

Lange and the Danish Folk Schools

By DR. S. VERE PEARSON

[Dr. Pearson writes from Norfolk, England, under date of June 3: "I did not know until this week when I was reading your last (March-April) issue that Jakob Lange was dead. I am enclosing herewith an article I wrote about him some sixteen years ago, just after the Copenhagen Conference (sponsored by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade). It gives a little information about the Folk High Schools of Denmark. Jakob Lange was a grand man. I am sorry he is no more. But he had attained a fairly ripe age and had accomplished a great deal in his lifetime." The article sent to us by Dr. Pearson and presented here with some revisions, appeared in the August 21, 1926, issue of *The Commonwealth*, Georgeist paper edited by J. W. Graham Peace.—Ed.]

JAKOB LANGE holds the position of chief of one of the most important High Schools for smallholders in Denmark, the Funen Housemen's School in Odense. He has been guide, philosopher and friend there for years to a succession of adult agriculturists. As with other Danish Folk Schools, the husbandmen and women take a four- to six-months' course there when they are about twenty-five years of age. The women come in summer and the men in winter. They don't practice agriculture; that they have already done. But about two-thirds of their time is taken up in studying agricultural

might is not settled by justice. When the lifting of land monopoly has brought economic emancipation wages can be settled by justice. Collect land-value rents [ground dues, as the Danes call them; something due to the community—S.V.P.], then rural and town dwellers will be combined."

Lange's influence for economic emancipation has been wielded by his pen not only through his having translated "Progress and Poverty," but also through his writing a small text-book dealing with the fundamentals of economics. This has been widely used in the many smallholders' schools. The influence of this book is difficult to measure. But consider the effect of a vast number of all the agricultural workers in the land becoming acquainted with a knowledge of the problems underlying taxation, property and land-holding; and one can then judge something of that influence. Would that we had a Jakob Lange in England, and a people there well enough educated to welcome such a revolution in the mental training of the younger generation!