

## Denmark

Our Danish comrades are still laboring for the Cause! For some months—that is, since the German occupation of Denmark—we did not hear about Georgeist work in that little country. Recently, however, they have resumed sending us their excellent quarterly publication, *Grundskyld*, which has not been suspended. In the June and October issues of this journal, which we have just received, our Danish friends tell us of their thoughts and activities during the dark months. They have not wavered in their faith and work, and their tone is one of hope.

In the June issue, J. L. Bjorner has an article on "Our Faith and Our Power." In it he sets forth the position of Georgeists in the world today. "Is there no hope?" he asks in concluding, and answers, "Yes! We are engaged in a great work of economic enlightenment, and already many have been taught the importance of a free society. We must never cease in our work. We are the Apostles of today—the future depends on our Faith and our Power."

The June issue also carried a notice of two important bequests. One is from a prominent person, Alfred Pedersen, who has left a legacy for education in social economy. 200 Kronen a year will be given to any student recognized by the Left Wing Youth or the Henry George Foundation. The other is a gift of 25,000 Kronen received by the Henry George Foundation. The Foundation now has 40,000 Kronen, and all the money is used for non-partisan educational work.

In the October issue of *Grundskyld* appears the address of F. Folke at the grave of Abel Brink on September 2, the birthday of Henry George. On the grave-stone of Brink, at his own request, are carved the words, "*Jorden for Folket*" ("The Land for the People"). "This," said Folke, "stands up against the opposing thought, '*Jorden for de Maegtige*' ("The Land for the Mighty')."

In another article in the same issue, Mr. Folke offers some thoughts on the present situation. "The trouble today," he says, "is that the countries did not hearken to the need for true economic freedom. We, in our little country, are not free from blame. Have we preserved freedom? What we need is an awakening. We Georgeists must carry on the fight for economic freedom."

Jakob Lange has published a new work, "Socialokonomi" ("Social Economy"). It is a Georgeist book, and in it Henry George is quoted extensively. The *Okoteknisk Højskole* (which is the name given to the Danish Henry George School) has asked the author to work out a manual for the book, for the use of the students.

The *Højskole* reports favorable progress. It has been in existence for three seasons, and has already taught over 1000 students. This Fall it entered its fourth season, and is growing more and more influential.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE TIMES PRODUCE THE BOOK

"The Economic Democracy" by Horace Joseph Haase. Orlin Tremaine Company, New York. 1940. 400 pp. \$2.25.

With the advantage of, among other things, some seventy years of criticism of Henry George, Mr. Haase launches forth into a fresh elucidation of the social sciences. He directs his appeal less to the dreamers after Utopia than to a generation who, taught in the harsh school of the materialistic sciences, require of the social philosopher the same kind and degree of evidence that they demand of those who demonstrate the simplest propositions of physics and chemistry.

The pace of the book is set in the seven-page chapter on definitions. The attention of the reader is invited to the fact that "a scientific definition is a description of a phenomenon, as well as the explanation of the meaning of a term," and that "thus within any one science the question of definitions resolves itself into a question of logic." The scientific procedure consists of nothing more than observation, classification, assignment of an exclusive nomenclature, and the determination of causal relationships.

Mr. Haase does not differ from Henry George in any important conclusion. From one end to the other his book is a cold, merciless condemnation of the private collection of land values. But if nothing more could be said, it might well be asked, "Why, then, write another book?"

The purpose is exhibited in the pattern. Strongly influenced by Dove, and under the necessity of adhering to his definition of a definition, Mr. Haase rigidly excludes from each branch of the subject all phenomena that are not peculiar to it. Thus we have the science of economics, dealing with the production of wealth; the science of political economy, dealing with exchange and the phenomena to which exchange gives rise; the science of sociology, concerning the ethical relations between men in their commercial dealings; and the science of politics, "treating of the natural laws governing the regulation of man's conduct by men."

This breakdown of the subject matter yields a perspective of the entire field of the social sciences which lays the axe to a good deal of fruitless quibbling. Of more specific interest, however, is Mr. Haase's elucidation of the nature and relation of utility and value; his simplification of distribution by classing interest as the wages of the capitalist and rent as the wages of society; his identification of Individualism and true Socialism, and the consequent discarding of the latter term as superfluous and, in its present connotation, misleading; and his demonstration that while planning is obviously necessary as a prelude to action, the character of the plan determines whether its fruits will be freedom or slavery.

"The Economic Democracy" makes no pretense of competing for George's place in the hearts of men. No knowledge that can ever come to light will dim the lustre of that man's fame. Yet the temper of the times makes it advisable to divest these extremely controversial subjects of even the most fleeting suspicion of personal sponsorship and emotional bias. This is true even of the doctrines of Jesus Christ. People have been betrayed by opinion and seduced by appeal to their sympathy until at last they have turned their faces from anything but the most incontrovertible fact.

The presentation of the argument for land-value taxation in textual form is never wasted effort. The volume under consideration is filled with up-to-date material and references with which the modern student will have become familiarized through his newspaper reading. And after the process of the true democracy has been