

is seen more clearly than in his lifetime. He started a land reform programme to break up the large estates. Unfortunately it was interrupted by the war. The way to fight Communism in the Philippines is by reform of this kind. It can drain off support from the Huk leaders. In a sense the situation in the Philippines is simpler than in Malaya or in Indo-China, for it is still not too late to combat Communism by reforms rather than by arms.

The Still Unlearnt Lesson

Professor David Mitrany, formerly of Harvard and of Princeton, had an illuminating article on "Communism, the Land and the Peasants" in the *Manchester Guardian*, August 15. We take leave to give these extracts:—

"From 1917 in Russia to 1949 in China Communism has ridden to victory on the back of discontented peasantry; in no instance has it come near to victory in industrial proletarian countries. But while this shows that where it happened the peasants were ripe for revolt it does not show that they were inclined to Communism. In Eastern Europe, at any rate, the evidence was all the other way, for in the inter-war years a strong Peasant movement had grown up and become the chief political force in all the countries of that region. After 1945 the new regimes in Eastern Europe, under Soviet guidance, destroyed the political Peasant movement, but at the same time hastily divided the land among the mass of poor peasants, as did the Soviet military authorities in the Eastern zone of Germany, though that was bound to disorganise for a time the supply of food.

"The land problem is, if anything, more acute in the countries of Asia than it had ever been even in Eastern Europe. When opening the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with Unesco, in the spring of last year, Mr. Nehru told them that 'the agrarian problem is naturally the most important problem in Asia, and a body connected with Unesco must have full appreciation of this.' It might have seemed a peculiar thing to say on such an occasion were it not for the neglect of the matter by Western students and politicians.

"It was not till the collapse in China that the West began to grasp what is the core of the social problem in the Eastern countries. At the inaugural meeting of the new Trade Union International last December Mr. Walter Reuther, vice-president of the C.I.O., confessed that 'we should have known that the democratic fight in China was to be won not on the battlefields but in the ricefields.'

"In spite of the disappointments that must follow for the peasants from a Communist victory they have rarely been shown what better prospect might come with Western influence. Western policy has indeed run into a dilemma which is rooted in its traditional economic and liberal outlook. Its liberalism has championed the political independence of peoples and then has left them, because of its respect for that independence, to govern themselves as best they could. Too often the effect has been a display of democratic forms without the content of a democratic life.

"How is the West to secure such social performance when the very meaning of Western liberal policy is to withdraw from the scene of action as soon as a native regime has been installed? However eager the people may have been for independence, no native Government can survive unless independence goes hand-in-hand with land reform and better government. A bit of land and decent government are the two things which the peasants

want and understand. Unless it can influence such reforms Western policy, with all its liberal intentions and liberal restraint, will not arrest the cycle of nationally independent but politically frayed and socially inadequate regimes toppling over one after another under Communist revolutionary pressure."

Great Possessions

Reading an item like the following, it will naturally occur to the minds of many to ask—however did he or his family become possessed of so much territory? It is a matter of so much significance that it ought to be told in the school history books but, instead, the young folks are entertained with stories of the kings and their battles, the exploits of the great and what not, including Bruce and the spider. The black page of the Sutherland clearances and depopulation of the Highlands is omitted.

The *Daily Telegraph*, September 1, reported that—
The Duke of Sutherland, 62, is to sell six of his sporting estates in Sutherland totalling 98,720 acres (154 square miles). The properties, among the finest in the Highlands, will be sold separately and by private treaty by Knight, Frank and Rutley. They are:—

TRESSADY, 21,828 acres, one of the best grouse moors in Scotland. It has a lodge and several houses and cottages.

LOCH CHOIRE and CLEBRIG, totalling 46,000 acres.

DALREAVOCH, 12,000 acres, mainly moorland with a lodge and keepers' houses.

DALNESSIE, 13,500 acres, is bounded by the Loch Choire Forest on the north and east by Tressady on the south.

MORVICH, 5,400 acres, comprises a lodge, two farms and small holdings.

Correspondents "up there" could throw a searching light if they would ascertain what is the value at which these estates are to-day assessed for local taxation. We should be grateful for the information and if they can also tell us what these estates have realised on sale, we should have, we think, a striking disclosure of the case for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values.

San Francisco Celebrates

The gratifying news was received from Mr. J. Rupert Mason under date August 12, that he had had a letter from the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, Hon. E. E. Robinson, as follows: "I have prepared and will release a proclamation declaring September 2, 1950, shall be known and observed in San Francisco as "HENRY GEORGE DAY."

This valuable gesture on the part of the Mayor will be applauded by the great host of followers of the "Prophet of San Francisco," the title which was given contemptuously to George by a former Duke of Argyll and which has long since been turned to add lustre to George's name and fame. There will be many who will wish to thank the Mayor for his timely action.

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