

course on Social Science by giving a lecture on "A Christian Duty." There was an audience of 40 persons, of whom 15 are now following assiduously the weekly lessons on political economy.

#### A New Italian Periodical

We are indebted to Dr. N. Pulvirenti, Principal of the "Ethos" Institute of Milan, for the first copy of *Crogiolo* (the Crucible) via Mangilia, 3, Milan, and we wish every success to this new venture. The first number which is produced by cyclostyle is devoted to the publication of an article by Dr. N. Pulvirenti himself entitled "Economic Liberty and Social Justice" which formed an address made by the author to a meeting of the members of the Milan Centre. The subject is a general survey of Henry George's doctrine with special reference to the difficulties experienced in Italy to-day. In the course of his discussion of the land problem, Dr. Pulvirenti quotes official statistics which show up in all its horror the abject poverty that besets the Italian nation to-day as a result of the latifundia system. No less than 232,000 families live in shanties or in caves like troglodytes and over 1,078,000 families live at more than three to the room. In all, these people represent more than 11 per cent of the total population of the country.

Dr. Pulvirenti examines the various remedies proposed by the Italian Government. Only one is designed to deal specifically with the pressing land problem. It provides for the distribution of certain lands to the landless peasantry but because the holdings so created are too small to support the cultivators and their families, there is little improvement in conditions. Dr. Pulvirenti rejects that scheme of things and shows that the solution is to be found in the public collection of the economic rent of land. Only thus, he remarks, will political economy pass out of an ante-Copernican darkness as that in which astronomy floundered for 1,500 years and become a true science, founded upon justice and liberty and upheld by the truth.

#### Making Opinion in Norway

One of the ablest protagonists of land value taxation and free trade, and of the social libertarian philosophy bound up with that movement is Mr. Halfdan Hansen, a leading citizen of Bergen and head of a firm engaged in the building trade. He is a vice-president of our International Union. His scholarly pen is seldom idle, his revealing articles being taken up over and over again in the *Bergen Times*, to make one wish that in other countries there were prominent daily papers opening their columns so generously to the exposition of true liberal principles and policy. One of the other avenues well coursed by Mr. Hansen is the periodical *Fri Tanke* (Free Thought—that is, on the economic and sociological plane) with ten issues in each year, and in which the editor, Mr. Rusted, and his contributors make eloquent pleas for that state of society which will be based on equal liberty. Some of Mr. Hansen's articles are: "There is still enough for all—thoughts on starvation and social injustice," "On customs tariffs and other poverty-producing taxation," "Preventives of poverty and the 'welfare state,'" "The field of enterprise offered to man," "The labourer compelled to task work," "Land value taxation, the world's way to emancipation." Mr. Hansen's campaigning so steadfastly pursued gives point to the exhortation by the late Bolton Hall that no one devoted to a movement should ever find excuse for inactivity by saying, "I am only one man."

#### Conditions in Pakistan

Our correspondent in West Pakistan writes: "Pakistan is a new country—now six years old—and far from set in its political pattern. Its founders, Jinnah and Liaquat, were men of outstanding ability and conscience, but death and assassination prevented them from stabilizing the country. It seems that, unlike India, Pakistan was founded as a religious home and unit for Islam, and not on anti-British Raj propaganda.

"Although this means that the Pakistani is more friendly to the British than the Indian, it also reflects the strong core of opinion in the country which would uphold obsolete Islamic social conventions even where these prevent progress.

"It is yet to be seen whether the small group of intellectuals at present trying to build the country on lines akin to the democratic socialism of the West can hold the field. The third and, as we know, probably the most powerful social-economic group is that of the landlords. There is no middle-class, and thus landlordism is rife.

"The situation is like that of the baronial and feudal systems of Great Britain in the Middle Ages. The central government at Karachi is not all-powerful, and many policies which originate there are modified and diluted by the provincial governments. This, plus the graft and corruption which pervades much of the local life, makes many of the younger educated generation—the prototype middle class and professional man with no land behind him—wish for a form of dictatorship. Actually they envisage a period of benevolent despotism which would centralize power and order the country, followed by democracy and devolution of power. This is heady wine, an attempt to achieve in a few years what the western world achieved in 500 years. The wise man knows that they will most likely fail if this is tried, and the Egyptian example is there to show the price of failure.

"Financially the country started well with a boom in jute and cotton on the export market. That, however, has greatly decreased and foreign exchange is scarce. Tremendous efforts are being made to develop home industries but again time is the enemy, and the gap between those who have and those who have not increases daily.

"It would be for a much keener and more competent observer than myself even to guess at the future, but we hope for the best as Pakistan is our greatest friend in this part of the world and could be the stabilizing influence the Western powers need. The Americans have realized this and as you know they have recently switched their attachment from India to Pakistan."

#### A Great Danish Pioneer

We pay homage to the memory of J. L. Børner who died at the age of 85 on April 20th. To his widow, Signe Børner closely associated with him in a lifelong and distinguished service to the Henry George movement, we especially offer our sympathy in her bereavement, and equally so to the whole family who have followed in his footsteps in devotion to his ideals. He was the author of a number of books and pamphlets and of innumerable articles in the Danish press, commanding a pen that gave its instruction ever with a wonderful touch of humour. First "seeing the light" in 1897, he was one of those—and we think the last remaining—who gave new life and activity to the Henry George Union in 1902. He established a successful business in the timber trade and was widely travelled. Yet for the social philosophy he had embraced he scarcely ever missed an opportunity to preach it publicly, and he had few equals in the ability