

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HUNGARY

Describing Hungary as the last surviving feudal country in Europe a special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* (14th April) says: "Land hunger in Hungary was always great, and in the post-war period it has been an acute problem." Out of a total population of 8,800,000 there are 3,000,000 landless peasants. "At the same time there are landlords with estates of hundreds of thousands of acres: Prince Paul Esterhazy owns 440,000. Fifty per cent of the land is in properties of less than 200 acres, 25 per cent in estates of 200 to 2,000 acres, and the remaining 25 per cent in estates of more than 2,000 acres."

The Agrarian Party has become the strongest opposition group in Parliament. Recently the grievances of the peasants have been taken up by Nazi agitators who point out that about one-half per cent of the population enjoy 20 per cent of the national income, and draw attention to the low level of production on the large estates and the unequal distribution of taxation. "The Nazis further argue that the electoral system in Hungary is such that Parliament is filled with persons owning over 1,000 acres or captains of industry, so that it will always prevent any equitable land reform."

The Budapest correspondent of *The Times* (5th September) states that the Prime Minister, Dr Imredy, has announced a scheme of land reform. "Under the new law it will be possible compulsorily to break up entailed properties above 400 acres, and other estates exceeding 700 acres into small holdings for lease, and further measures are envisaged to deal with the housing of labourers and landowners' servants. The settlement of agricultural debts is also to be proceeded with, so that all but about 4 per cent of mortgaged property which enjoys legal protection will be redeemed at once."

GERMANY

The latest information with regard to the distribution of land in Germany is that published in the Statistical Year Book for 1936. The figures are based on the census of June 1933 showing the number of farm holdings from half a hectare (say an acre and a half) upwards. These figures do not include the Saar territory. The classification is masked by the fact that the figures relate to the number of holdings, not the number of owners. As one person can have, and often has, several farms or estates, the number of owners is in fact somewhat less than the number of holdings. Subject to that consideration (which intensifies the unequal distribution) the following table reveals what is the position in regard to land holdings in Germany.

Classification Hectares	Number of Holdings	Area in Hectares Agricultural Land and Forests	Area in Hectares Agricultural Land Only
0.5 to 5	1,621,721	3,518,500	3,240,700
5 to 20	1,069,726	10,629,700	9,226,000
20 to 50	267,094	7,948,600	6,274,700
50 to 100	54,491	3,618,700	2,571,700
Over 100	33,843	15,709,200	5,310,600
	3,046,875	41,424,700	26,623,700

Of these holdings 3,486 belonged to the State or local communities with total area of 5,173,531 hectares, of which 1,424 holdings were woods and forests of total area 4,523,225 hectares. By the figures, these are all large holdings, and can fairly be included in the classification "over 100 hectares."

Eliminating these holdings in possession of the State

and the communities, making a shorter classification, and converting hectares into the more familiar acres, we get the following picture of the distribution:

Classification	Number	Acreage	Average Area
1½ to 59 acres	2,691,447	34,946,050	13 acres
59 to 247 "	321,585	28,571,230	88 "
Over 247 "	29,357	26,023,100	886 "
	3,042,389	89,540,380	

Thus, one per cent of the holdings covered 29 per cent of the surface; 10 per cent covered 32 per cent and 90 per cent covered 39 per cent. A still shorter classification shows that one-ninth of the holdings accounted for three-fifths of the area, leaving two-fifths of the area representing eight-ninths of the holdings.

It is doubtful if there has been any material change in this distribution since 1933. The tenure has been altered in the transformation of certain of the smaller farms (up to 125 acres) into hereditary farms that cannot be sold or mortgaged; and, with respect to the large estates, the abolition of entail. In July last when the entail was abolished, a system of loans and grants for the agricultural population was decreed, in order to put a stop to the flight from the land. Marriage loans averaging 600 marks were turned into presents for recipients who remain on the land for 10 years, and offers of various interest-free loans were made. This may have enabled the smaller peasants to purchase land from the bigger estates freed from the entail—a form of State-aided land purchase raising land prices.

DENMARK

A handsomely produced new edition of *Progress and Poverty*, translation by Jakob E. Lange, has been published by the Copenhagen House, "Nyt Nordisk Forlag—Ardold Busck," bringing the quantity of editions (five) issued in Denmark to 10,500. It is a Danish record for a work of this sort. The book is on sale at the price of 3 crowns, a remarkably low price for the high quality of paper, printing and binding; and in the production, Mr J. L. Bjorner has taken a special interest. The frontispiece is a picture of the bust of Henry George by the Danish Sculptor Carl Rohl-Smith. The "dust cover" is particularly attractive, adding to the advertisement with a display of the actual title pages of the book in Hungarian, Spanish, Chinese, Bulgarian, Dutch and Finnish (which editions were borrowed for the purpose from the library of the United Committee). Accompanying the new edition, for the information of reviewers, are two brief and yet succinct outlines of the message of the book and of Henry George's social philosophy. The new edition comes at the right time, with the previous edition wholly sold out in the demand created by the students of the ever-expanding classes of the "Ecotechnical High School" established in Denmark on the lines of the Henry George School of Social Science.

HOLLAND

The new Dutch translation and edition of *Progress and Poverty*, made by Councillor H. Kolthek, is announced in a special supplement to the Journal, *Ons Erfdeel*, published in Gronigen. The price of the book in paper covers is 2.90 guilders, and cloth bound, 3.90. It is a work on which Mr Kolthek has been engaged since the International Conference in London, 1936, when the late Charles O'Connor Hennessy, impressed by the importance of a new Dutch edition especially for the sake of promoting the Henry George School of Social