

Books

HENRY GEORGE, by Edward J. Rose. Twayne Publishers, New York, 1968. \$3.95.

Here, in a fairly brief volume of 175 pages, is a good summary of Henry George, his life, his teachings, his background and influence. Professor Rose has gathered together a great deal of material and presented it in a concise and readable style, making this book a satisfactory answer to the question, "Who is Henry George?"

Besides citing sources and narrations already familiar to those who have read about George, the author has included several interesting items that are not repetitive. For instance, there is a little known poem by Emma Lazarus on "Progress and Poverty"; allusions to Thoreau, Emerson, Martin Buber and other thinkers; and an evaluation of George's influence.

In relating the life of George, Professor Rose pauses at each point when George writes a book to give a summary of its contents, thus giving a representative view of his teachings as well as his life.

This book is one of a series by the publisher on American authors. Profes-

sor Rose teaches English, and although this is intended as a study in literature, it offers an attentive exposition of the social and economic philosophy of Henry George. As a literary man, Professor Rose feels that George's style is half his message.

The most serious flaw in the book is the opening sentence, a question, in the preface: "Was Henry George the most important and most influential spokesman we have had for the non-Marxist left?" The author implies he was. But even though this is undoubtedly intended as a compliment, Georgists certainly do not regard the author of *Progress and Poverty* as a leftist of any brand, standing as he did for free private enterprise and the free market. In fairness, however, it should be said that, once over this initial hurdle, Professor Rose pretty faithfully expounds the philosophy and understands George's penchant for a free economy. Also, Professor Rose has explained that what he means by "left" is "radical" in a Jeffersonian sense — a term which George would surely not reject.

An interesting set of notes and a selected bibliography round out a very useful introduction to Henry George and his philosophy. R.C.

Another "new" book just off the press is actually a reprint of a classic, out of print for many years: *Rebel, Priest and Prophet* by Stephen Bell. This is the absorbing story of Father Edward McGlynn, friend and follower of Henry George. Reissued by Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, it is priced at \$3. Both books will be available to HGN readers.

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Congress I didn't even talk about what were supposed to be the issues. I just kept talking about the economic opportunities that would open up if we had the right kind of tax reform.

I've yet to meet a serious protagonist in debate. Frequently there are somewhat antagonistic questions but never a downright argument about the merits

of our cause. You know it is so logical, so fair, so right and so just that there isn't any argument against it. Now that you have finished the course have you the crusading spirit and desire to improve the world?

You read or hear almost daily about the dire possibility of the whole world starving in another century or so.

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