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PREFACE

One of the purposes of this work has been to provide a handy source of information as to the progress of the Single Tax movement in all countries where its teachings have found a lodgment—and these include nearly every country on the habitable globe. We have not dwelt as fully as we might on the history of the movement in this country. Prof. Arthur N. Young, in his admirable *History of the Single Tax Movement in the United States*, has told the story *in extenso*, with sympathy and discrimination, yet with judicial impartiality. But we have included accounts of material episodes in the history of the movement, and of such limited applications of the principle as mark its progress during the last two decades.

So far as practicable controversial matter has been excluded. While of necessity much has been said of matters still in dispute, the aim has been rather to include as many of the agreements as could be found, for, after all, while controversy is essential in order to arrive at correct conclusions, it is along the line of our agreements that we advance.

We have refrained from quoting extensively from the writings of Henry George—these may more profitably be consulted in the original sources. We have considered the Year Book rather as a supplement to the writings and the work of Henry George than as in any sense a compendium thereof. If to any inquiring reader we have suggested the desirability of a closer acquaintance with the great liberalizing philosophy of the foremost economic thinker of all time, it is as much as we could hope to achieve in a work of the present limits and character.

Nor did we design to furnish an exhaustive discussion of those fiscal problems intimately related to the movement so inadequately designated as the Single Tax, a name inadequate because it defines only the method of attaining the ideal and not a great

economic and social philosophy. We have indicated, however, objections to fiscal methods now in operation, and others suggested as substitutes, which are difficult, inefficient or inequitable in operation and objectionable in morals. In this connection, and for further instruction along these lines, *Natural Taxation* by Thomas G. Shearman, and *Principles of Natural Taxation* by C. B. Fillebrown, are to be recommended.

The "Answers to Questions" in this volume embrace a few of the chief objections that occur to the inquirer, and are dealt with in a distinctive manner by a writer noted for his individuality of style. There is no claim that these are inclusive of all the difficulties that present themselves. They may be fittingly supplemented by those contained in the *Outlines of the Single Tax*, by Louis F. Post.

The article on "Socialism" is designed to contrast the easy and plausible philosophy of socialism with the more difficult doctrine of the Single Tax that reconciles the theory of individualism with the true conception of social well being—the *ultima thule* of the economic explorer. The reader who would pursue the subject further is referred to that truly admirable work, *Democracy versus Socialism*, by Max Hirsch.

The article on "The Trust" cannot, in the space at our disposal, do more than give a glimpse of that natural law in the economic world which we must trust more fully if sound conclusions are to be reached, and popularly misunderstood terms, like Competition, Combination, Monopoly and Privilege are to be clearly defined and apprehended.

The article on the "Forerunners of Henry George" contains a summary of those who anticipated the teachings of the author of *Progress and Poverty*. It is wonderfully inclusive of those who saw glimpses, often more than glimpses, of the truth which Henry George proclaimed. It will be a revelation to many of the great age of the principle which it was Mr. George's lasting credit to seize and focalize.

In the preparation of this book we have to acknowledge our indebtedness to W. I. Swanton, of Washington, D. C., for the original suggestion of the need of such a work; to George White,

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of Hackensack; to P. J. Markham, of Australia; to Mrs. Daniel Kiefer and Charles Frederick Adams, for labors of translation; to W. A. Douglas, of Toronto; to A. C. Pleydell, for continuous aid and suggestion; and to Prof. Arthur N. Young, of Princeton, for his valuable bibliography; to all the contributors represented in these pages, and to those whose work was omitted for considerations that seemed to us warranted by the nature of the work. There must remain great uncertainty as to what should be included and what omitted from a book of this character, and we can only rest in anticipation of suggestions from the many friends of the movement as to future issues of this work.—EDITOR.