

**ALL ITS NAME IMPLIES** ✓ ✓ ✓

"Economics Simplified," by E. E. Bowen, M.D. and George L. Rusby. Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York. 286 pp. \$0.50.

The unselfishness of Henry George in waiving any royalties or financial emoluments from his writings has been lauded by all who have been inspired by his philosophy. The bread thus cast upon the waters has been found again after many days, in accordance with the ancient promise, for those eminent lovers of freedom, Dr. Elizabeth E. Bowen and her husband George L. Rusby, have finished three years of hard labor and have had published under the auspices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, their book *Economics Simplified*. Like George, they have waived any royalties, and have induced interested friends to pay for the plates, so that the book may be distributed at a nominal cost of fifty cents a copy. Their achievement in writing the book that all Georgists have clamored for, is equalled only by their unselfishness and modesty. So much for the authors—now for the book.

For six years, Teachers Training classes in Newark, New Jersey, have used Dr. Bowen's Notes. From these mimeographed notes evolved the book. It is written in simple language and abounds with charts and diagrams. There are ten chapters or lessons, accommodating the text to the usual ten-week course used by the Henry George School, and the chapters follow in general the division of the subject matter of "Progress and Poverty," except that the second chapter deals with the laws of distribution and the third with the fallacious theories. The last chapter compares the fundamentals of Socialism, Communism and Anarchism with the Philosophy of

Freedom. This, together with a logical discussion of the functions of government, gives the book a value for modern use superior to "Progress and Poverty." In the appendix is reprinted George L. Rusby's "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries, and Lower Wages," which has been distributed in pamphlet form to the extent of over 500,000 copies.

In its context, the book follows the logic of "Progress and Poverty" except that George's controversial justification for interest and his theory of the cause of interest are conspicuously absent. The subject of interest is adequately covered without opening this controversy.

Also absent is the fervid vision of Henry George of the world of tomorrow under free conditions, and his theology. *Economics Simplified* does not lose its effectiveness by these omissions. In fact, these matters, being opinions of Henry George, while they embellish his book, take it out of the class of strictly scientific treatises. Dr. Bowen and Mr. Rusby have written a book in which opinions have largely been eliminated, with the possible exception that the proposal of George to change the land tenure system by means of taxation and thus solve the problem of poverty may be considered an undemonstrable opinion. This is *Economics Simplified*.

To those who complain that "Progress and Poverty" is "hard reading," this new book will be a boon. It is the kind of book that one wants to continue reading.

In New Jersey, many of the instructors of the Henry George School have voluntarily chosen to use *Economics Simplified* as the classroom text, making their assignments from it, and using the list of questions at the end

of each chapter as the basis of classroom discussion. Many new students in the School will know this new book as older Georgists know their "Progress and Poverty," which is suggested as collateral reading to these students.

The old alibi of instructors, "If I could only get my students to read the assignment!" or, "If I only had an easier book to read!" is invalid. The book is here, and it will be read.

—ALEXANDER M. GOLDFINGER