

Not a Catastrophe

IN THE Danish elections held April 21, the Henry George Justice party (Retsforbundet) suffered a setback. They had 12 members in the lower house of Parliament and lost 3, leaving 9 (the one member in the upper house was retained). Our realistic Danish friends are not deeply worried, and *Vejen Frem*, the weekly organ of the party, counselled that this setback was not a catastrophe. The party has lost seats before, only to rally more strongly at a succeeding election.

As an indication that the Justice party still has strength, The New York Times reported on May 3 that Erik Eriksen, who resigned after his government's defeat on April 21, would continue in office until the new Constitution was voted on, due largely to the support of the Justice party. The new Constitution was adopted on May 28. It is anticipated that this will help the Danish Georgists.

Merely a Setback

Dr. Viggo Starcke, the Justice party's leader, in a letter to Robert Clancy, explained the election upset as follows:

"The great progress previously made (2 seats in 1943, 3 in 1945, 6 in 1947 and 12 in 1950) was so great that consolidation of the new voters was difficult, and we were aware that many votes in 1950 were not real Justice party votes but votes against the old parties.

"We had a very hard campaign. All the parties and all the newspapers were united in furious attacks against us, mostly perfidious and false. We had no opportunity for defense or counter attacks because of lack of newspapers of our own. The protected industries had given enormous subsidies to the old parties, and of course the monopolies are afraid of us. There were very few crimes of which I personally was not accused.

"Within our own party there were mistakes. Some members spoke out on their own, proclaiming their different opinions in public, especially on foreign policy, thus creating confusion in the minds of many people. I had predicted that as a result of this confusion we would lose 50,000 votes. We lost 52,000.

Three Big Questions Remain

"Of course in life we have to expect setbacks. We could take setbacks in the past and we can take this, too. I dare say that no other party would have been able to take a barrage from the artillery of a united press without being able to answer back, as was our case, and not succumb. If we had been beaten with arguments that shook the foundations of our policy, that would have been very bad. But a setback resulting from suppression of truth, distortions and back-biting is only a setback, not a defeat.

"So long as the land question, the question of free trade and the question of taxation are not solved, it is impossible to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and housing shortage. So long as these evils are alive in our society, the Justice party will be neither superfluous nor idle."