

## What The Teacher Taught

WHAT was it that led Henry George to write his masterpiece? The discovery that modern governments were levying taxes in arbitrary ways that hampered industry and worked unfairly as between individuals? Not at all. He has told us plainly enough:

"When I first realized the squalid misery of a great city, it appalled and tormented me and would not let me rest, for thinking of what caused it and how it could be cured." ("Progress and Poverty").

What was the earliest form into which Henry George cast his developing ideas? A treatise on taxation? Not at all. The title of the slim pamphlet that was afterwards expanded into the large volume tells us again what was his fundamental thesis: "Our Land Question and How Alone it can be Settled."

What was the name taken by the earliest organizations formed to bring the great truths of "Progress and Poverty" to public attention? "Anti-Poverty" societies. When the great and eloquent priest aligned himself publicly with Henry George, what did he style his challenge to the world? Lower taxes? Fewer taxes? No taxes? Not at all. Father McGlynn boldly lifted "The Cross of a New Crusade" for equal rights to the earth.

Much mischief lurks in names. How much harm may have come to this new crusade from the label "Single Tax" that was partly forced on it by its opponents and partly accepted by the crusaders, no one can say. Certainly the label has tended to turn the crusade for free land and free men into a purely fiscal question so far as the great uninformed public is concerned. And the label seems even to have misled many faithful disciples into grossly mistaking means for ends.

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