

POLAND

(From the *Manchester Guardian*, 13th November.)

POLAND is chiefly ruled by a clique of army officers, the so-called "Colonels." But she is a peasant country, and since Pilsudski's death—Pilsudski could talk to the Polish peasants as no one else could—there is an abyss between the peasant masses and the Government. The Polish peasants no longer see anyone in power of whom they can say, as they could of Pilsudski, "He understands us." The misery of the poorer rural population is frightful; nothing like it is known in Western Europe except in the poorer parts of Spain. There is a large class of landed gentry with estates of prodigious size. There is great land hunger. Poland has also been severely hit by the general economic crisis, and to crown everything she carries an immense burden of armaments, a burden made unavoidable by her geographical position.

The peasant movement will surely gather force, but it does not look as though the "Colonels" would give way without a struggle. A struggle would be a serious matter in any case, but it becomes a terrible danger with a rearméd Germany looking on and watching for an opportunity to interfere. Poland has nothing to fear from Russia and although there is a strong Communist mood amongst both industrial and agricultural workers in Poland, the Communist movement is not very strong—in any case, not so strong that it cannot be dealt with by the Polish authorities. The peasant movement that is gathering force against the Government is democratic rather than Communistic. But any kind of popular rebellion will easily pass for Communistic nowadays, and Germany will find a ready excuse for not tolerating "Bolshevism" on her borders. Poland's situation is precarious enough in any case, but internal strife will expose her to mortal danger. She is one of the keystones of the European peace. Her mere existence as an independent State makes war between Germany and Russia impossible. A strong, united and independent Poland is in the interest of all.

U.S.A.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 11, Park Place, New York City, which exists to promote the publication and circulation of Henry George's works and allied literature, has an interesting report in the latest issue of *Land and Freedom*. Its books are displayed and on sale in 460 bookshops. One of the first acts of the Foundation, when it produced the new American edition of *Progress and Poverty*, was to present a copy of the book free to libraries throughout the country. Since then new libraries have been opened and the ground is being gone over again to ascertain whether libraries require fresh copies to replace those that have been worn or discarded. The Henry George School of Social Science is also canvassing the libraries to display a poster announcing its correspondence course.

A Californian correspondent of the Foundation writes that he recently found and purchased at a second-hand store in Los Angeles a Business Directory of San Francisco 1877-78 which lists: Henry George, inspector of gas meters, 531 Mission, as well as many of his intimates—names that are familiar to the readers of the *Life of Henry George*.

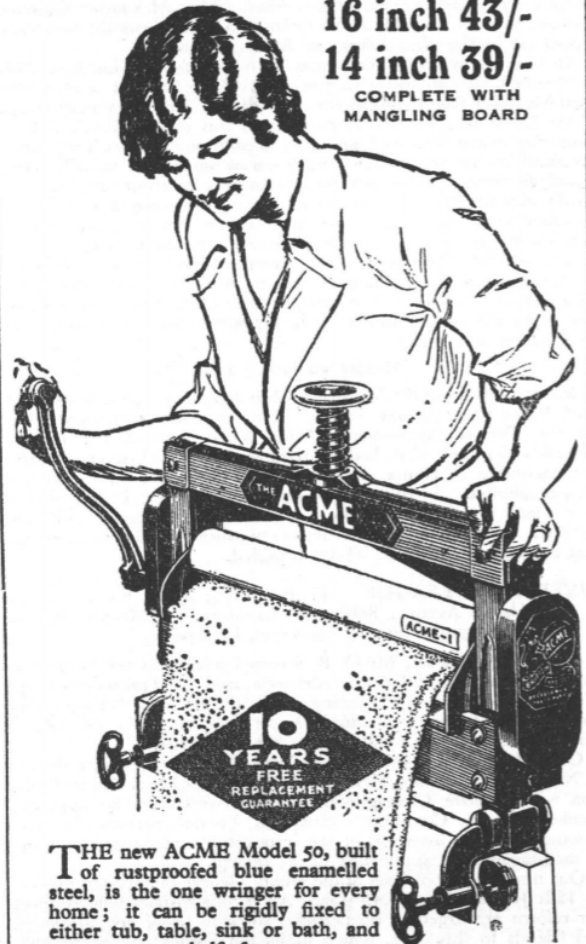
As we go to press we have the gratifying news from Prof. Matheu Alonso, whose absence along with that of Mr Baldomero Argente was so deeply regretted at our International Conference in 1936, that he is well and active in Tarragona, Catalonia.

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