

he found the law of the rise of civilization, in association in *inequality* he saw its inevitable fall. Many lesser thinkers have returned to this discovery of George's of late. But they overlook, what George analyzed with the keen insight peculiar to his genius, the economic imperatives through which this law operates.

Acting on the suggestions of Adam Smith and Macaulay, George examines the idea of "pecuniary interests" and finds them to be special interests become rooted in the structure of society and thus, in the first book of "The Science of Political Economy, we find an extensive development of this theory of "vested interests," the first formulation of the old, vague idea of "vested rights." So valuable was this analysis, this formulation (anticipated but not defined in "Progress and Poverty" and other of George's earlier writings) that Thorstein Veblen was able to apply it to a vast range of industrial phenomena and, in, by it, his claim to recognition. ("The Vested Interests and the State of the Industrial Arts, 1919.")

George began his inquiry into society impelled by the curious phenomena produced by the monopolization of agricultural land. His insight into civilization broadened that concern from agricultural land to all natural opportunity. Social progress, he concluded, demands the socialization or the abolition of all special privilege, all monopoly exactions. It is in this perception of what Peligman called "the disturbing but fruitful concept of privilege," that George's approach to the socialization of rent "soars beyond the categories of economics," as Geiger points out, "into the very dimension of the rise and fall of civilization."

Dorothy Thompson Speaks Out

HENRY GEORGE was a great man. He is the only economist I ever read with whom I could find no fault. He was the only economic philosopher of capitalism. If the capitalists had paid any attention to him they would not be in the mess they are today."

DOROTHY THOMPSON.

Miss Thompson in a letter to Mrs. deMille gives us permission to quote. Also acknowledging receipt of a copy of "Progress and Poverty," she says she will review "some time soon."

THOSE who make private property of the gift of God pretend in vain to be innocent. For in thus retaining the substance of the poor they are the murderers of those who die every day for the want of it.

POPE GREGORY, THE GREAT.

EQUAL: The Earth therefore and all things therein are the general property of all mankind, exclusive of all other beings, from the immediate gift of the Creator.

BLACKSTONE.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Report

IN returning to the work at the Foundation I see everywhere signs of progress. Miss Peterson, who has been acting secretary during my two years leave of absence, has done a monumental work in handling the demand for books, in planning new activities, and in carrying out exacting assignments along lines not heretofore followed. We feel that in having her at the helm the Foundation has been fortunate, and it is contemplated that she will continue to direct a large share of the Foundation affairs.

Ten thousand "Progress and Poverty," two thousand "Protection or Free Trade," and one thousand "Science of Political Economy" are being printed this month. The Henry George School is taking one half the amount of each title and the balance will be distributed in channels developed by the Foundation's activities.

Further, the Trustees of the Foundation have completed an interesting arrangement by way of experiment, with Random House, Modern Library Series, whereby five thousand copies of "Progress and Poverty" printed from electroplates jointly owned, are now on the market ready for distribution through the Random House facilities.

The Book-of-the-Month Club have chosen this Random House edition for a listing among the books to be given free to subscribers, and "Progress and Poverty" will henceforth appear in each Book of the Month Club bulletin.

"The Science of Political Economy" will be the first American edition to be published since the old Doubleday McClure version and of course those versions, in double volume, that appeared in various "sets." It will match "Progress and Poverty," and its 542 pages will be obtainable for the usual standard price of \$1.

Besides the preparation of the new printings, and concern with the details of appearance, design, etc., it is the duty of the office to promote new methods of placing the books in the hands of the public. Miss Peterson reported in the last issue of LAND AND FREEDOM the sending of a letter, describing "Progress and Poverty," to accountants. Ten thousand accountants received the five-day trial offer for the book, and 330 have sent for it. Each mail brings additional orders. We find members of the same firm telling each other about "Progress and Poverty" and sending for extra copies. The Librarian of Ernst and Ernst, one of the foremost accounting firms in the country, has placed the book in the company library.

Through the series of advertisements appearing in *Fortune*, *American Mercury*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Harpers*, a certain number of Henry George's books have been placed, and we note that the demand springs from professional men, authors, editors, bank presidents, and many college professors who have sent for the books through the use of these media. For the information of those in the cause

who wish to conduct advertising programmes in their own vicinity, we may say that while it is helpful to bring the story and news of Henry George's books before the public, judged by results, mailed material is far in advance of magazine advertising as a means of getting books off the shelves and into the hands of many readers.

From a friend in Texas we received a letter asking for information as to how to put the Single Tax into operation in his town. This gentleman has a strong enough voice in the city government to do effective campaigning, provided we can prove to him that sound measures can be drafted into the laws of his city. Technical material has been supplied.

More numerous than some people imagine, are the letters that come to the Foundation asking for special material, and information along practical lines. Such letters are answered with great care, and a supply of reference material is kept on hand.

Speaking engagements and the arrangements therefore are taken care of through our office. If leaders in cities and towns near New York feel the need of interesting local civic bodies, we have several men of ability who are prepared to make addresses. Mr. Lancaster Greene, whose activities are well known to LAND AND FREEDOM readers, is taking on an assignment of this kind for us in Boston.

Friends who entertained Professor A. Matheu Alonzo of the National College at Tarragona, Spain, during his visit to this country in 1934, will be interested to know that he needs fifty copies of "Progress and Poverty" in French, for the instruction of his class. The French publishers inform us that they can supply fifty copies (paper covers), for \$26, plus carriage. Because of our large commitments for new editions referred to in the first part of this report, we find our Book Fund depleted. If therefore one or two persons could come forward with a donation toward this specific task of putting "Progress and Poverty" into the hands of the youth of Spain, it would be most helpful at this time.

ANTOINETTE (KAUFMANN) WAMBOUGH,
Executive Secretary.

Death of Clarence Darrow

CLARENCE DARROW, humanitarian extraordinary, once said of Henry George:

"Henry George was a master of English; one of the greatest that ever used a pen. He was one of the real prophets of the world; one of the seers of the world. His was a wonderful mind; he saw a question from every side; his philosophy appealed to every school. Henry George wrote a profound book, the first book on political economy that people may read; the first and perhaps the last that was readable to plain ordinary men."

No finer tribute could be paid. The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation in preparing its little booklet "An

Appreciation of Henry George" by John Dewey, included in the latter pages, a series of comments by famous men. The Darrow remarks above quoted appear there.

The writer remembers particularly the request of our then president, the late Charles O'Connor Hennessy, to gather as many statements as possible made by famous men and women concerning the life or work of Henry George. Several days of research at the Main Library, Manhattan, were required, and in poring over the many sources of information I remember vividly the magazine article by Darrow in a 1913 issue of "Everyman." His succinct appraisal was part of a speech delivered by him at a Henry George Anniversary Dinner of the Single Tax Club in Chicago.

Interesting reference to this phase of Darrow's career is made in the N. Y. *World-Telegram* obituary, March 14, 1938:

"Soon after coming to Chicago, Darrow attended a lecture by Henry George and in the discussion after the speech he got up and delivered such a forceful analysis as to capture the audience. His talk impressed John P. Altgeld, then a Judge and later Governor of Illinois, who invited Darrow to become his law partner, and who was to exercise a great influence on his thought and career."

Students of Single Tax history will remember that Altgeld strove mightily for the Single Tax in his State, and that he was one of the many faithful, public-spirited followers of Henry George who came to realize the full import of George's concluding admonition in "Progress and Poverty",—

"The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends—those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be die for it. This is the power of Truth."

It is seldom accident that the paths of men cross. The altruism that actuated George to write these words, the humanitarian instincts that drove Darrow during a long life to do battle with the ignorance and apathy of the mob and the political martyrdom that Altgeld suffered himself to undergo are part and parcel of the great plan that links the lives and deeds of forward-looking men.

ANTOINETTE WAMBOUGH, Executive Secretary,
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

PROPERTY in land differs in its origin from property in any commodity produced by human labor. The product of labor naturally belongs to the laborer who produced it. . . . But the same argument does not apply to land, which is not the produce of labor, but is the gift of the Creator to the world to mankind. Every argument used to give an ethical foundation for the exclusive right of property in land has a latent fallacy.

JUSTICE LONGFIELD.