

## Jakob Lange

On December 27, 1941, Jakob Lange passed away at the age of 78. He was one of the first followers of Henry George in Denmark—the land where George holds the same place that Karl Marx holds in other countries.

In January, 1888, Lange became acquainted with "Progress and Poverty" through Viggo Ullman's Norwegian translation. During the Easter season of the same year, he travelled to England in search of Henry George. He had the good fortune to meet and spend some time with George, discussing the problems of Denmark and the application of Georgeist principles there. In Denmark, the institution of shares in landed property is extensive, the shareholder having claim to about two-thirds of the value of the property—hence, he is the real proprietor. The application of the single tax in Denmark, therefore, involves the obligations of the shareholder.

On his return to Denmark, Lange joined with Viggo Ullman in an assiduous propaganda for Henry George's ideas. They formed a Nordic Union for Social Reform, which soon spread all over Scandinavia. Lange also tried to interest General William Booth in the Georgeist philosophy; but received a typical answer: "It is all quite right, but you cannot do anything without the help of God and without the Salvation Army."

At the beginning of the twentieth century, we find Lange with Sophus Berthelsen, the author of the famed *Kjoerge-Resolution*, the Magna Charta of the Danish *Husmaend* (smallholder), which pro-

posed the abolition of all taxes and custom duties, and the imposition of a single tax on land values. In 1909 appeared the first edition of Lange's "Social Economy," a standard work on Georgeist principles which is still used. A fourth edition appeared last year. Besides his translations of Henry George's works, he also wrote "A Danish View of British Farming" in 1927, at the invitation of English agriculturists. Lange authorized me to translate this work into German, with comments on Austrian conditions of farming. I regret that I did not insist sufficiently on the publication of my translation.

Lange was not only renowned as an economist, but also as a botanist, being one of the leading authorities on Danish flora and agriculture.

Lange was a diligent visitor at the International Conferences on Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. He was also a regular speaker at the Danish Henry George Congresses and the smallholder meetings. His last public appearance was at the Henry George assembly at Copenhagen, on September 28, 1941, where he courageously defended the views of liberalism in its fullness—not merely political, but economic as well. He stressed the eminent role of free land in a free society. While the world has admired the valiant resistance of Greece and other small countries more highly than the passiveness of Denmark, Lange explained the role of his country. "Denmark," he said, "has advanced further than any other country of Europe. Even if we had doubled and tripled our expenses for military armament, we would have been overrun. The mission of the Danes is to construct a new House of Freedom. Our work in this direction will decide our capacity to live as a nation and the value of our national life."

Lange was buried on New Year's Day, 1942. Five hundred Georgeists and smallholders followed his bier to the grave. In death as in life. . . .

PAVLOS GIANNELIA.