

GEORGE LANSBURY'S TRIBUTE

Last month we quoted the Rt Hon. George N. Barnes about the books that had influenced him. In the March issue of *Labour* another Labour leader pays tribute to Henry George to whom in fact he devotes two of his three columns in which he tells what he has learned from some famous philosophers.

It is the Rt Hon. George Lansbury, M.P., and we give the following extract from the tribute he pays:—

“ Henry George and his great book *Progress and Poverty* both made a great impression on me. I heard Henry George speak several times. . . . His clear thinking and writing, when setting forth his diagnosis of the economic and social distress which has accompanied civilisation all down the ages, alone makes his work both instructive and valuable to all students. Although *Progress and Poverty* was written over 50 years ago, it is as true a description now as then of the evils of monopoly—poverty and destitution, war and rumours of war, and universal slaughter. . . . If those who ruled in the world 50 years ago had listened to this economist and philosopher, the course of human history would have been different.

“ We know now that with the development of aviation new values are daily being created in areas formerly of no value. It is the existence of population and the needs of populations which are now giving value to parts of some deserts, and the bases of mountains formerly of no value to anyone. Road building and development throughout our own country demonstrate much more clearly than all the books and theories in the world, how social values are created through expenditure of public money. Derelict land and land of next to no value silently grew into value which individuals collect like so much ransom. . . .

“ I will finish about Henry George by asking all who at times feel despondent to take a turn with that great philosopher and if you have no time to read it all, be sure to read his chapters on population and the closing chapters written all those years ago. You will find them full of hope and full of warning. . . . Henry George as others before and since his day saw a great truth, not a mere individual or national one, but a truth which covers all life. I think it is a truth which comes to us from all religions, all philosophies. Just this simple truth: Love one another. Give up the pursuit of selfish interests. Lose your life and find it in the service of each other.”