

“We Must Give the People Land and Liberty”

Dr. Viggo Starcke's Lecture Tour of North America

Various correspondents have given their impressions of the visit of Dr. Viggo Starcke, parliamentary leader of the Danish Justice Party, to the North American continent where he carried out a two-months far-flung lecture campaign organized by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and took part in many other public activities.

Miss V. G. Peterson writes: “Dr. Starcke arrived in the United States on March 30 and departed on June 5 leaving behind him a host of new made friends and admirers. The purpose of his visit was to give addresses on land value taxation and free trade. His first speech was in Boston on April 2. From there he proceeded to Ottawa and Montreal. After a return to New York he left there on April 17 to visit Dayton, Columbus and Springfield in Ohio; then to Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles; and he was back in New York to speak at the banquet at which the publication of the new 75th anniversary edition of *Progress and Poverty* was celebrated.

“During his American tour Dr. Starcke spoke over fourteen radio stations and appeared seven times on television. He lectured in twelve universities and colleges and in addition addressed thirty-two clubs and public meetings. Shortly before his departure home, he visited Washington D.C. where he addressed the Co-operative Forum and spoke with members of the U.S.A. Government

“In his many speeches he has come out boldly for free trade, pointing to the fact that in Denmark they have the lowest tariffs in Western Europe and the highest standard of living in that part of the world. These facts, he believes, are related. The high standard of living in the United States, he declared, is undoubtedly due in large part to the immense free trade area created by the forty-eight states.

“Communists are like mosquitoes, Dr. Starcke says. The swamps in which they breed are the slums which infest our cities. Get rid of slums and you get rid of communists. Land value taxation, he has pointed out time and time again, is the best way to eliminate slums that free man has at his disposal.

“On the international level Dr. Starcke has repeatedly pointed out that ‘In the underdeveloped countries, the communists offer land but no liberty. The Democracies offer liberty, and will supply weapons to fight with, but they offer no land, and therefore the populations of these countries have nothing to fight for. We must give them land *and* liberty. The land question is everywhere the bottom question, and in the underdeveloped countries its immediate solution can mean the difference between survival and non-survival for the free world.’”

From Miss Ruth Weddel, secretary of the Society for the Advancement of George Economics, Montreal: “Dr. Starcke arrived in Montreal by plane on April 8 and was met by Dr. Theodor Schultz, the Danish Consul, Miss Strehel Walton, director of the Montreal H. G. School, and Louis Crepeau, president of the Montreal S.A.G.E. A luncheon was given in his honour by Mr. Crepeau and a press conference followed. His main speaking engagement was held at the Mechanics Institute that evening. Fortunately we had our tape-recorder in action and now we have a record which we have played over many times to our constant pleasure and profit. On

April 9 Dr. Starcke spoke by radio to his own people in Denmark from one of our Canadian stations, and in the evening there was a dinner at the Danish consulate. The visit concluded on the 9th with a gathering at which he delighted everyone by giving his memorable talk, ‘Our Daily Bread.’ From the moment of the first meeting at the airport to this ‘good-bye’ gathering Dr. Starcke established for himself a place in the hearts of all who met him and heard him speak.”

From Mr. J. Rupert Mason: “Dr. Starcke had a very busy three days here in San Francisco before he flew to Los Angeles. His engagements included those at the Commonwealth Club of California, Mills College, the San Francisco State College, the World Affairs Council, Stanford University. He spoke over two radio stations, KSFO and KPFA. The visit concluded with the banquet on May 15 which had been sponsored by some twenty-five leading public men. Typical of comments overheard was one by a lady at the World Affairs Council. She said she had been a faithful attendant at previous World Affairs Council programmes which are held weekly at the Hotel Fairmont, but never before had she heard such enthusiastic and prolonged applause as that given to Dr. Starcke.”

PROGRESS AND POVERTY

New De-Luxe Edition Celebrating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary

Two hundred and forty-seven persons attended the banquet in the Town Hall, New York, on May 15, to celebrate the publication on that day of the new *de-luxe* edition of *Progress and Poverty* (price \$5 published by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation). Seated at the speakers' table were Mr. Otto K. Dorn, who introduced the toastmaster, Mr. Ezra Cohen; Mr. Lawson Purdy, former president of the New York Department of Taxes and Assessments; Dr. Viggo Starcke, from Denmark; Mr. John Fall, chief of the Economics Division of the New York Public Library; Miss V. G. Peterson, Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and Mr. Robert Clancy, executive director of the Henry George School of Social Science, the dinner being held under the joint auspices of the Foundation and the School. After the dinner an additional 50 persons came in to hear the speeches. The toastmaster, having welcomed everybody, described briefly the history of the Foundation and of the School, and he introduced each speaker in turn.

Mr. Lawson Purdy formally placed the first copy of the new edition in the hands of Mr. John Fall by way of presenting it to the New York Public Library, who accepted it on behalf of the library and spoke of the considerable collection of memorabilia of Henry George that was housed there. As he spoke, Mr. Purdy showed the 25 cent paper-bound copy of the book that he had bought at a news-stand in New York seventy odd years ago; the reading of the book had changed his thinking and the course of his life; he recalled his friendship with George and his participation in the historic campaigns.

Chief speaker of the evening was Dr. Viggo Starcke who had a most enthusiastic reception. Asking “what is freedom, what is liberty” he expanded his theme to challenge the democracies to give land *and* liberty and thus outwit the communists who will “give land,” so they