

## WHOSE WAS THE VICTORY ?

IN assessing the task of tracing the life of Adolf Hitler and that of his movement, Mr. G. Büscher, of Zurich, in his book, *Hat Hitler Doch Gesiegt?* has undertaken something which, if it is to be done impartially and in such a manner as to place this man and this movement in their proper historical perspective, can probably not be done entirely satisfactory for at least 50 years. Few works of this kind even pretend to be impartial, for we are still far too near the memories and, indeed, the concrete evidence of what Hitler and National Socialism meant, to be able to contemplate the subject-matter of this book in the judicial spirit. Nevertheless, Mr. Büscher has made a brave try and, indeed, has gone further along the road to this object than many another, helped perhaps by the calmness and serenity of his Swiss background.

Hitler's life in Vienna before the first world war was decisive in moulding his mind and imprinting on it that ideology which bore such terrible fruit. He lived in a big city where the German working class found itself hard put to it to gain a living. It was natural, therefore, that he and his type should lend a ready ear to the teachings of Schönerer and Wolf, with their appeal to the most violent German nationalistic sentiments. This life as a poverty-stricken young man, often short of food and without shelter, in the Metropolis of the Empire, gave Hitler aptitudes which his political opponents of later years did not possess—intimate knowledge of the big city proletariat and a flair for putting words to the aspirations of that class.

It is not yet sufficiently realised how far the German Social Democrats misjudged those upon whose support they believed they could count—the working classes of the German cities. Yet the events of 1914 should have warned them; for while Socialists everywhere proclaimed for years their devotion to the ideals of international peace, the war fever and the hottest Nationalist ardour were to be found at the outbreak of the first world war in the German cities which had sent Social Democrat Deputies to the Reichstag for years.

The Socialists were blind to this, but Hitler was not. He realised that the German cities—and, therefore, Germany—could be carried by a synthesis of Socialism and Nationalism. He had no love for the Nationalism of big business and the aristocracy, since his early upbringing had given him no reason to admire their methods. Furthermore, both Socialists and Nationalists were tainted with failure; the Nationalists had failed in the first world war and the Socialists had brought Germany to degradation and ruin after it.

In tracing this familiar story, Herr Büscher has put us in his debt by showing us the true conclusion which we should draw from this great tragic drama. For he shows unmistakably that the hysteria and malaise of great cities which have been the breeding-ground of revolutions and war time and again since the French Revolution, is due to the growth of land monopoly and speculation, which thrives on the continuous rise in land values caused by the growth of population in urban centres. As this population grows, so the price of land rises and carries rents with it. It is thus that slums make their appearance, and the hapless city dweller finds himself the victim of an oppression whose demands upon him are insatiable. What wonder, then, that in his misery he turns to any quack who purports to offer him a way of escape?

In 1789, the people of Paris, the first of the big urban

centres of the Continent, had turned to revolution to free themselves of their yoke; they believed that a bloodbath of aristocrats and adherence to a slogan—"Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity"—would bring their deliverance. In the 19th century the gospel of Karl Marx spread like wildfire through the cities of Germany, which grew with the expansion of German industry and commerce. In the 20th century the city dweller has sought relief from his burdens by turning to Fascist Nationalism and Communism. The consequences of all these movements have not been what their authors and supporters expected, for in each case the diagnosis has been wrong.

Mr. Büscher will have rendered a great service if at last he can guide those who have the direction of the destinies of the world, to the true cause of our present sorrows. The time is short, the danger is almost universal, the evil is widespread and deep and it seems probable that if this chance is neglected, the new storms, of which ominous portents have already appeared, may sweep away our civilisation for ever. We can only hope that the peoples of the world will at last eliminate land speculation and stop the private appropriation of the values which the public themselves create.

W. G. CRAUFORD.

## F. FOLKE

We deeply regret to announce the death, on May 15th, of Mr. F. Folke, whose name and fame in the Henry George cause spread far beyond the shores of his native Denmark. He will be remembered as one who had the highest qualities of statesmanship combined with a strong and sweet personality, and the intellectual and spiritual urge which marked him out among the accepted leaders of men. For twenty-three years he held the post as President of the Danish Henry George League and was for a time until his death the Editor of its journal, *Grundskyld*. He contributed much to the literature of the Movement and always with a fine and scholarly pen. We recall in particular the able statement on "Ancient Greece and Modern Europe," which, appearing during the war in a Danish engineering journal, was reprinted in *LAND & LIBERTY* and made one of the most striking chapters in the symposium we published, entitled, *How the German Republic Fell*, a book which now, unfortunately is out of print. Mr. Folke was closely associated with the work of the International Union not only by his attendance at its Conferences, but also in the large correspondence he undertook. The magnificent success of the Conference in Copenhagen in 1926 was due to his energies and organising ability, together with the influence he had among the powers that be. He stood high in his own profession as an engineer and made renown for himself as the Chief of the Fire Department in Frederiksberg. In politics he was a member of the Danish Radical Party and his leadership there in association with such men as Sophus Berthelsen, Jakob E. Lange and Villads Christensen, helped to formulate the policies implemented in the Acts of 1922 and 1926, which instituted the taxation and rating of land values. He filled a number of offices in the public affairs of Denmark, especially as a member of the Central Valuation Department. Georgeists everywhere pay tribute to his memory. The funeral was largely attended, and there Mr. Bue Bjørner laid a wreath in the name of the International Union.

3s. 6d. A PERPLEXED PHILOSOPHER. Ethics of the land question and examination of Herbert Spencer's recantation of his earlier declarations. By Henry George.