

George Recommended for Veterans' Land Problem

By Dr. Otto Juliusburger

Strehel Walton's letter, "Veterans Denied Access to Land They Rought For," in the October issue of the NEWS is very instructive and of great importance. Returning soldiers who are unable to procure land experience exasperation and disappointment. Similar experiences prevailed in Germany after the first World War. Every nation felt these conditions and the serious consequences which followed.

Dr. Adolf Damaschke, an adherent of Henry George and unforgettable leader of the former German Land Reform Movement, inaugurated, during the first World War, a movement to procure homes for veterans. Under the protection of land reform security, the returning soldiers were to be guaranteed property for cultivation or for living purposes. The movement for homesteads for soldiers awakened great enthusiasm in the German Army. However, the homecoming soldiers experienced only unexpected disappointments. They were affected by a deep embitterment, which poisoned their souls. The law which the Reichstag accepted concerning homesteads for soldiers, was never realized because of the power of egotistical, shortsighted, interested circles.

The large number of embittered soldiers served as fertile soil for the poisonous seed of National Socialism. The leaders of National Socialism won popular support by making all kinds of promises, which they never fulfilled. Hitler's law of inheritance of property was only a new edition of the ruinous old social agrarian entails. He prevented a healthy land reform supposedly in the interest of the German people. On the other hand, Hitler became the paid patron of the owners of landed property, whom he left in peace to do as

they liked. Such patronage generated the impulse to attack other nations, enslave them, and then rob them of their land.

The unsolved question of land reform in Germany presents the key to an understanding of the development and success of National Socialism. Furthermore, it explains the method followed by the party. The land question must be understood in order to interpret present-day European disorders. There must be a reasonable solution of the agrarian problem before Europe can regain its health. Henry George clearly predicted the source of danger to civilization. History has confirmed his predictions. The late Franz Oppenheimer, a follower of Henry George, recognized that the prevailing system of land ownership was the most dangerous enemy of Germany and of civilization itself.

Let us hope that mankind will learn a lesson from history and that Henry George will be recognized, by his fellow-countrymen and thus benefit the American nation and the entire world.
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