

*Who's Who
in Georgism*
George Rusby



George L. Rusby, one of the earliest Georgists, was born in what is now Nutley, N. J., on September 2, 1865, exactly 26 years after the birth of Henry George.

As a young man he joined the Methodist church, and became an active worker. After years of this activity he recognized the fact that economic conditions were more effective in dragging people down than the church could be in building them up.

For a time Mr. Rusby espoused Socialism. One day in 1896, Louis Parsons, another early follower of George induced him to read "Progress and Poverty." Confirmed in his Socialistic views Mr. Rusby agreed to investigate the Single Tax idea only to "pulverize that argument," as he put it. From that day to this he has remained an active Georgist.

The day Henry George died, October 27, 1897, George Rusby went to the Union Square Hotel in New York to offer his condolences and help. But the campaign for Mayor was still on, though the standard bearer was gone, and a speaker was needed to address a street corner meeting. Mr. Rusby was impressed into service—and that oration, made from the tail board of a truck, proved the forerunner of hundreds delivered during the following 43 years.

About 1900 Mr. Rusby published his booklet entitled "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries and Lower Wages; The Condition, The Cause, The Cure," of which more than 100,000 copies have been distributed in English. Editions in French, Spanish and Danish swell this total.

George L. Rusby was one of the early members of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, a supporter of the National Single Tax League, of the Fels Fund, the Manhattan Single Tax Club, the Henry George Lecture Bureau, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and of many other Georgist activities.

He aided in a number of political efforts to establish Georgism but finally realized that such activities were not making Georgists. He therefore welcomed the educational program suggested by Oscar Geiger and is now a staunch supporter of the Henry George School of Social Science.