

## German Estates Under Occupancy

One of the most drastic changes introduced so far in the Russian-occupied zone of Germany is the expropriation of all estates of more than 250 acres and their division among the peasants.

The German peasant is obliged in return for the land, to hand over to official agencies 40% of what he produces. The remainder may be retained to be disposed of in the "free market" or kept for personal use.

This will increase the number of landlords, thereby further establishing the idea of private property in land. The "rent" demanded is entirely arbitrary and in effect this "rent" is really a tax. Furthermore, this action on the part of the occupying power does not take into consideration the rights of the urban population to the land. While this procedure may have some temporary benefits, it in no wise attacks the fundamental evil of land monopoly and, therefore, cannot be considered the enlightened step that it appears to be.