

Robert Schalkenbach

Foundation Report

IN answer to letters addressed to friends in foreign lands, a variety of information and pleasant renewal of friendly contacts have resulted.

A letter from Mr. Lawrence McKibbin of Johannesburg, South Africa, leads the list for its unusual human interest story:

"It may interest you to know that it was a little advertisement by your Foundation that led me to Henry George.

I had been seeking, having lived in Philadelphia for a few years, and then in California. In Oakland I came across your advertisement, where or just what it was, I do not now recall. I wrote to you people, and by return post received some leaflets. That was the end of 1931 or early January, 1932. I was too short of money to get a book at that time, but went to a second-hand store in Oakland and there for 50 cents got a second-hand copy of 'Progress and Poverty,' which had on the fly-leaf the inscription, 1880. It must have been one of the first editions, and all quotations were in microscopic print.

I read or rather devoured that book, and left it with my father when I returned to South Africa at the end of 1932. But in London, on my way back to this country, I got copies of George's works from the United Committee.

Here in South Africa we are making a great effort to carry the light to our people. Conditions here are terrible. Today's newspapers report that 70 per cent of the children sent to school clinics are found not to be ill but merely to be suffering from starvation due to poverty. The condition of the people is fast growing worse, alarming to the authorities and to all thinking people. And of course it is all essentially due to land monopoly. And all other sorts of monopoly are the order of the day, with regulation and restriction for every conceivable thing. And the fortunes made by vested interests out of this iniquity are held up as indicative of South Africa's unique position among the nations as a 'prospering country.' Prosperous, with people dying from starvation.

We have been working hard, though, and are making progress. We have formed a Farmers' and Workers' Party, with rent for revenue, and abolition of all taxation, as the fundamental principle. And we entered a candidate (Advocate F. A. W. Lucas, K.C., our Chairman) for the recent General Elections. . . . We lost, but an enormous amount of good seed was sown. We have a little paper called 'The Free People,' which is also published in Afrikaans (the dialect of Dutch spoken by the Boers), and as there is virtually no economic literature in that language, we are making headway.

Of course, lack of funds is a terrific handicap, otherwise we should translate as much as is feasible of George's works into Afrikaans, as well as write pamphlets and flood the countryside. An unusually fertile field certainly lies to hand here, especially as the Boer population is fast being driven 'off the land,' into city slums by the increasing pressure of rural landlordism. No difficulty is experienced in driving home the basic fundamentals of George's teachings to these people. Out chief difficulty is the means of carrying the message.

In connection with this I should greatly appreciate information regarding some simple and cheap but useful printing outfit that would be suitable for preparing pamphlets. To make ourselves more secure and thus able to take turns in boldly carrying the word where it needs to be carried and also to give us the necessary freedom to do so, a little handful of us, my own personal friends who have taken the H. G. S. S. course, have decided to form a cooperative league. We intend to form a settlement where we can maintain ourselves, and the fundamental rule is that the land shall never become private property, but that rent shall be paid for it. We should therefore, be very grateful for the fullest information. The 'Henry George Enclaves' as their experience might be most valuable."

Any readers of LAND AND FREEDOM who have practical information about printing presses might get in touch directly with Mr. McKibbin. We have answered him attending to his various requests for books, pamphlets and other information, and feel happy that once more time has proven that the advertising methods of the Foundation are truly responsible for the introduction of tremendously worth-while men and women to the cause of economic justice, as made clear by Henry George.

From Toowong, Queensland, Australia, another correspondent tells us:

"Before I go further I wish to say that I fully realize the good that your Foundation is doing and wish it progress and prosperity, and lots of fruit growing from the seeds of equity it is its object to sow.

The members of the Queensland League are few and scattered far and wide. This league, of which I have the honor to be secretary, is a small one, and if I were asked for a statement of our first necessity, I should say a young energetic secretary, well-taught, with organizing abilities who could go out and get on a stump and hold a crowd and sell literature.

The Queensland laws have taken considerable steps in our direction, due mainly to the impression left by Henry George himself, when he was here, and the further labor of men like Mr. Winstalney and Mr. Hardacre. No one in Greater Brisbane pays any rates if he owns no land. I will send you a leaflet which will show you that so much advance has been made by using George's principles. The effect would be much greater if Australia had not greatly nullified it by wickedly high protection."

We receive first-hand news of the Labor movement in Wellington, New Zealand, as follows:

"As you no doubt know, New Zealand has a 'Labor' government. Really an ardent Socialist type, support tariff protection, and of course a party maintaining stony silence on the land question. After almost ten years of office, very little by way of fundamental reform has been accomplished, despite an overwhelming majority in parliament. Of course, the party contains plenty of 'money cranks' who have succeeded in the government taking over the Reserve Bank for the purpose of controlling currency and credit. Other than indulging in a reform of inflation, the 'taking over' might be likened to a mountain that brought forth the mouse. The land and tariff question still remains the fundamental issue, and

economic conditions here are of course similar to the conditions in all countries where like laws operate.

Although I was born in New Zealand, I am firstly a citizen of the world, and it is very pleasing to have news from New York. My last visit there was in 1926, and I am hoping to pass that way again in a year or two on my way to England. In this event I trust it will be possible to make contact with your Foundation and exchange in person a friendly talk."

Ten copies of the Chinese version of "Progress and Poverty" were sent to Prof. T. L. Yuan, Director of the Engineering Reference Library, Hongkong, China, in answer to his direct request for material for his Chinese students. Information was given about the establishment of classes, and a large packet of free pamphlet material was sent over for each student.

Mrs. John Paul of London, says, in a personal letter to the undersigned:

"In Europe we have no statesman equal to your Mr. Cordell Hull for ability and high principle. His appeals on the radio for the same moral standard between nations as between individuals must have a good effect. The newspapers here that I see treat all his statements with great respect."

A very interesting experiment in advertising has been conducted in cooperation with *The Financial World*, one of the leading business magazines of the country. We arranged for a series of reviews of Henry George's books, in conjunction with an occasional advertisement. The first book to be reviewed, "The Science of Political Economy," brought forward a number of requests for the book from unusually alert, enterprising business men, several of whom later enrolled in the Henry George School correspondence course.

The second book to be reviewed was "Progress and Poverty," and during the late summer reviews of "Social Problems" and "Protection or Free Trade?" will follow.

The Financial World Book Department is also sponsoring the books and will advertise them.

Small advertisements, of the type that attracted our South African friend, were run in *The Nation* during the month of June, with the result that numerous inquiries for books and information were received. Each contact is a potential opportunity to make a Henry George follower. One important result was the attraction of a prominent Chicago educational publisher who, having ordered our booklist and free pamphlets, decided to order three of our books. He received them, and wrote as follows:

"The three Henry George books reached me and I took them home last night—and hot as it was, it was 3 a. m. this morning before I laid 'Progress and Poverty' aside."

This man has continued to render us an important service by placing a special list at our disposal, for the purpose of obtaining still more new readers for "Progress and Poverty" and the other Henry George books.

To those Single Taxers who will attend the coming

Conference in Toronto, we would commend an examination of the book display there to be shown. In cooperation with the Foundation, Mr. Owens of the Single Tax Association of Toronto, is arranging the most complete book display ever planned for Conference uses, and it is our hope that all who can will patronize the book tables. They will see many new titles, new editions, new pamphlets and new ideas for the presentation of Henry George books.

Through the enterprise of Mr. Nathan Hillman in Hartford, there will be a display in the main window of the Hartford Library next September of Henry George books. The Foundation is arranging with Mr. Benjamin Burger for the loan of some of his rare first editions and other Henry George memorabilia, and following the Hartford showing, there will be a showing in New York.

Seven thousand letters were sent June 14, with a free copy of the new pamphlet, "The Study of Political Economy," "Thy Kingdom Come," or Dr. McGlynn's Statement to Mgr. Satolli—according to the type of person addressed—and our new book catalog accompanied the mailing. The letter appealed for activity during the summer months in distributing pamphlets and books. Three thousand pamphlets have been called off the shelves and placed in the hands of those who want them for "ammunition," and 740 books have been distributed during June and July.

ANTOINETTE K. WAMBOUGH, Secretary.

How the Pilgrims Found Employment

WHEN the Mayflower arrived in America did the Pilgrims run around hunting for a boss? No. They found jobs for themselves with a few simple tools on the free land which the Lord their God provided for that purpose. There is plenty of land left, and the millions of unemployed could do the same today were it not for the fact that land speculators have already beat them to it.—"HORATIO."

THE rental value of land is the result of desirable location, and is produced by the activities of society as a whole. This value grows as population and its activities increase. This natural law of rent gives the community the right to use all of this value which it creates. Thus, no tax of any kind would be necessary.

HENRY GEORGE.

THUS it is, that to make either the abolition of protection or any other reform beneficial to the working-class we must abolish the inequality of legal rights to land, and restore to all their natural and equal rights in the common heritage.—PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE?