

THE CAUSATION OF HUNGER

Dr. de Castro's book *The Geography of Hunger* (Gollancz 18s.), which was reviewed in our previous issue, contains much testimony to the existence of land monopoly. We supplement our review with the following extracts from Dr. de Castro's pages:—

South America

"In Buenos Aires province, with a population of 3,500,000, a handful of only 320 aristocratic families monopolises about 40 per cent of the land. In another province of Argentina, Santa Fé, there are 189 great estates, each with an average of 62,000 acres. In the central valley of Chile, where the bulk of the country's agricultural production, as well as 80 per cent of its population is concentrated, the latifundia remain unshaken. In Curico province, 437 great plantations take up 83 per cent of the land, leaving only 17 per cent of the province for 5,937 small proprietors. Brazil, with the same population as France and an area fifteen times as large, has only half as many individual properties (1,900,000 in Brazil as against 4,000,000 in France). There is a reason for the fact that only 2 per cent of Brazil is under cultivation, and only 1 per cent of it is devoted to the production of food."—page 89.

West Indies

"Emancipation of the slaves was approved by the English Parliament in 1833. It was thought in some quarters that the freed men might return to diversified, subsistence farming in the African tradition, and that their living conditions might improve. But nothing of the sort happened. The great landowners felt the foundations of their plantation system crumbling, and they erected a thousand obstacles to keep the free Negro from growing his own food. . . . In Jamaica this system of disguised slavery brought about a sharp reaction. The Negroes took possession of abandoned lands in the interior of the island and set up autonomous societies based on subsistence agriculture."—page 107.

Southern States of U.S.A.

"Land tenure, which began as a system of small-holdings, soon reached extremes of concentration. The size of the average farm was as much as 160 acres in 1626, and had risen to 446 acres in 1650 and to 670 acres by 1700. At the beginning of the eighteenth century the Government, in an attempt to limit the concentration of land holding, limited land patents to 4,000 acres, but the great landlords were by then absolute sovereigns of their domains, making and breaking laws at will, and they chose to ignore the federal legislation. The great plantations continued to grow so that by the middle of the eighteenth century there were southern aristocrats with properties of 150,000 acres."—page 115.

India

"The great proprietors are business men rather than farmers, and take no interest in agriculture except as a source of their super-profits. They leave the share croppers to their fate, and appear only at harvest time to collect their shares of 40 to 60 per cent of the crop. Since the Government takes another 10 per cent the worker has very little to show for his toil. Perhaps this economic situation is a partial explanation of the Indian's lack of enthusiasm, or even distaste, for work. He is aware that no matter how hard he works he will receive almost nothing."—page 157.

Morocco and Algeria

"The monopolizing of the land by capitalists and bankers had reached such a point that the Moroccan Government, in 1945, was moved to pass a law making family property, fixed at a maximum of 5 hectares, inalienable except on express authorisation. . . . The increasing movement of the land from the hands of the native into those of the European explains why, in Algeria, although of her 7,000,000 inhabitants only 1,000,000 are Europeans, a third of the cultivated land (about 5,000,000 hectares) belongs to the latter."—page 183.

OBITUARIES

James H. McGuigan

We regret to announce the death of one of the veterans in the Henry George movement who in his time rendered it exceptional service and whose name has been a household word among our campaigners over many years—James H. McGuigan. He will be remembered best for his associations with Portsmouth where so much of his work was done and it is to our co-worker there that we are indebted for the following brief life-sketch. Jim McGuigan was born near Castlewellan, in Ulster, and went to Glasgow to be apprenticed as a shipwright. There he first heard of *Progress and Poverty* which he read critically and on further reading found he had to wash out all his marginal objections, to become an unshaken crusader. He took a berth as a ship's carpenter and was in the U.S.A. for a few years. He returned to Barrow and reached Portsmouth about 1898. Here he soon became known to the political parties through his able and persistent advocacy of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. He joined the Liberal Party and took active part in all the elections during the stirring time of the Lloyd George campaign and since by voice, and pen in his flow of "letters to the editor," as author of leaflet and pamphlet, and manifesto. In 1912 he was appointed Inspector of Shipwrights in Hong Kong and remained there fourteen years. On his return he found the Liberal Party almost vanished, so he helped to rally the local Land Value Taxation League, continuing his propaganda and conducting study classes, and he was a most acceptable speaker at many meetings up and down the country organised by the United Committee, of which he was a member. In 1939 he returned to his native village, but still continued speaking the philosophy dear to his heart, with his pen also at service until the last. He had reached the mature age of 87. On 31st December was placed to rest among his ancestors in the Catholic Cemetery of Castlewellan, Father Cahill officiating and paying tribute to the devoted efforts of this lover of his fellows to leave the world a better place than he had found it. James McGuigan is survived by his widow and five sons.

E. L. Daniel

On January 6 the Henry George movement lost a staunch supporter by the death of Ebenezer Lemon Daniel, at the age of 72. As a young man he had served with the South African Mounted Police and in the first world war he was in the Royal Air Force. In later years his views changed to pacifism. He was an enthusiastic member of the Commonwealth Land Party as long as its activity continued, and at the same time always helped in what way he could every agency for promoting land value taxation and free trade. Much of his work was done as a member of the Battersea Parliamentary Society which through his influence had many a guest speaker to expound to them the Henry George principle and policy. He was associated also with the Liberal Liberty League and was a member of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. He is survived by his widow, his daughter and his two sons.

S. Scaife and H. Whittaker

Two losses to the movement in Yorkshire are deeply regretted in the deaths of Mr. Sam Scaife, of Keighley, and Mr. Harold Whittaker, of Halifax. Both were for many years associated with the Yorkshire Land Values League, taking an active part in its work and giving as generously as their means would allow.

Sincerely we convey our sympathies in their bereavement to the relatives of James McGuigan, E. L. Daniel, Sam. Scaife and Harold Whittaker.

Tribute Al Nobla Geniulo. By F. R. Jones. Newly published Esperanto book. Includes a brief life of Henry George; Tolstoy's striking last writing; speeches delivered by eminent men of diverse creeds at the funeral of Henry George and a brief summary of George's reform with details of its present application throughout the world. Beautifully produced, 64 pages. 4s. 3d. post free.