

## 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.