interfere in internal British affairs, but as an old liberal publicist I am naturally interested in all that concerns the fate of liberalism in this country and in the world. I am firmly convinced that the rebirth of liberalism on the Continent depends on the revival of British liberalism, as well as I do not doubt that the final and full success of liberalism in this country needs a corresponding revival of liberal movements on the Continent.

"As long as liberalism on the Continent is suppressed and liberal ideas are persecuted, the British liberal movement will be in steady danger. Therefore, I beg to be permitted to remind you that your efforts should not be restricted to home affairs only, but that you should take more interest on international affairs and inform the British people about the true situation on the Continent and on dangers to the liberty of British people resulting from dogmatic and dictatorial movements now in power on the Continent.

"There is, for instance, the position of Czechoslovakia and the persecution of liberals in that country, unknown to the British people. Czechoslovakia is in Great Britain often considered and described as an independent and free country. Czechoslovakia is to-day neither independent nor free. The last 'free and unfettered' elections were free to the same degree as were elections in Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy. The people were permitted to vote for Government parties only. In Czechoslovakia to-day no organization of any kind is permitted which does not strictly adhere to the programme of the Government's Coalition—to the so-called 'Kosice Declaration.' And no paper is permitted to be published as long as it does not support without reservation the Government composed of the licensed political parties. Dr. Benes declared not so long ago, to a correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, that for some six years no opposition at all shall be permitted in Czechoslovakia. And thus the Czech liberal movement is suppressed and slandered daily as the source of all evil.

"But there are few people in the world so liberal minded as the Czechs. I do not think it necessary to describe their Czech political development to prove it, because it is well known that in modern times liberalism was the driving force of Czech national life in all its aspects.

"The so-called liberation brought sudden end to all organized Liberalism in Czechoslovakia. The renewal of the National

Liberal Party was not permitted, the Press of the party was suppressed. The main organ of the party, the *Národní listy*, was traditionally the main sufferer when Czechs were visited by an oppression. All absolutist and semi-absolutist regimes of the Hapsburg Monarchy persecuted this paper. During the Great War it was suppressed and all the leaders of Czech liberalism (Kramár, Rasín, Machar, Dyk, Preiss, and many others) were imprisoned and some of them condemned to death. In this war the *Národní listy* was the first Czech paper to be suppressed by the Germans and many members of the leadership of the liberal party, and journalists working on the liberal papers, were imprisoned and some of them executed. After the 'liberation' the new Czech Government suspended the *Národní listy*, published during Czech May rising. The coalition, ruling Czechoslovakia, disunited as it is, is united in one single purpose, repeatedly publicly proclaimed: No renewal of Czech liberalism shall be ever permitted. No liberal organization, no paper, not even a weekly or monthly, shall ever be permitted.

"I think it necessary, that at least the liberal and freedom-loving public in Great Britain shall know the truth about Czechoslovakia. This truth is obscured by official Czech propaganda and by misinformed well-wishers from this country.

"I speak on behalf of a small group of Czech liberals, living in this country, who formed a humble Czech Liberal Association. We do not pretend to be legal and authorized representatives of the former Czech National Liberal Party of the whole people. There are no such representatives as nobody could ever foresee the necessity to give such authorization. But we claim to represent the present Czech liberalism, as we are the only adherents of liberalism free to speak and as we are in permanent connection with dispersed groups of men and women preserving their fidelity to liberal ideas.

"We are convinced that it is our duty to our friends at home and to our people to tell the truth about Czechoslovakia under a masked dictatorship, pretending to be a 'people's democracy.' The truth is that just as under the German occupation, so under the rule of the 'National Front,' Czech liberalism is suppressed and liberal ideas are allowed to live only in secrecy. I think that our people are entitled to demand that the truth be told, but even the British people are entitled to know it."

I receive LAND & LIBERTY regularly and find it of great value in the teaching of my classes in Henry George. I file all the copies and use a card-index for ready reference to items of special interest in your paper and from various other publications. . . . A money order is enclosed to cover subscription for two years, the balance to go where it will be most useful.—*H. G. Barber, Ottawa.*