

## Edmund Vance Cooke

A TRUE poet, an active Single Taxer, and for many years a lecturer, Edmund Vance Cooke is dead in Cleveland at the age of 66.

He was the author of 24 books of verse, many of them designed for children whom he loved with all the tenderness characteristic of him. Some of his poems were really notable. His masters were James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field, but he was not a slavish imitator. Much that he wrote has a real distinction and is in no sense an echo of those who in similar excursions into verse preceded him. The humor that inspired him did not prevent his writing in a strain of solemn dignity those lines to his friend Tom L. Johnson which are engraved on the monument of the former mayor of Cleveland. Perhaps there are no poetic tributes more familiar to Single Taxers than the famous lines of "A Man is Passing," "He left a city with a civic heart," verses singularly apt and felicitous.

John W. Raper, columnist of the *Cleveland Press*, pronounced the funeral oration, for such had been Mr. Cooke's request, and the services were without formalism. Cooke was religious only in the sense that he contemplated the inevitable dissolution with a calm courage and a conviction that it was ordered for the best.

Mr. Cooke was born in Port Dover, Ontario. He leaves a daughter and son, Edmund Vance Cooke, Jr.

He started the fashion of going without a hat until what was looked upon as one of his eccentricities promised to develop into a custom. Then he threw away his hat which he carried on occasions to satisfy his friends, saying, "The world does catch up."

It is of interest to recall that Peter Witt at the conclusion of his radio speech at the Memphis conference recited Cooke's well known poem, "Uncivilized."

Our acquaintance with Mr. Cooke was by correspondence only. He was for many years a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM and was among the first to send for a copy of the editor's collected poems, "Thirty Years of Verse Making."

His verses called forth enthusiastic commendation from such men as Newton Baker, William Allen White, Gamaliel Bradford, and many others. His "Book of Extenuations," which was among his last, was probably his most ambitious work. Of this volume Newton Baker wrote, "We read the Extenuations from cover to cover last night and matched knowledge lingering from childhood about the characters, as forecasts of what you would likely say about them. It was great fun, but you nearly always surprised us with some turn of thought and phrase! Fine, fine!"

Mr. Cooke was a man who radiated something of his influence from a distance. So we always felt that we knew him in a certain mystical sense that overleaps the bounds of space and time.

## Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

FOLLOWING an anniversary advertisement upon the life and work of Henry George in the *New York Times* and *New York Sun*, the Foundation inserted, on November 14, 1932, in the *New York Times*, an advertisement explaining the bequest of Robert Schalkenbach, quoting from his Will, and advertising the book "Progress and Poverty." The advertisement read, in part, as follows:

### BEING FIRMLY CONVINCED

"Being firmly convinced that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book "Progress and Poverty" will, if enacted into law, give equal opportunity to all, and tend to the betterment of the individual and of society, by the abolition of involuntary poverty, and its attendant evils. . . ."

So reads the Will of Robert Schalkenbach, whose generous bequest has enabled the trustees to bring the message of Henry George to a new generation.

(Robert Schalkenbach was born in N.Y. City, 1856; obliged to work when twelve years old; read "Progress and Poverty" and met Henry George 1884; built up large printing business; was for many years president of New York Typothetae; died in this city, November 13, 1924—eight years ago.)

This kindly and successful business man was not foiled by the inflated "prosperity" of the past decade, nor misled by those economists who proclaimed that "hard times would come again no more." He knew the inevitability of the recurrence of periods of bad business and unemployment, as long as the causes which George revealed 50 years ago remain unrecognized and untouched. So he directed that his fortune be used to spread a knowledge of the writings of that great American philosopher and economist.

The book which so profoundly influenced this self-made man was

### "PROGRESS AND POVERTY"

by Henry George

It contained a picture of Mr. Schalkenbach, and attracted much attention. More than 173 books were sold as a result, and many strangers visited the Foundation. Purchasers of "Progress and Poverty" return to get other Henry George books—an evidence that his books are truly desired for study and careful reading. "Protection or Free Trade" is next to "Progress and Poverty" in popularity; then "Social Problems," and then "The Land Question."

A semi-monthly advertisement in the space of about two inches, is kept, from year to year, in *The Nation*. It is a reminder of Henry George's books. All inquiries received from this source are answered at the Foundation office, and an assortment of literature describing the life and work of Henry George is forwarded to the inquirer, whose name is kept upon our mailing list for future notices.

Advertisements designed to attract the attention of bookdealers, and of librarians, were placed in the leading journals for dealers and for librarians. Many inquiries were received. The *Library Magazine* sent us a letter with a list of names of librarians who wrote to the magazine stating their interest in the books of Henry George.

Mr. Gaston Haxo has rendered a notable service to the Foundation in going the rounds of New York bookshops.



He has persuaded various dealers to place our hand-lettered display card, with portrait of Henry George, in bookshop windows, with four or five copies of the brightly jacketed "Progress and Poverty." As a means of advertising, this method is very helpful and we trust that New York Single Taxers who happen to see our books in bookshop windows, will drop in and either purchase a copy or two or induce their friends to do so. Shops that are displaying the book are as follows:

Abbey Book Co., 61 E. 8th Street; Beacon Book Shop, 43 E. 45th Street; Chelsea Book Shop, 58 W. 8th Street; Cadmus Book Shop, 342 W. 34th Street; Channel Book Shop, 283 Park Avenue; Bernard Crasner, 10 E. 47th Street; Gotham Book Mart, 51 W. 47th Street; Harmony Book Shop, 108 W. 49th Street; Liverright Book Shop, 21 W. 51st Street; University Place Book Shop, 105 University Place; Maurice Marks, 35 W. 44th Street.

During the first week of December a Christmas circular with line drawing of "Progress and Poverty," and photograph of other books available from the Foundation, and offering special prices for Christmas giving, was sent to the Foundation's general list. Each year the Foundation arranges to send books so purchased to any address or list of addresses of friends to whom Christmas presents of Henry George books are to be given. It inserts a Christmas card in the book and sends it along in an attractive carton, and prepays the postage. In addition, for every book order, a free copy of the "Enclaves of Economic Rent" was sent to purchasers. Mr. Henry Ware Allen's Henry George Calendar was also advertised in our circular, and we are glad to say that this little booklet, printed by Mr. Allen in Kansas, but handled by the Foundation at his request, has been popular, filling a need in the field of Henry George literature. Just at present our initial supply has been exhausted. We are ordering additional copies from Mr. Allen, and will soon have them on hand for the filling of future orders. About 350 books, 200 calendars and a number of pamphlets were distributed and sold as a result of the Christmas campaign.

From Prof. W. R. B. Willcox, Dean of Architecture, University of Oregon, we procured a supply of a "Report to the Architects Convention." Some of the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM know of this "Report" prepared by Prof. Willcox, and Mr. John S. Seibert and others, and read to a convention of American Institute Architects in April, 1932. Problems of building, business standards, price of land, rent, labor, land values, etc., were presented in such clear terms that we considered the report of general interest. It was sent to a list of 500 editors and architects.

Mr. Harold Battenheim's interesting article "A Pragmatic Experiment With Taxes," published in the December 1932 *Survey-Graphic*, is being sent to Congressmen, editors and columnists of newspapers. We have a small supply of this article in pamphlet form which may be had by sending ten cents to cover cost of mailing.

Among the interesting letters received is the following

from Prof. A. Velleman of the University of Geneva, who writes as follows:

"In my classes at the University of Geneva, I have repeatedly dealt with Henry George. In the coming winter session I intend to use as a textbook in one of my classes the "Life of Henry George" by his son Henry-George, Jr.

It is more than ever necessary to draw attention to the teachings of the great American reformer, and I therefore apply to you with the request that you be good enough to send me one dozen copies of the said volume at a price as low as possible, to be sold to the poorer section of students. I should also like to obtain, at the same opportunity, a complete set of the writings of Henry George. I would place this set in the Library of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences."

Copies of the "Life of Henry George" were immediately shipped, at our best wholesale rate, to Prof. Velleman, and one copy of each Henry George book sent to him for the Library of the University of Geneva, as a gift of the Foundation.

From far off Korea we received the following letter:

"Many years ago I read some of the writings of Henry George and recently, through my colleague here—Dr. O. R. Avison,—I have had the pleasure and profit of re-reading some of them again. As a result I would like to join the Henry George Society and extend, as fully as possible, the wisdom contained in his writings. Please send me a full set of the Henry George books which you publish."

J. W. HIRST, Severance Union Medical College,  
Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Stephen Bell met the wave of excitement over Technocracy, in a splendid article written for *Commerce and Finance*, December 21, 1932, in which he pointed out that the answer to Technocracy lies in Henry George's teachings.

Mr. John Millar who sends out a weekly Housing Letter from Chicago, wrote as follows in his November 19, 1932 letter, which is widely circulated:

"The Single Tax, in more or less pure form, is being brought forward as a possible cure for present ills. The theory is that of Henry George, that since society and not the owner of a given site is responsible for the value in that site, society has a right to take all or most of the income that result from the favorable location. The effect of such taxation would be to take land rent in lieu of taxes on land and buildings, to depress land values, and to stimulate building on vacant land. A committee of the American Institute of Architects reported favorably on this type of taxation earlier this year, suggesting further study (apparently not being made). Harold S. Battenheim, editor of *The American City*, suggested in Pittsburgh this week before the assembled city planners that it would be better to have a proper 3-way combination of inheritance taxes, income taxes and the Single Tax, rather than sales taxes and taxes on building and personalty."

The Foundation had been in touch with Mr. Millar for some time, and had sent him Georgist literature. He became interested and carries mention of the Single Tax and Henry George from time to time in his Housing Letters which are widely circulated. The *Boston Post* on January 1, ran an article in which Mr. Millar's references to Henry George were quoted. The *Boston Globe* on January 8, in an article explaining Technocracy, featured, among others, a picture of Henry George, and said:

"Technocracy builds its platform on the paradox of 'poverty in the midst of plenty.' This paradox in other crises in America has produced



prophecies of social change. In the deep depression of the '70s, Henry George wrote 'Progress and Poverty,' setting forth the principles which were to crystallize in the practical programme of the Single Tax."

The *Commonweal* (Catholic magazine) of January 4, carried an article by John A. Ryan entitled "Must Unemployment Continue?" In discussing Prof. Graham's new book, "The Abolition of Unemployment," Dr. Ryan said: "It exhibits greater feeling than I have found in any other economic work since I first came upon Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty.'"

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary

## Mr. Ingersoll's Lecture Work

**M**Y trip was not properly rounded out, because of the interruption of the annual meeting and events connected therewith. The securing of appointments, as well as my work, were involved. However, as stated in No. 10 of the *Ingersoll Bulletin*, the total of talks was 90, to audiences of 16,732.

Nov. 28—South Bridge, Mass. Merchants and Manufacturers Asso., Columbia Hotel; luncheon; 60 present, business men; 40 minute talk, and informal quiz afterwards. This is a very important manufacturing place, the principal industry being the American Optical Co., whose president, Mr. Wells, was chairman. Also woolen and paper mills officials present.

Nov. 29—Falmouth Rotary and Kiwanis combined; Hotel Henley, 6:15 p. m.; 75 present. This is what I call a successful meeting, because after my talk of 45 minutes most of these men stayed two and a half hours in a heckling bee, and, I believe, were largely converted.

Dec. 13—Holyoke, Mass., Lions Club; Hotel Nonotuck; 120 present; 30 minute talk; very fine crowd of men, but failed on quiz, except half an hour with a small group.

Dec. 14—Lions Club, Elizabeth N. J.; Elks Club luncheon; 25 present; 30 minute talk, and one hour quiz, of most intensive kind.

Dec. 15—Little Falls Chamber of Commerce Dinner; evening; 20 present, and very important meeting, because of quiz lasting until nearly midnight after 30 minute talk, and the fine character of the men.

Jan. 3—Chamber of Commerce, Northampton, Pa., Town Hall, 8:15 p. m. This was another very successful meeting, apart from the attendance, which was 75 of the best people in this fine cement town of 10,000. The talk was 45 minutes, but the quiz lasted until 11:30, after which I drove home 80 miles.

Jan. 12—Lions Club, Plainfield; N. J.; dinner, evening. Came as a result of the Elizabeth meeting.

Jan. 12—Rotary Club, Jersey City; luncheon. This comes from Mr. John H. Allen.

Jan. 16—Michael Men's Club, Weehawken N. J.; Monday, 8:00 p. m. Through Mr. Chandler.

Jan. 17—WHAM Radio Station, Journal Square, Jersey City. This comes through my friend Mr. T. Lane.

I am preparing the organization on a National scale, of the Tax Relief Association and expect to immediately take up organizing Pennsylvania, beginning at Pittsburgh.

CHAS. H. INGERSOLL,  
President Mahnattan Single Tax Club.

## The Henry George Lecture Assn.

(United with the Henry George Foundation of America)  
538 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE Director and Treasurer

### STAFF SPEAKERS

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MRS. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, 17 East 67th St., New York City.

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## NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE AND SINGLE TAX CLUBS

*Single Tax League, Chicago, Ill.*—Recent speakers at the weekly meetings of the League were Jacob Don, a Korean and graduate of the University of Michigan, who spoke on "The Situation in the Far East;" William Ellis, enthusiastic Single Taxer and graduate of the University of Missouri, "Encouragement for the Single Tax Movement;" Maurice Welty, youthful and able young Single Taxer, particularly active in the Chicago work of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, "The Single Tax;" and Prof. Leavell of the Hyde Park High School, "The School Plight." Over twelve hundred copies of the League's new edition of its pamphlet, "Jobs for All," were distributed at a mass meeting of the Chicago teachers on Friday, January 6. Thousands of copies of this pamphlet are being sent through the mails, and among these over