

INTERNATIONAL UNION — Letters from Europe

F. FOLKE, DENMARK. "Occasion for a visit to Denmark and possibly a Conference will be at the reopening of the rebuilt Housemen's People's High School in Odense which is to be dedicated to the memory of its beloved principal, Jakob E. Lange. The School was used as a prisoners' camp by the Germans and now lies in ruins as the result of an Allied air attack. On October 21 we had a good Annual Meeting of the Henry George Union, where active members reported their work during the election campaign. After my valedictory on retreat from the office of President which I have held for 22 years, there was a short discussion on the proposals of the Social Democratic Party which were referred to the Committee and the Presidium. Dan Björner gave an address on Planned Economy or Free Trade. Gudrun Björner acted as secretary and she will probably carry on in the meanwhile. Bue Björner, who has stood in Odense as candidate for the Justice League (Retsforbundet) has promised to act as President of the Union for a year until another successor is found for my own humble self. Younger people must come forward to take their share in the confused times we are entering upon. No man is richer than he to whom Life offers plenteous duties. Therefore, it is with a grateful heart that I lay down my task, grateful not least to the Anglo-Saxon friends whom I have met in the service of our good cause."

Three publications by Mr. Folke are most welcome. *Employment or Work*, illustrated with photos, plans and maps, shows how to combat unemployment by creating 30,000 new small holdings; *Principle or Plan* and *Old and New Liberalism* are reprints of discussions the author has had in the Press with various contestants and are delightfully produced in booklet form by the "Ecotechnical School," which, under the direction of Mrs. Caroline Björner, carries on most active work.

PAVLOS GIANNELIA, FRANCE, conducts a tireless correspondence with numerous editors, journalists and leading men in France and Switzerland and has provided many addresses for LAND & LIBERTY and other literature to be sent. Mr. Giannelia before the war was on the staff of the Greek Embassy in Vienna and he represented both Greece and Austria at the International Conferences of the Union. During the war he did into the Braille for the public library in Lyons *Protection or Free Trade* and *The Condition of Labour* in English and the abridged *Progress and Poverty*, *Social Problems* and *The Condition of Labour* in French—ten volumes altogether. Thus a great service was rendered.

GUSTAV BUSCHER, SWITZERLAND. "At last I can write thanking you for sending me LAND & LIBERTY in all these years. . . . Now is the time when England can do more for the world in peace than in war, re-establishing a sound economic order, free trade and free access to the land. If we only get first a bit of free trade, the war will not have been in vain." (Later) "Enclosed I send you an article of mine published in the Swiss Journal for Trade and Industry. It deals with and opposes the policy of artificially cheapening money (i.e., keeping down the rate of interest). I read in the *Times* that your Labour Government is also pledging itself to the policy of cheap money. It has an outward appearance of benefiting the people but in the long run it

will work to the contrary. Artificially cheapening money means artificially enhancing the prices of land. This has been shown to result in Switzerland; it is showing itself in Great Britain, the United States and all over the world. It makes the rich richer and the poor poorer; it is working for just the opposite of what the Labour Party stands for. Moreover, it is economic nonsense."

We are favoured with copy of the above-mentioned article and wish that space were available for its reproduction. In the same paper, Mr. Büscher has written on the theme that "The Dictators Win the War," in the sense that totalitarianism so largely dominates the scene. Another article of his in the same paper and on how to dispose of the Ruhr was translated and published in the *Financial News*, September 27.

Mrs. SIGNE BJÖRNER, DENMARK. "We are avid for information from Great Britain. We gather that Ashley Mitchell was not elected. Well, at least there was opportunity for good publicity for the cause and we earnestly hope there will be a next time with satisfactory results. The leaflets were fine; as you will see, I have used quotations. Readers of *Grundskyld* are anxious to know all about the situation on your side."

Mrs. Björner edits *Grundskyld*. In latest letters from others in Denmark, we have been grieved to hear of her sudden and serious illness and we earnestly hope for her good recovery.

JOHANN HANSSON, SWEDEN, on return from his recent visit to London sends us a copy of the authoritative book *The People and the Land*, by K. J. Kristensen, published by his own firm in Stockholm. This is an outstanding service to the movement, giving as it does the best existing survey of the last twenty-five years' land reforms in Denmark. The land values legislation is fully detailed, with texts also given of the Acts, and the statistics and rationale of the land valuation are exceptionally instructive. Sincerely we compliment Mr. Kristensen. The book is as yet only in Swedish and we can hope not only for a Danish but also an English text at the earliest possible date. From Mr. Hansson we have received also his own article in the Swedish Journal, *The Present and the Future*, reprinted in pamphlet form, on true Liberalism as the road to social justice.

HALFDAN HANSEN, NORWAY. "I was happy to have your postcard and to know all of you were well. These years of war have brought with them incredible sufferings and millions of human lives have been sacrificed. It is true that the idea of freedom triumphed in the end, but now dictatorship is thriving in the name of democracy and State control is laying its clammy hand on industrial life. We hear people saying that Liberalism is out of date; Liberal parties are allowing the thought that there must be increased State interferences in the transition period, besides becoming the basis of future social life. They have not the sense to demand the removal of the barriers which hitherto have prevented Liberalism's ideas of freedom from being fulfilled, so that the ability to consume can increase in step with the ability to produce."

"To-day, they are carrying us down into the trough of socialisation. A war mentality

is still in charge and freedom's demands are stilled by its seductive voice. The present times may seem hopeless to those who seek the truth amid the political currents, who believe that also in economic life the laws of nature prevail, to which we cannot close our eyes and which cannot be put out of action by human intervention. But as spring follows winter in unbroken sequence, out of the social retrogression there will surely be a new ascent, to resume the ripening process which is essential before truth and justice can strike root in the nations and among the common people. . . . The daily Press is not well disposed towards articles which cut across the party programmes. Enclosed is an article of mine in *Bergens Tidende* entitled 'The Economists are Responsible', which appeared in March, 1941, the year after the Germans occupied Norway. . . . Subscription will follow as soon as it is permissible to send money."

S. SYTEMA, HOLLAND. "From my friend Mr. Kolthek, I am advised to order from you the following books (titles named) and I wish to receive the monthly LAND & LIBERTY. As a teacher myself, can I be put in touch with a school master willing to correspond with me about all kinds of subjects?" (We gladly pass on the request to any interested reader—write to Mr. S. Sytema, Headmaster, Appelsga (boven) Friesland, Holland.)

SVEND E. HANSEN, DENMARK. "Thank you for your postcard and for the copies of LAND & LIBERTY which you sent. Please give me a list of Georgeist papers all over the world and if possible the names of leading persons in the movement in every country. You will remember that in 1938 I was trying to build up a young Georgeist International Association to work together by correspondence. I invite any young people who are interested to write to me at my address: Schleppegrellsgade, 7 mz.tr., Copenhagen, N."

BALDOMERO ARGENTE, SPAIN. "For all your recent sendings, many thanks, including letters and books and other publications. My greetings to Mr. Ashley Mitchell and to Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart with gratitude to the latter for the work he did in translating one of my books into English and for his constant regard for Spain. I applaud the great educational work which the I.U. and the U.C. is doing."

OLE WANG, NORWAY. "Postal communication with London having now been reopened, I look forward to information about the movement. The whole world is now longing for peace not only in the sense that there shall be no war operations, but real peace based on social and international justice and liberty with consequent good will. The objects of our Union are, in my opinion, a common denominator which by world application could unite the different ideals and the various peoples."

This letter was dated May 31 and was the first to be sent from Europe: but addressed to our Knightrider Street offices, which were destroyed by enemy action in May, 1941, it was returned and we received it only after a number of weeks.

Later, Mr. Wang has written several times and with attractive proposals for the strengthening of the Union. We applaud his article (Norwegian text) in the Swedish

Journal *International Co-operation*. He writes on the true basis of Peace with a clear call for Free Trade and the establishment of the equal rights of all to nature's gifts. The article was given in Danish text in *Grundskyld* for September-October.

MARCEL CORTVRIEND, BELGIUM. "I am very happy to learn that LAND & LIBERTY has been regularly maintained and I would greatly appreciate to receive any back numbers you can spare. As soon as it is possible to send money I will not fail to renew my contribution to the International Union. Thank you also for the addresses of Madame G. de Wispelaere, Belgium, and Mr. Daudé Bancel, France, to whom I will write. Mr. H. Kolthek, Holland, is planning to produce a new publication entitled *Democratic*."

A. FEBERWEE, HOLLAND. "Immediately on receipt of your postcard I sent one in return, longing for the promised papers and literature. Holland is more plundered and destroyed than all other countries. Myself, I lost 72 pound in weight and the need for the most indispensable things is still very great. . . . It was a mis-step in my opinion for the Liberal Party to stand for the Beveridge plan. Only the principles of Liberty in all things as a consequence of liberating the land can save us all never half or whole State Socialism. Here in Holland we will, of course, do what we can. But we have no paper, hardly even for letter writing. Nevertheless, we will persist 'heart within and God overhead.'"

CHR. GIERLOFF, NORWAY. "I wondered if you had been able to maintain LAND & LIBERTY through the five years' blitz. I congratulate you. My family and myself have been through five years' of 'illegal' life and many difficulties. When again books can be forwarded you will receive one of my 'illegal' books written during the war under the 'protection' of a big new German fortress next door."

The book referred to is *Two Occasions on April 9*, the historical parallel of April 9, 1940, and April 9, 1368, back to the times of the Knights Templar. We are pleased also to receive from Mr. Gierloff the large book of his two plays, published 1945, entitled "The King's Dream" and "The Watch on Bergenhuis."

P. PRINS, HOLLAND. "This is a letter from a Dutchman who learned his English from the books. Mr. H. Kolthek, of the Dutch party 'Justice and Truth,' advised me to apply to you for LAND & LIBERTY to which I wish to subscribe. Also please send me (here the titles of several books). I wish to be kept constantly in touch with the activities of your Committee and your Union."

FERD. LYG, NORWAY. "Your postcard of July 26 and letter of August 1 reached me while lying in hospital four months after an operation. I should like to have the back numbers of LAND & LIBERTY and the following books (titles named), and also specimens of the most recent publications. Money will be sent as soon as it is possible to do so."

THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE, KHARTOUM acknowledges with appreciation the gift from the Henry George Foundation of the five volumes by Henry George: *Progress and Poverty*, *Social Problems*, *Protection or Free Trade*, *The Condition of Labour* and *A Perplexed Philosopher*.

NOTES AND NEWS

Compliments and congratulations on their success at recent municipal elections go to Councillor Agnew Hamilton, Larne; Councillor John Peter, M.A., Falkirk; Councillor Herbert Eastwood, Manchester; Councillors A. Hallows and H. Pemberton, Clitheroe; Councillor George Ferrier, Cardiff; Councillor Morgan Davies, Cardiff; Councillor Windsor, Bewdley; Councillor Mrs. Broadbent, Kidderminster.

We regret that unsuccessful were: George Sawyer, Birmingham; Sydney Needoff, Manchester; H. J. Trevelyan, Sutton Coldfield; Francis R. King, Penzance; Austin Brook and Mrs. A. Brook, Stoke-on-Trent. Mr. Sawyer had a very near vote in the Duddleston and Nechells Ward which he had represented for many years. There were three vacancies but Mr. Sawyer, standing as independent, was crowded out by the three successful Labour candidates. Mr. King had been promised the support of the Ratepayers' Association and stood on that understanding. The loudspeaker van was in the hands of a member who had no authority to recommend anyone but merely to ask for support for some few, of which Mr. King was one. "This individual," Mr. King writes, "used the loudspeaker to boost one of his friends who was duly elected; the thing is the talk of the town."

Charles Gardner, Cardiff, writes: "Councillor George Ferrier, who moved the Resolution at the Welsh Municipal Conference on Rating of Land Values ten years ago, assures me that it is his intention in the new year to take the matter up in the City Council. He made this announcement at all his election meetings. Councillor Morgan Davies, who moved the Resolution on the Rating of Land Values, which was passed

by a large majority at the Council this year, promised me that he would refer to the Birmingham Report at the next meeting of the Finance Committee and ask that a copy be obtained with a view to co-operating with Birmingham."

Charles E. Clarke, Bewdley, writes: "The day after our meeting in Birmingham (at which the Birmingham Resolution was discussed), Mr. Windsor borrowed from me a copy of *Progress and Poverty* to give to Mrs. Broadbent, who was elected in Kidderminster at the top of the poll. She had already spoken in the Council on the subject of Land Value Rating. Mr. Windsor had spoken likewise at the first meeting of the Bewdley Council after the election. Both had been well heard. If the Birmingham City Council circularise the neighbouring towns, I think they will get support from Bewdley and Kidderminster."

Mr. F. Dyer, Newbury, wrote specially with stamped addressed envelope and enclosing the United Committee's questionnaire postcard together with leaflets on Land Value Rating, to several candidates at the municipal elections. Neither of the Labour candidates replied. From two others he had a prompt answer, not pledging themselves, but interested enough to desire further information; and a useful correspondence has resulted.

Members of the Yorkshire and Northern and Manchester Leagues will address Rotary Clubs in December: Ulverston, December 3; A. H. Weller; Darwen, December 3; F. Bentley; Wakefield, December 6; Halifax, December 12; Colne, January 30, F. Bentley.

Nelson and Brighouse Rotary Clubs, addressed by Mr. F. Bentley and Colne Club

THE LIBERAL LIBERTY LEAGUE—Its Purpose and Policy

The purpose of the League is to preserve and extend the Liberty of the Individual. It believes that the only road to Progress for Humanity is increasingly to free the individual from authority; that the main function of the State is to establish equal freedom and equal opportunity, to ensure by the rule of law that no man shall suffer oppression by his fellows and that all infringements of the natural rights and liberties of man must be resisted.

The Policy of the League is contained in the following proposals:

1. World Peace by working to remove the fundamental causes of war. Whilst nations endure suffering and misery, peace cannot be secure. We would establish contact with liberty-loving people in other countries and endeavour to have the influence of Great Britain always supporting human liberty.
2. The restoration of Free Trade by the abandonment of all protectionist tariffs and of every import restriction, no matter what may be the fiscal policies of other countries, and confident that this is the only sound policy for any nation whether debtor or creditor.
3. The Rating and Taxation of Land Values. This would restore to the community land value which it has created, would prevent the withholding of land from use (which causes unemployment), and would enable housing to be expedited.
4. The abolition of taxation on the necessities of life, on buildings and improvements, the stoppage of wasteful expenditure and subsidies to special interests, and the abolition of all legally maintained restrictive practices which prevent the functioning of a free market at home.
5. The restoration of Civil Liberties by the abolition of military and industrial conscription.
6. The system of Proportional Representation to be used for the election of all public bodies.
7. Better opportunities for appeal against decisions of officials in the social services and the prevention of tyrannical practices in existing or new State services (e.g., unbridled bureaucracy in education).
8. Resistance to the encroachment of the central government on the liberties of local authorities.

Join the Liberal Liberty League and help to form such a body of liberty-loving opinion that the existing menace to freedom may be curbed and a real alternative provided.

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