

INTRODUCTION.

I have been asked to write a few lines of introduction to Mr. Wedgwood's pamphlet on "Henry George for Socialists." I do so with pleasure for at least two reasons. I am glad to oblige Mr. Wedgwood in this as some little appreciation of his earnest work in the cause of land reform. My second reason is that I am always ready to welcome a sincere and intelligent contribution to the discussion of a social question.

Even Socialists are not so omniscient as to be beyond the possibility of learning from others. He knows his own case best who is familiar with that of his opponent. Up to a certain point Socialists will agree with the contention put forward in this pamphlet. Like the Single Taxers, we recognise the evils of the present land system. Like them, we desire to secure for social purposes the economic rent of land. Like them, we believe that much of our social misery is due to the private monopoly of land.

This is not the place to enter into the points of difference between the Single Taxers and the Socialists. The present purpose is rather to give to Socialists an opportunity of understanding the position of the Single Taxers, especially as to their ideas upon the pressing question of unemployment. Once familiar with the claims of the followers of Henry George, the intelligent Socialist will arrange for himself the points of difference. He will have little difficulty in finding the weak place in Mr. Wedgwood's article, namely, the non-recognition of the necessity of controlling capitalism as well as landlordism.

At times a good deal of bitterness has been imported into the controversies between Socialists and Single Taxers. The publication of this pamphlet will, it is hoped, do something to make our relations more harmonious. Discussion carried on for the purpose of arriving at the truth gains nothing from a spirit of acrimony. It is always well to try to find what truth there is in the contention of an opponent. I know no short essay from the Single Taxers' point of view which puts the truth that is in their position more clearly than this pamphlet, and for that reason I commend it to the thoughtful consideration of Socialists.

PHILIP SNOWDEN.