

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

SINCE our report in August many things have happened in and out of the Foundation office that may be of interest to LAND AND FREEDOM readers.

In September, Prof. Brown's booklet, "Talk About Taxes," was sent with a letter and book circular to our list of 1,800 professors. The booklet is a popular one, and several teachers use it in connection with their class work. Librarians have asked for it in considerable numbers. Let no one think that this half yearly work with the teachers and professors is ineffective. From it proceeds a very fair number of orders for books that are used directly in the classroom. The unabridged "Progress and Poverty" is the most popular; "Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty" comes next. Recently a well-known professor in the University of Illinois placed his order with us for 67 copies of the unabridged book.

In early October we prepared a letter which was sent to 2,000 county school superintendents and 1,500 high school principals. More than fifty school officials ordered copies of "Progress and Poverty," "Social Problems," or both. The letter stated in part:

"Henry George who wrote 'Progress and Poverty' in 1879 spent the succeeding years lecturing and writing upon the need for a new conscience and spirit in the planning of our economic and social life. He lived to see his great book translated into many languages and read by millions of people all over the world. Today, more than fifty years after the initial appearance of George's arguments against special privilege, monopoly, and the evils of our existing tax system, 'Progress and Poverty' and the companion book 'Social Problems' still belong in the best seller lists, and are being read by thousands."

Among the teachers and county superintendents who responded with orders for the books were the following: County Superintendent of Schools, Edgard, La.; Groton, N. Y.; Anson, Me.; Somerset, Pa; Coeymans, N. Y.; Minneapolis, Kan.; Nazareth, Pa.; La Salle, Ill.; Allegheny County, Pa.; Marinette, Wis.; Colfax, Wis.; Washington, Ind.; Modoc, Calif.; South Pasadena, Calif.; Windom, Minn.

Recently we found that the seventh printing of "Progress and Poverty" and the fifth printing of "Significant Paragraphs" had been exhausted. Orders were placed for new printings of each. The latter book has a bright new jacket, is printed on better paper, and altogether makes one of the most attractive little propaganda books yet produced. New editions were necessary for "Protection of Free Trade," and "The Land Question," (the latter containing besides its title book the famous debate with the Duke of Argyll, entitled "Property in Land," and the "Open Letter to Pope Leo.") These books will be ready for the Christmas season. They match each

other in size, bright yellow jackets, and attractive blue bindings. Eventually we hope to offer a complete set of George's works, with these books forming the nucleus of the set, the other titles to be added later as a demand for them appears. The cost involved, however, in putting all of George's writings into print is large, and for the time being no further editions are contemplated. It is estimated that the Foundation has spent about \$20,000 in printing books to date. A total of 50,000 books have been printed, and about 45,000 distributed by sale and otherwise since 1926. *Since May this year*, 2,344 books have been distributed, of which 1,100 were the unabridged "Progress and Poverty" and 500 were "Social Problems."

It was the privilege of the undersigned to attend the Conference in Chicago during the week of October 8, and to make a report and explanation of the work that is being carried on by the Foundation. Many pleasant contacts were made, and the secretary was glad to greet among the many, such good friends as Mr. Ewing, Mr. Strachan, Dr. Freyermuth, Miss Brownlee, Mr. Taber, Mr. Warren, Mr. Waldauer, Mr. and Mrs. Tideman, Mrs. Monroe, Mr. Sikes, Mr. Merrell, Mr. Jones, Mr. Canning, the Pittsburgh group, and scores of others, well-known by correspondence, if not by personal meeting.

Mrs. de Mille and our president, Mr. Hennessy, spoke of the plans that were being made for a Henry George Fellowship—a nation-wide organization of those who believe in the teachings of Henry George and want to enlist for action. The Fellowship, they said, was an outgrowth of the student alumnae of the School in New York. On another page of this issue you will find a complete report by Mr. Chodorov of the Fellowship plan and scope.

It should be mentioned that four large posters were prepared by the Foundation and used as display placards at the Convention. One showed all of the tracts and pamphlets printed; another showed reprints and publicity used to attract the interest of outsiders in Henry George's teachings; another showed the extensive advertising placards and campaigns used by the Foundation to encourage bookdealers to stock up with Henry George's books; the last placard showed the many circulars designed and sent out in very large quantities to engage the interest of outsiders. The display was accompanied by a book table, on which every book and pamphlet available from the Foundation and from other organizations, was on sale. The undersigned wishes to acknowledge the kind cooperation of Mr. Mooney and Miss Tideman in helping her to manage the book table for the three days and three evenings of the Conference.

During the time of attendance at Chicago, the office of the Foundation in New York sent out ten thousand copies of Mr. Hennessy's article "One Hundred Years of Land Gambling." Readers of LAND AND FREEDOM will remember that this article appeared in the September-October issue under the caption "An Immensely Im-

portant Book." A further five thousand copies of the article are on order, and if quantities of 50 for \$1 are desired, it may be well to send in quickly, as we are using the pamphlets for special work among new groups and the supply will not last long. The feature which gives it special value is that after its engrossing study of land speculation in Chicago, Chapter IX. points to the Georgist argument, and a quotation from Book V of "Progress and Poverty" shows the importance of the whole land question as related to our present nationwide dilemma. This is followed by a striking advertisement for the Georgist books. Many strangers to our movement have studied this circular, and have thus been led to read George's books. At present the pamphlet is being sent to members of the American Political Science Association.

Among the interesting donations of books are the following: A copy of "The Philosophy of Henry George," and "Moses" were sent to Dr. William Lyon Phelps by our president, supplementing correspondence by Mrs. de Mille with Dr. Phelps. The October *Scribners* contained interesting mention of Dr. Phelps's appreciation of "Moses," and called attention to the Foundation as the place where copies may be had. It should also be stated that Mr. Kelly of Scottsdale, Pa., had entered into correspondence with Dr. Phelps, and that through his efforts, Dr. Phelps wrote a splendid article for the newspapers.

Recently Mr. David Gibson had us send 25 copies of "Progress and Poverty" and 6 copies of "Protection or Free Trade" to the Cleveland Public Library. Paul Bellamy, the son of Edward Bellamy, happens to be an editor on the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and through his efforts, notice was given to the readers of that newspaper of the fact that the books were available to the people of Cleveland. A set of books was sent by the Foundation to the Chicago Public Library.

In September a postcard was addressed to 1,250 well-known book stores, advising of the fact that Ida Tarbell had written an article in the September *Forum* on Henry George, which might send some people into bookstores in search of George's books. We suggested that it would be well if the dealers placed "Progress and Poverty," and "Social Problems" in stock. Mr. David Gibson arranged for an extensive display in two leading bookstores in Cleveland, and twenty-five copies of "Progress and Poverty" were sent to each store.

As may be gathered from these reports, our work is, in the main, educational in character. Experience has shown that the most cogent appeal for the Single Tax, or the Georgist economics, is Henry George's own argument. Therefore we stress the distribution of the books as the surest way to lead newcomers to an understanding of George's essential philosophy and economic programme. You can vastly help this programme by seeing that friends and acquaintances receive some Henry

George books and purchasing them in quantities at special prices for Christmas giving. The Foundation receives your order for books, with the names and addresses of people to whom you want to make gifts, and the books are carefully wrapped, with a Christmas card bearing your greeting. They are then held until a few days before Christmas, and are timed to reach destination the day before Christmas. We have given this special service for years, and hope that as many as can will avail themselves of it, as it is a convenient and happy way of solving the Christmas gift problem for certain good friends who are not near enough, in the sense that relatives are, to receive elaborate gifts, but who would be immensely pleased and interested to receive such a book as "Social Problems," "The Philosophy of Henry George," or "The Prophet of San Francisco." If you have an idea for book gifts that you want the Foundation to help you with, write to us at 11 Park Place, New York. We have attractive and economical assortments to meet your particular need.—ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary.

A Fundamental Difference

THERE is no evidence at hand to warrant claim that the private ownership of the wealth produced by the individual must be harmful to the community. We have not yet had the full and clear statement of the right relation between community wealth and private wealth. In order to think straight and reach right conclusions the fundamental basis of property must be realized.

Ought not our discussions start from the basis of ownership that should righteously be inherent only in the community? If we recall that immense tracts of land in this country are held by titles derived from grants made by Kings and Queens of England, do we not at once reach the conclusion that such grants were arbitrary and without any moral foundation? Thus we make clear that such rights as private ownership of land has, relate only to the force of tradition recognized through governmental acquiescence in such basis for ownership. The very fact that titles to land are continually disputed, gives the evidence respecting a wrong basis for the present ownership. There is, of course, some moral obligation relating to such legal affirmance of ownership during the centuries but that moral obligation certainly cannot be claimed to be perpetual. The history of communal life the world around and the definite re-constitution of ownership, decreed by the laws of Moses thousands of years ago, demonstrate the universal recognition of a fundamental difference between landed and personal property. This issue should be thought out by every voter for himself or herself to help toward righteous public opinion.

GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY, in *Saratogian*, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

No God-Created Monopoly

WHATEVER conception we may have of the creation, we cannot honestly believe that this earth was created to be monopolized by one part of the human race, to the exclusion of all others. To believe this is to deny the omniscience of the Creator, as well as the democratic theory of the equal rights of man.

A. H. MCCARTHY in Fort Worth (Texas) *Express*.

EVERY Henry George man should be on our subscription list. Single Tax clubs should see that their members subscribe.