

experience in connection with his tenure of office in the Kiangsi Provincial Government. Both Smedley's *China's Red Army Marches* (1934) and Yakhontoff's *Chinese Soviets* (1934) are accounts by those affiliated with the Communists. The former is highly sentimental and impressionistic, while the latter is more scholarly and cool in presentation. The East Asiatic Economic Investigation Bureau has also issued a confidential report on the same subject called *Studies on the Chinese Soviet Movement*, in 1934, in the Japanese language."

HOLLAND

A report submitted at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union gives the following account of the recent progress of the movement in Holland:—

In 1931 a new and purely Georgeist Party was founded in Groningen named "Recht en Vrijheid" (Right and Freedom), and immediately after its foundation began to take part in the political struggle. It was successful, for directly it conquered a seat in the Town Council of Groningen. Immediately afterwards one proceeded to publishing a weekly entitled *Recht en Vrijheid*, which has regularly appeared four years now, gradually extending its number of readers all over the country.

There is in Holland not any political party willing to hear anything about land value taxation. The Liberal and Labour Parties are as hostile towards us as the Conservatives. The whole Press, no matter what principles, ignores our action and propaganda. With Mr Kolthek's many years' political and journalistic training all difficulties are defied and gradually conquered. The following facts and figures illustrate this.

Already in 1929 Mr Kolthek provided a Dutch translation of *Protection or Free Trade*, and since the existence of *Recht en Vrijheid* three propaganda pamphlets have been written by him, making known the Georgeist principles throughout the country. He has in hand quite a new translation of *Progress and Poverty* and of *The Science of Political Economy*.

With the election for the Town Council in 1931 "Recht en Vrijheid" obtained 907 votes—just sufficient to conquer one seat, because 75 per cent of the electoral divisor was sufficient at the time. This seat is occupied by Mr Kolthek.

In 1933 the Party participated in the election for Parliament. It did so exclusively for propaganda purposes, for it did not possess sufficient money for an energetic election campaign. Yet it secured 4,500 votes; and propaganda was continued both orally and in writing.

In April, 1933, "Recht en Vrijheid" again participated in the election for the Provincial Legislature of Groningen. It obtained 4,676 votes in that province, and from that time Mr Kolthek has also been its representative in the Provincial Legislature.

In June, 1935, a new Town Council was elected in Groningen, and then "Recht en Vrijheid" obtained 6,606 votes in the town only, thus getting 5 seats out of 39.

These are the visible results of four years' labouring in restricted surroundings. For it is true "Recht en Vrijheid" has its followers spread all over the country continually increasing in number, but they are still too little consolidated for carrying on an energetic national campaign.

Yet it is necessary that the action should be extended and continued in the spirit as up till now. To be sure, proofs have been furnished that when capable and suitable men take the matter in hand, conditions in Holland

make a powerful Georgeist Party possible. And that such a Party is desirable is self-evident.

As everywhere, it also appears in Holland that Henry George possessed a prophetic view. Social relations are fully developing as predicted by him. Further political and economic development is getting more and more impossible. Technical development is getting disastrous for mankind because the distribution of wealth on the basis of present-day landed property is creating an ever increasing disparity among men. We already experience that for all sorts of operations such as digging canals, cultivating the soil, men, are eliminated, and unemployed labourers engaged who have to toil for starvation wages. The indirect taxes, necessary on account of high public expenditure for prisons, military purposes, lunatic asylums, and payment of interest on increasing national debts, undermine the purchasing power of the masses in such a way that the producing and trading middle class is coming down more and more, and the number of bankruptcies getting larger every year.

The Liberal and Democratic Parties in Holland are more and more smothered and conquered by Fascists and Communists. The Christian and Conservative Parties are losing influence more and more. The revolutionaries of Right and Left are gaining ground, but their profit is rather the result of the despair of the masses than of a revolutionary change in the minds of the people in their favour. Therefore their profit will be only temporary.

Under the circumstances there are no doubt everywhere favourable opportunities for our Georgeist Party with its plain and clear programme. This appears so from all that has been communicated about its development and success in a limited part of the country, where its influence is already great.

Soon, however, our Party will have to face an enormous campaign which, when we are able to carry it on with the necessary strength and energy, may effect considerable progress. In Holland general elections for Parliament are to be held shortly,—at the latest in the spring of 1937, but probably earlier than that. The relations between Government and Parliament are very strained. Recently the Government resigned because the majority of Parliament refused to approve of its general politics. It is true the Government managed to maintain itself but its position has consequently weakened. In a following conflict, which so to speak may come at any day, Parliament will no doubt be dissolved and general elections will have to take place.

This campaign which we are obliged to face is above our own power and especially above our financial strength; for we cannot take part in the election campaign for the sake of propaganda again as we did in 1933. The Dutch Ballot Act has been revised lately and we will have to pay a deposit of £600 if we want to compete for seats in Parliament. This deposit will be repaid to us if our Party polls 0.75 per cent of the valid votes cast in the whole country. It will not be difficult to get that number of votes provided that we can dispose of a suitable fund for the election campaign. But such a fund must contain at least £650. To fight this battle our Party must be in possession of at least £1,250. We are sure not only to get 0.75 per cent of the valid votes, but more than 1 per cent of them and secure a seat in Parliament. Therefore we appeal to the Georgeists of the whole world for help. And this we are doing with frankness, for we ourselves have made continually great sacrifices during the past four years as Georgeists are doing everywhere.

If we succeed in securing one or more seats in Parliament, there will be handed in an initiative Bill to

introduce Land Value Taxation in Holland. Our Dutch arrangements allow a single Member of Parliament to introduce such a Bill. That will be our great chance. Then our principle will be spoken of in every corner of our little country—in every hut and in every palace. Then it will be compared with other principles, and what is still more important, it will be discussed in the highest legislative assembly of our kingdom.

AN ISLAND PARADISE

Under the title "The Paradise of the Tasman" Hubert Lyman Clark gives an account in the *National Geographic Magazine* (Washington, D.C., July, 1935) of an island which puts into operation an approximation to the ideas of Henry George.

On Lord Howe Island, 360 miles east of Australia, there is no problem of poverty; everyone has a home and an income—although no one need work more than a couple of hours a week. This tiny bit of land, seven miles long and a mile and a half wide, provides practically all the "florists' palms" which decorate hotels, churches, steamships and homes all over the world. The income from the sale of palm seed—which is a public monopoly—maintains the entire population in a unique communal life of unusual charm.

Residents of Lord Howe are divided into "participants" and "non-participants." A participant is one who shares in the annual division of the island's income from palm seeds. To be a participant one must be a native-born islander, or else married to an islander, and a resident of 10 years.

No one owns any land; the whole island belongs to the people. The Board of Control assigns land in accordance with the needs and desires of the islanders. Land may pass from one generation to another, as long as it is occupied and used, but it cannot be sold.

If a young man wishes to marry and establish his own home, he notifies the Board of Control, which assigns him a block of land on which to build a home and use for gardens or pasturage.

The taxation system is unique. Non-islanders who stay for long periods must contribute £5 per annum to the island's funds. Participants in the palm-seed industry pay no taxes on property, but those who receive an income from any other source are taxed by the reduction of one share in eight of their holdings in the communal palm-seed industry for all income over £24. This system helps to equalize the incomes of all islanders, and thus prevent any development of classes who might be called rich or poor.

All males 21 years of age have 25 shares in the allotment of income. Women of like age have 10 shares, but on marriage their holding is increased to 25 shares. A married couple will thus have 50 shares when starting their home. For each child born to them they receive 10 additional shares, with a maximum of 35 shares for children. Upon reaching the age of 31, married islanders, male and female, receive an additional 25 shares each. If a participant dies or leaves the island for six months, his shares lapse, but a former participant who returns to the island may participate once more after residing two months for every year of absence.

There are no unemployed nor overemployed. Some have finer homes than others, but the difference rests more on the diversity of ambition and taste than on opportunity.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I bequeath (free of duty) to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Limited, the sum of £.....

LORD SNOWDEN'S MESSAGE

In a letter to the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy regretting his inability to attend the Henry George Congress in New York, Viscount Snowden writes:—

There never was a time when the need was greater than it is to-day for the application of the philosophy and principles of Henry George to the economic and political conditions which are scourging the whole world.

The root cause of world's economic distress is surely obvious to every man who has eyes to see and a brain to understand. So long as land is a monopoly, and men are denied free access to it to apply their labour to its uses, poverty and unemployment will exist. When the land monopolists do permit the use of land they do so on terms which extort its full economic value.

Speaking of England particularly, there never was a time when land values were increasing so rapidly, and it is not an unrelated fact that for the last few years we have had the largest volume of unemployment in our history.

At the time I write Europe is trembling on the brink of an Imperialist War, the magnitude and consequences of which no man can calculate. The root cause of this impending conflict is land acquisition for the purpose of alien exploitation. All the diabolical machinery of modern warfare is to be employed to crush the independence of a defenceless State and to appropriate its land.

In its saner moments every country admits the ruin which is being inflicted on world trade by Protection and other methods of artificially created hindrances to the free flow of Commerce; but selfish interests and a perverted nationalism keep the nations in economic bondage.

Great Britain's departure from Free Trade has been a disaster not only to herself but to the world at large. We no longer can set an example to the world of the advantages of a free trade policy. Our Protectionist policy is corrupting the political life of the country and creating vested interests at the expense of the community.

Permanent Peace can only be established when men and nations have realized that natural resources should be a common heritage, and used for the good of all mankind. It is to inculcate this fundamental truth that your Congress is meeting, and I hope the day is not far distant when it will be universally appreciated; and then will be the age of Freedom based on Eternal Justice.

ERNEST G. GEOGHEGAN

By the death of Mr Ernest G. Geoghegan at the King George V Hospital, Malta, on 5th September, the movement for the taxation of land values loses an indefatigable and able protagonist. He had lived in Malta for 40 years, where he carried on the business of mineral water manufacturer, and was the pioneer of the land reform movement in that country. He contributed profusely to the Maltese Press, and took every opportunity of impressing upon the public and the Government the urgency of dealing with the land question. Many co-workers enjoyed the opportunity of making his acquaintance at the International Conference in Edinburgh to which he contributed a paper entitled "The Perfect Tax" reprinted in the volume of *Conference Papers*.

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