

Holland

The fine work our Dutch comrades have been doing makes all the more poignantly sad the recent news from their fine little country. As in Denmark, things are so unsettled that we do not know what will become of the future of our Georgeist friends and the Cause they are working for. We sincerely hope that they will be able to carry on.

The most persistent foreign Georgeist periodical we have been receiving has been the Dutch *Ons Erfdeel* ("Our Heritage"). This is a weekly published at Groningen, and edited by H. Kolthek. The latest issue to reach us is dated April 20. At that time the Party of Justice and Freedom (*De Partij Recht en Vrijheid*), of which *Ons Erfdeel* is the official organ, was planning its annual Convention for May 2, in Utrecht. Organization matters and similar problems were on the agenda for discussion. Various Chapters had already sent in their reports for the Convention, indicating the progress of their activities.

Two important Chapters of the Party are in the Province of Groningen; one, the Leeuwarden Chapter, and the other, the Groningen Chapter. This latter is the seat of the headquarters of the Party as well as the publication office of *Ons Erfdeel*. The Leeuwarden Chapter is very active, having established the first Henry George School in the Province, last December. Good news also comes from the Hague Chapter, which reports a large sale of "Progress and Poverty" in the newly translated edition. This Chapter has published sharp criticisms of the country's financial system, which has excited the indignation of the conservative press. But this has in no wise deterred the progress of the Hague Georgeists. A Henry George School flourishes there, and a new edition of the Teachers' Manual has recently been issued.

The April 20 issue of *Ons Erfdeel* was accompanied by a supplement, in pamphlet form, on "Georgeism and Catholicism." This contained an essay on the subject by the officers of the Party, and a Dutch translation of the famous Statement of Dr. Edward McGlynn, the one approved by the Papal Ablegate. It also contained a letter from August Diemont to Pope Pius XII., which quotes many Bible extracts concerning man's right to the earth. Diemont asks His Holiness, in his efforts for peace, to remember the message Henry George gave to the world.

Ons Erfdeel reports that the outbreak of the war last September interfered somewhat with Georgeist activities at first, but later, forward strides were taken in spite of the serious situation. The circulation of the journal has even increased.

Good luck, comrades!

New Zealand

It is encouraging to receive the news that the *Commonweal*, voice of the Natural Justice Movement of New Zealand, is able to continue publication, in spite of the war. "Shortly after the outbreak of the war," says the March-April number of this paper, "it seemed hardly likely that *Commonweal* could be kept going, owing to the marked drop in receipts. Many other journals have already gone out of existence, and some, such as the *Free Trader* (London), have suspended publication for the period of the war. However, a few enthusiasts are very desirous of keeping the journal going. The amounts received in donations, plus ordinary subscriptions, have been sufficient to warrant the production of this number. The Finance Committee trusts that supporters of the Natural Justice Cause will continue to provide the funds required to keep the journal in being, despite the war."

Two other Georgeist papers that have been suspended because of the war are *Terre et Liberté*, in France, and Graham Peace's *Commonweal*, in England. LAND AND FREEDOM sincerely hopes that the New Zealand *Commonweal* will receive sufficient financial support to insure its continuation.

The Natural Justice leaders have worked out a common-sense program for the application of the Georgeist reform. Following is a statement of the policy:

"Local bodies—not the State—to estimate and also to collect, the full annual economic value of the social environment, commonly called 'economic rent of land,' part to be passed on to the State for State expenditure, the objective being the abolition of all rates and taxes. In rural areas, towns and counties to be amalgamated, the full 'land rent' to be collected by the enlarged local body over the combined areas, thus returning to the farmers, through expenditure of part of the 'ground rent' or 'site value' of urban areas upon rural roads, some of the social values the farming community helps substantially and basically to produce."

The *Commonweal* stands also for complete free trade and democratic electoral methods. For those who may be interested in this journal, the address is Hohaia Street, Matamata, New Zealand.

AGGRESSIVE warfare is always the result of what appears to be economic necessity. . . . The "need of foreign markets" which is so frequently used as an argument to justify wars of criminal aggression is a "need" that would not be felt if the aggressing nations enforced justice at home. . . . To secure a market, labor need but be given access to the natural resources now withheld by private monopolists.

—JOSEPH FELS.