

Denmark in the Struggle for Freedom Today

“DENMARK has long been a social laboratory. Though less than half the size of Maine, it has fought longer against Germany and German influence and domination than any other country in Europe. It now provides progressive ideas for any home front against Nazism. With total war it cannot maintain its thousand-year-old independence physically, but how Denmark defends itself spiritually and even on the plane of force, how it contrives to foil and counteract Nazism at every social point, gives a special reason for watching the news from Denmark.”

So runs the heading on the news releases of the National America Denmark Association, and the news that leaks out of Denmark emphasizes that little country's devotion to its heritage of freedom. J. Christmas Moeller, a Danish Parliamentary leader escaped to England, states that while the Germans may compel the Danes to give in on material questions—there is little other choice—if the Germans make requests which really endanger the Danish soul, the Danish answer can be counted upon to be a decided No. A Premier has recently been elected in Denmark, in defiance of the Nazis—and the Danes were obstinate in retaining him despite heated controversy. Two Nazi journalists who had libelled Danish-Jewish citizens were sentenced by a Copenhagen court to 80 and 120 days of prison, respectively, and extremely heavy fines. The streets of Copenhagen are decidedly unsafe for Danish Nazis, and when they ask for police protection they are told to stay at home and not cause so much trouble.

That this spiritual resistance is effective is attested by the Nazi complaint that the Danes' "refined hatred" is more unbearable than the open sabotage in other occupied countries.

The Danish spirit comes from an ingrained tradition of freedom!

Georgeists in Denmark persist in their educational activities. The latest issue of their quarterly journal, *Grundskyld* ("Ground Dues," literally), to arrive here is that of November, 1941—and it will, unfortunately, probably be the last to arrive for some time, since mails between the United States and Denmark have been suspended. Grace Isabel Colbron reports that the November *Grundskyld* contains many useful and interesting articles on land values in Denmark and the condition of agriculture since the German occupation—which, of course, has to be handled with great care. Production has been greatly reduced and regulated; still the small farms come

off better than the large estates. And *Grundskyld* loses no opportunity to point out the advantage in every way of the "man on his own land" in contrast to the few large estates still to be found in Denmark—this in spite of the greater political "pull" which these estates now exercise. (In happier days it was the small holder who had the "pull," but things are different now.)

The Henry George School of Denmark is also continuing its work. It now publishes its own organ, *Studiekredsbadet* (Journal of the Study Circle). Thus our Danish friends are striving to carry on their work under adverse conditions.

Jakob Lange's last public speech, at the annual meeting of the Henry George Society in Copenhagen on September 28, stated clearly the principles of a free society and expressed hope for such a society after the war. His utterances typified the Danes' faith in freedom and perseverance in their ideals. Such faith and perseverance will one day be rewarded when Denmark is once more liberated.