

Danish News

By Martin Van Ness

Svend E. Hansen sends me this letter from Copenhagen regarding the economic and political situation there:

"It was not and is still not a good time for us Georgists. People in Europe are, on the whole, very down-hearted and they only look for a chance to live at all. Communism, the idea of which is the state to govern everything, will always attract men who have nothing but poverty alone. Communism means the stoppage of all progress toward a certain state of culture, and communism does not, as does Georgism, put up a fixed and just limit between the state and the individual. Here I must say that the Communists in this country have quite altered their politics today. Before the war they spoke of revolution and about the community they would build; but

today they are only a reform party. They say they will give some more support to old men and unemployed men, but it is as though they have given up trying to solve the problems. Here, in Denmark, communism is of no danger to the old unjust community. The only revolutionary party here is the Justice Union. We have just had a general election. We gained a few thousand new workers and one more member in the House of Commons (Folketinget); but still we are the smallest party. It seems as though extreme parties are always small; the extreme conservative party, (Dansk-Tæmpling) Danish collaboration, has only one M. P. more than Justice Union. The largest party here is still the social democrats-labor party—but at the election, they lost 17 seats in the House of Commons to the Communists. Social Democrats and Communists, since 1939, have lost one seat in the parliament; of course the two Nazi parties do not exist any longer, and their seats have now been occupied by other parties. I hope that, by this letter, you have some knowledge of the political state here today.

"I can tell you that we have not missed food over here. During the war nobody hungered and still nobody does.

"Of course we have to export a good deal of foodstuff to the starving countries in Europe. Our bacon export goes to England, and for the time being, I think that the Danish ration of bacon is far below that in England."

Mountain View, N. J.