

## 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. Bjerne 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



developed step by step, the student is presented with a Platform of Freedom, containing specific application of principles to practice, and he is invited to cooperate in the movement through an existing organization with which he is made acquainted.

In addition to the original contributions mentioned above, the book is roughly a combination of "Progress and Poverty", "The Science of Political Economy", and "Democracy Versus Socialism". The style in parts is somewhat labored, in parts inspired, on the whole unemotional. In the crucible of classroom work some few defects may rise to the surface. Nevertheless, in the opinion of this writer, its method of treatment makes it superior as a teaching text to "Progress and Poverty". It has the approval of many substantial Georgeists.

CECIL CARROLL TUCKER, JR.

#### GEORGEIST PHYSICIAN PROBES CIVILIZATION

"When Loneliness Comes," by George A. Glenn, M. D. Published by the Author, Suite 632 Empire Building, Denver, Color. 1940. 309 pp. \$3.00.

Dr. Glenn, besides being a senator of Colorado, has his own practice in Denver, is surgeon to Physicians and Surgeons Hospital, Professor of Anatomy and Demonstrative Clinical Surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons, and has served in many other institutions and hospitals.

Dr. Glenn has been watching the growing neurasthenia that has rapidly crept over civilization. He discusses in this all too brief book the vast conglomerated alliance between the medical profession and the pharmaceutical supply houses that preys on the physical and mental ills of mankind with pills and nostrums. He understands, too, that land monopoly has a blighting effect on the people in civilized society. "In reviewing history," he says, "we perceive that in the primitive state all land is comparatively free and afforded by the Creator for the use of men, to labor and live on. Whereas with the encroachment of organized 'civilized' people—the free land is ruthlessly seized from the native inhabitants and direct ownership claimed by the invading Government. After this aggrandizement, sabotage occurs, and all the fertile land and the water rights thereof are parceled out to governmental favorites, who promptly force the native inhabitants into slavery by demanding tribute for occupancy thereof." And he goes on to urge a proper solution of this problem.

Dr. Glenn has observed that humanity is being driven relentlessly to swift senility by the pace of civilization. He has seen women's frigidity and men's impotency become more widespread. Hormone extracts from animal life are being given to slow up the rapidly aging members of society who are being defeated before they achieve their goals or secure recognition. But Dr. Glenn is of the belief that within plant life exists hormonal substance of greater purity, economy and potency—and to either disprove this position or substantiate it he took a trip to the jungles of Brazil, where after many encounters with beast and man, he came upon the beautiful Amazonian women, and learned the secret of their longevity.

Dr. Glenn devotes the first half of his book to the conversations he had with different people who were running away from their personal civilized troubles. There was a statistician, an authoress, a junior business executive, a social worker. Each one had ramified contacts with society in his or her professional capacity; each also had personal problems. And each one was cynical of Dr. Glenn's wholesome, if enlightened, views on connubial happiness. Each one had been so conditioned by the "civilizing" influences of our strangled economy that he could not begin to see the truth and the light freely given to him by Dr. Glenn.

Those who enjoyed James Hilton's "Lost Horizon" can relive the beauty and sweetness of that land in the second half of this book—except that this is not fiction. This is the true story of longevity, of economic freedom, of social happiness.

As a reviewer who loves figures for the power of their accuracy but dreads them if not footnoted as to their source, I often felt in my reading of "When Loneliness Comes" that our author bandied his percentages a little too fluently.

I should also like to have seen more pictures to document his chapters. Assuredly, the book should now be followed up by a well-financed crew of social scientists and cameramen—both still and movie. It would be interesting to see whether philanthropy will stop pampering with its expenditures of monies to preserve the status quo, but will give funds to finance a follow-up to Dr. Glenn's trip.

It will also be interesting to learn whether the medical, sociological, anthropological, pedagogical and other professional journals will accept articles on these findings.

Dr. Glenn's book is enjoying a wide circulation in Colorado. It should be widely circulated, for, amidst the wide variety of subjects sure to arouse popular interest, the author has cleverly mingled "sex" with economics and the land question. He urges his readers to disentangle from their minds the warping effects of our neurasthenic life, and, with a fresh approach, to work toward a more ideal society.

WILLIAM W. NEWCOMB

#### FRAUDULENT LAND GRANTS

"Agrarian Conflicts in Colonial New York," by Dr. Irving Mark. Columbia University Press, New York. 1940.

Even devotees of land reform may be astonished when confronted with the extent of fraud which accompanied early land grants. In Dr. Mark's interesting study, some of these frauds are uncovered.

The looseness and vagueness with which many grants were described, by metes and bounds, permitted huge increases in the size of the tracts granted. Among the grantees was one Robert Livingston, who in 1675 was appointed Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Indian Affairs. Livingston, like other politicians of his day, carried the favor of several Governors who assisted him in the acquisition of thousands of acres of land. One land grant patent was stretched from 2600 to over 160,000 acres. Livingston acquired this tract for 930 guilders (about \$375) in wampum, and \$200 in axes, kettles, knives, blankets and similar commodities. What the Indians could use their axes for, with their land gone, is an interesting speculation.

It was quite simple to stretch a land grant. The metes and bounds which described them would refer to "where Two Black Oake Trees are Marked wt. L," or "where Heapes of Stone Lye," or by a stream that winds its way around many bends and turns, and run back into the woods.

In this manner, the Van Rensselaers were able to acquire, in the vicinity of Albany, upwards of one million acres. The claim of Rev. Godfridius Dellius involved 537,600 acres in the Saratoga area.

Dr. Mark found that huge concentrations of land in the hands of a few were accomplished through fraud, chicanery, nepotism and political corruption. There is ample material in his work, on which he could have easily moralized, but which he chose rather to set forth as a historical episode. However, the work is commendable from that viewpoint, and is worthy of reference for those interested in the search for a cure.

J. H. N.