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General Election in Denmark

On August 8 the Danish Government, the Social Democrats in control, was defeated on its proposals to deal with the economic situation and the financing of military defence which involved severe import restrictions, a compulsory loan, heavier tax on higher incomes and increased excise on alcohol other than beer, on tobacco and other consumption. The Government fell and a General Election took place on September 5. The result of the election is as follows: The Social Democrats—59, gaining 2 seats; the Moderate Liberals, called "Agrarians" in the English Press—32, losing 17 seats; the Conservative Popular Party—27, gaining 10 seats; the Radical Liberals—12, gaining 2 seats; Retsforbundet (the League for Justice and Rights), named the "Georgeists" and sometimes the "Single-Taxers" in the English Press—12, gaining 6 seats and therefore doubling their representation; the Communists—7, losing 2 seats. On another page we give these results in greater detail.

The Justice League put up candidates in all the constituencies and was therefore able to conduct a nationwide campaign for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, for the remission of taxation on trade and industry and the abolition as speedily as possible of the controls and restrictions, and the regimentation that goes by the name of the "planned economy." Not without envy we welcome the signal success it has enjoyed. Elsewhere we give a sketch of its growth to its present influential position.

Land Monopoly in the Philippines

The following significant information was given in a MANCHESTER GUARDIAN leader, September 1.

The Hukbalahups, in the Philippines, have made their most lively sortie since the end of the war. There has been a skirmish only twenty-five miles from Manila. This is disappointing news because it had been reported that the Hukbalahups were dwindling. These rather tongue-twisting rebels form a movement which is in part plain Communist and in part a natural revolt of peasants against the exactions of their landlords. It is hardly surprising that the Filipino peasant should be restive, since the Filipino landlords, especially the landlords of Central Luzon, are unusually oppressive. There have been disturbances ever since the middle of the nineteenth century when trouble began on the huge Church estates; and there were mass (though brief) risings in 1923, in 1931, and again in 1935. This revolt of indigenous peasants against a Hispanic landlord class was rather like that of Pancho Villa in Mexico thirty years ago. The war complicated the struggle. The Communists

came on the scene. Many of the landlords became collaborators of the Japanese; and the peasants, in fighting them, were reinforced by Communists and Nationalists. Out of this new impetus to agrarian revolt came the birth of the Hukbalahup movement, which was founded in 1942, originally as a resistance movement against the Japanese. The appeal of the Huks to the people was simple: it was a moratorium on all rent payments. Over some areas the Huks established a rudimentary government. The struggle thus begun has been continued since the liberation of the Philippines. For a time there was a private civil war between the Huks and the private armies raised by the landlords: the Government looked on. Then, with the election of President Roxas in 1946, himself a large landowner, the Government began an offensive against the Huks. His successor, President Quirino, after an attempt to come to terms with the Huk leaders (who still trailed some clouds of glory for their anti-Japanese exploits), has continued the counter-offensive.

Playing into Communist Hands

The *Manchester Guardian* leader proceeded to say:

Taken by itself, the agrarian rebellion has much to commend it, for it is directed against abuses which are both heavy and archaic. Unfortunately the rebellion has been taken charge of completely by the Communists. It is manipulated for Communist policy. Luis Taruc, the Huk leader, has said that in case of war he would side with the Soviet Union, which "represents the cause of democracy, peace and progress in the world," against the United States, which "represents imperialist aggression, war making and Fascist tendencies." The present outbreak of the Huks may be meant as a reply to the despatch of Filipino troops to Korea. Their activities will have to be watched more closely. The Philippines are sickening rapidly. The trouble, of course, is that land reform was not pushed through in the days when the Americans had power. Actually the gap between landlords and peasants widened during the American period; the great landlords got into the habit of staying in Manila rather than on their estates, and squeezed their tenants to pay for their increased cost of living. During the war the Americans used to think that the British had been blind and silly in their administration of their Asian dependencies, but at least in some provinces of India the Government had started off land legislation which has saved the new India from too much agrarian tension. The man who began the right policy in the Philippines was President Quezon, whose stature to-day