

French, Spanish, Italian and German texts. It has already been reported that Esperantist Sr. Daglio, in Tortona, Italy, has made extensive use of these.

Several Esperantist associations, of which two are in Holland, have provided recommended names for receipt of the document, and we are particularly indebted to Sr. Anglada, of Barcelona, for a list of 72 Esperantist journals throughout the world to which review copies have been sent.

The manuscript for the new book to be published in Esperanto by the International Union and compiled by Mr. F. R. Jones is now with the printers. The book will be entitled *Tribute to a Noble Genius*. It will give a sketch of the life and work of Henry George and will report verbatim the orations delivered at his funeral. It is hoped that the book will be out in about two months' time. The published price will be 2s. 6d. net per copy and advanced orders may now be placed.

Spain

A powerful and convincing vindication of the teachings of Henry George and his moral philosophy appears in the January/February issue of the journal *Obra Mercedaria*, of Barcelona. It is the journal of an influential Catholic order and the article is the more impressive on that account. It runs to 4,000 words. The writer is Leonardo de Isusquiza. He takes to task the author D. Francisco Segura whose recently published book "The Third Solution" which goes out of its way to attack Henry George's views and proposals as an "anachronism." The book was reviewed and condemned by Sr. Lemos Ortega in the Madrid *Economia Nacional*, as reported in our March issue.

Sr. Anglada, of Barcelona, welcomes the talk on "The Prophet of San Francisco" from Radio Rome which he is hoping to broadcast from his local station, both in Esperanto and in Spanish. He gives a long list of the brilliant series of articles on social philosophy, economics, civics, biographies of eminent men, etc., which appear week by week (and have done so for the past two years or more) in Barcelona's daily paper *La Vanguardia Espanola*. The author is Sr. Baldomero Argente. By these articles, Sr. Argente, whose name is of world renown in the Georgerist movement, contributes to the perception by a wide public of the true libertarian doctrine.

"To-day, Dakar, in French West Africa, is enjoying a boom that is unprecedented in this area, and its newly-won prosperity comes from groundnuts. Land values have shot up 65 per cent. in the past 18 months, two oil factories have been established, and a magnificent new airport completed."—*Sunday Times* Correspondent, April 22.

Your 1952 Summer Vacation

In Denmark, attending the Eighth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, July 29 to August 4, 1952, at the People's High School, Odense City.

Conference of members of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade and of the Danish Henry George Union, who are joint organisers.

All particulars as to Conference terms and fees, cost of residence at the School and travel arrangements; and suggestions for holiday tours in Denmark—from the International Union, 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

Feather-Bedded Agriculture

The Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.

Sir.—As a farmer and a Henry George follower, I was astonished by the reference to feather-bedded agriculture in your April number. Statements of this kind antagonise the farmer who is only too ready to be antagonistic to any new ideas. If land tenure is to be reformed on Henry George lines it is essential to have the support of the ordinary farmer. Do not underestimate his power.

As for the subsidies, I do not question the figures that were quoted. What I object to is the assertion that these subsidies go into the farmer's pocket. It is absolutely untrue.

The food subsidies are not paid to the farmer, but are paid to the consumer because the consumer has been made so poor by taxation, that he cannot afford to pay the real price of the food he eats.

If the farmer could get the true price determined by supply and demand there is no doubt that prices of bacon, eggs, milk, butter, cream and beef would rocket and the farmer would indeed be on a feather bed; even more important, his capital outlay would at last show some interest which could be ploughed back into his land to bring about a more fertile countryside.

As regards the high price of land, no one regrets this more than the genuine man of the soil, who would like to take over more and more barren acres, and see the hills covered over with corn and hay and clover, but who cannot do so because of lack of funds. Agricultural land prices have been forced up by wealthy townsmen, who want to sink their wartime fortune out of reach of the tax collector, and by means of a large farm loss due to over-capitalisation of the farm to reduce their income tax and profits from industrial investments. The ordinary farmer cannot compete with that sort of thing and it is evident that, coupled with the high price of land due to this unnatural demand, large tracts of our most expensive land are gradually having their latent fertility ruined by the faulty practices of men who do not understand the soil.

If there is any hope in the world it is the Henry George policy which is the nearest approach to practical Christianity, but please do not let readers of LAND & LIBERTY get the idea that subsidies benefit the farmer; they only add insult to injury.

Yours faithfully,

Lightwater, Surrey.

PETER J. GRANT.

[The figures in question were those given for the year 1950/51 by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons, February 11, namely, £22½ million in direct subsidies under the Agriculture Act and the subsidies on home-grown food estimated at £260¼ millions, the Minister adding that it was not possible to determine to what extent the latter includes a subsidy to the producers. Our correspondent should be reassured that we are far from casting aspersions on farmers, many of whom are hard put to it to make a living. Yet it is idle to deny that the *direct* subsidies (as for fertilisers and hill sheep and cattle, etc., under the Agricultural Act) are paid by the general taxpayer into the farmers' pockets; whether these subsidies remain there, or are reflected in higher prices or rents for land, is quite another matter. But the *food* subsidies, what are they but the difference between the guaranteed prices paid to farmers and the (lower) controlled prices at which the farm products are sold to the consumers? The Food Ministry acts as the go-between and the food subsidies are simply the loss that the Ministry incurs which, of course, must be made good by the body of taxpayers. But with this loss the farmers as such are not concerned; they are interested only in the prices that are paid to them. On the other hand, since the guaranteed prices paid for the produce are so fixed as to ensure a "reasonable return" to farmers on the least productive land in use, it is inescapable that there will be a return in excess of that on all the more productive lands; that is, for an equal expenditure of labour and capital. The more fertile the land, the better situated it is, the greater that bonus will be. The differential advantages of different lands will be greater than before. In other words, the rent of land is raised and those who capture or enjoy it gain that benefit as landlords or as privileged tenants. Other points in our correspondent's letter are discussed elsewhere.—Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.]