

Conference and we urge every Henry Georgeist wherever he or she may be to look to the possibilities of making summer holiday in Denmark in 1952 with Odense as the Mecca.

Norway

In February last there was a packed attendance at the Oslo University Students' Union to welcome and hear an address from Dr. Viggo Starcke who spoke on Liberalism, Socialism and the Just State. He outlined the policy of the Danish Justice Party and gave a powerful lead to the formation of a similar party in Norwegian politics. The address, which was reprinted in the Danish journal *Vejen Frem*, was extensively reported in several Oslo daily papers.

Two observers have written us about this great meeting and speak of the acclamation with which Dr. Starcke's address was received.

A Norwegian correspondent, who has come to us from the dissemination of our Esperanto documents, is Mr. Nils Christensen of Hamar. We mention him especially because he informs us that a young friend of his, a Mr. Lunegaard, addressed the same Students' Union some years ago on the Henry George principle and policy and he, too, had a magnificent reception. Obviously this is ground that can be well cultivated and there is great hope therein. We are told that Mr. Lunegaard's address was so excellent that it ought to be considered for translation by the International Union and publication in other countries. It is an attractive proposition, if the Union was favoured with the necessary funds to get out a pamphlet, embodying those two addresses (Starcke's and Lunegaard's) for circulating to students in many a University.

Message to Esperantists

In previous issues we have spoken of the distribution of the International Union's Declaration in Esperanto, and the responses that have come from it. Letters continue to come from many parts—including Iceland, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Norway, Germany, Holland, Italy, Angola, Australia. A valuable communicant and now collaborator is Mr. Daglio, of Tortona in Italy. He conducts a large international correspondence and has a journal of his own. He was supplied with a quantity of the Declaration in English and of translations in five languages. These he has sent to addresses in no fewer than 16 different countries, which include Finland, Jugoslavia, Japan and Turkey. All his correspondents are asked to communicate with the International Union to gain further information about its principle and policy. Mr. Daglio himself is the author and publisher of an interesting world shorthand adapted to all languages, including Esperanto. Particulars in regard to it may be obtained from his British correspondent Mr. C. Fielding, 61 Phyllis Crescent, Ely, Cardiff.

Italy

An enthusiastic and valuable Italian correspondent is Dr. Natale Pulvirenti who conducts the Ethos Educational Institute in Milan. He has established a class for the study of *Progress and Poverty* and among his pupils are doctors in economic science, engineers, lawyers, federalists, book-keepers and salesmen. He uses the "questionnaires" supplied to him by the Henry George School in New York and these he has translated into Italian. A special bulletin has been published advertising the class and its text book. Dr. Pulvirenti has

interested the Italian Senator Prof. Giacinto Bosco who lately spoke in Parliament on "taxation on the lands that are held in speculation." The Senator is to provide a report of his speech for possible translation and he desires to have information about legislation adopted in other countries which have given practical effect to the taxation of land values. That, of course, the International Union can provide.

It comes well within this particular heading to say that the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation is now definitely going forward with the Italian translation of *Progress and Poverty*. Thus, in this way and in that way, there are hopeful prospects of the growth of a live movement in a country which up to now has been bereft of guidance on the true road to social justice and prosperity.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT

This is supposed to be a "Welfare State," and you a paternal Government; yet for a not inconsiderable part of the national family—elderly men and women, trying to subsist on small, fixed incomes—your policy is making life ever harder and barer. The more fortunate of this class have a modest pension from their business or profession, or maybe some little investment, such as an annuity, which is being devalued every week. The less fortunate must be helped by their friends or charity, as they have only the old age pension, which, even if it were doubled, would be inadequate under present conditions. These people have no "strike weapon," whereby to obtain an increase in money to meet the increase in the cost of living. Their one and only defence against constantly rising prices is *to do without*—a strange and hideous fruit of the "Welfare State"!

When the price of bread went up some time ago, it was stated officially that *no other prices* would be raised. Nothing could have been more untrue. Since then, the cost of almost every necessity of life has risen. Bus and tube fares have become a serious expense. Your policy is bringing on this country that same misery of inflation which drove men and women mad in Germany between the wars.

Is there no connection or relation at all between your different Departments? One Department fixes 26s. as a reasonable pension; another allows extortionate rents, even for single rooms, which would in many cases more than exhaust the said pension; a third "authorises" prices at which no one could live, even rent-free, on such a pension. "It's a mad world, my masters!"

Some of your spokesmen exhort us all to work as long as possible. Others implore us to save. Now, what happens when a man or woman goes on working beyond the usual retiring age? Any little provision, in the shape of annuity or other small investment, which he or she may have made for later life, is taxed at 9s. in the pound. Thus the holder is penalised for doing the very things which you continually beg and pray everyone to do; and the only defence against this is *to stop working*. Could anything be more insane?

There may be need for heavy taxation in the present situation, but need it be levied so cruelly and stupidly? There is, as you are well aware, a vast untapped source of wealth, the land value of this country, from which you could in all justice rightly draw what you require. *Why do you not do so*, instead of causing so much undeserved hardship?

Southall, Middlesex.

FLORENCE VERINDER.