

ters and more, simply and deftly, adds practical examples, and tells about various organizations devoted to this philosophy. These include the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade of which Mr. Toubeau is secretary general, the International Union in London, and the Henry George School in New York.

From France has also come the April-May-June 1963 issue of *Terre et Liberté*, a special number dedicated to Daudé-Bancel and edited by Mr. Toubeau. We are happy to learn that this fine paper will continue. Information may be obtained by writing to: Max Toubeau, 15 Rue de la Bourgoigne, Meudon (Seine et Oise), France.

Land Reform in the Far East

IF you had been a visitor on April 23rd at the Northwestern Visayan College's sky hall in the Province of Aklan in the Philippines you might have been surprised to find a group of distinguished persons discussing "Economic Progress through Land Reform." This Economic Reform Forum was held under auspices of the Henry George School and arranged by Romeo Y. Roquero, Executive Secretary.

Among the speakers were the President of Northwestern Visayan Colleges, Don Vicente Salas Reyes, who praised the efforts of the Forum; J. U. Montemayor, Dean of a law college and President of the Federation of Free Farmers; and Nito Doria, who represented the Henry George School.

Land reform is a burning issue in the Philippines where farmers live in extreme poverty and have at last tried to organize for enforcement of the Tenancy Law introduced by President Macapagal of the Philippines, after a land reform in 1955 failed to bring significant changes. This new law gives a tenant an option to become a lessee tenant instead of a sharehold tenant. The Philippine President, in an address in January, called the tenancy problem "the centuries-old tattoo of economic slavery and social degradation for the man who tills the farm." Farm laborers on plantations are poor and powerless; an attempt is being made by the FFF to organize these workers also, despite handicaps.

An important book about *Land Reform in Taiwan*, by Chen Cheng, Vice President and Premier of the island province, was reviewed in April in the Australian journal, *Progress*. The application of land reform took place in a peaceful, orderly process that protected the rights of all involved, yet kept the goal of land-to-the-tiller in mind. It began with reductions in rentals paid by farm tenants. This left more funds in the hands of tenants to make improvements with and gave them added incentive. Finally holdings were acquired from landlords and sold to those who formerly worked the plots. Compensation was by land bonds based on value.

Chen Cheng was appointed Governor of Taiwan Province in 1949 when morale was low. Farmers constituted three-fifths of the population, and more than two-thirds of farm families were tenants. Economic development could only take place through land reform. At present 80 per cent of the farmers own their farms.

The book deals effectively with the principles of Sun Yat Sen as its basis, and their relationship to the ideas of Henry George, John Stuart Mill and Adolf Damaschke. The stress is upon "equalization of land rights for both rural and urban lands." This concept leaves the thought that the primary function of taxing ground rents for public revenue in lieu of other taxes is to preserve equality of opportunity.