

# Henry George's Progress and Poverty

## The New Condensed Edition Reviewed and Recommended

The revival of public and political interest in the land question has set the seal to a demand, long impending, for a shortened version of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, and in the abridged edition recently published\* the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain has produced a truly remarkable volume in succession to its own complete edition.

This is no abridgment in the commonly accepted meaning of the term but, rather, a condensation that retains all the essential ingredients of Henry George's work, and omits nothing that contributes in any sense to the main thesis of his writings. We are presented with the essence—all that makes the original work what it is—in less than half the number of words.

With the immediate advantage of a bolder type and wider spacing this very readable book can be covered in a few days; and if some new reader may not, on first acquaintance, grasp the full significance of its message he will, surely, be encouraged by what he has read to try again.

Henry George wrote, as might be expected, for his day and generation, and dwelt mainly on conditions as witnessed by him in the United States. By the omission, therefore, of purely local illustrations and the modification of references that are by now out of date, we are led, as never before, to a full appreciation of the truth revealed

by Henry George, and of the appropriateness of his arguments, whatever the age, time or place to which they are applied.

It has been said that Henry George, when engaged upon his writings, had regard to the appeal made to the ear by the sentences he constructed, rather than to the stricter rules of grammar or syntax. This is possible because so much of his work was dictated, whereby he developed a free and natural, if at times rhetorical style. While, therefore, the editors have preserved the precise meaning of his words, by judicious and thoughtful revision, they have enhanced the brilliance of his writing. The pure logic of George's economic reasoning has been given special prominence, but care has been taken to retain much of his appeal to man's noblest emotions.

A line by line comparison with the original reveals the immense labour and care expended in the preparation of this edition. There has been much skilful grafting of passage to passage, achieving a perfection of continuity and arrangement.

If, in the words of J. H. Mackail, "literature is language put to its best purpose, used at its utmost power and with the greatest skill, and recorded that it may not pass away," then we have here a piece of literature indeed, and one destined, I believe, to become a "best-seller."

WILLIAM E. BLAND.

\* The Hogarth Press, London—7s. 6d. net.

### Enthusiastic Overseas Response

Hearty congratulations on the beautiful new condensed edition of a great classic. Its timeliness is clear. It brings into sharper focus the fundamental principles without which there cannot be "Equal Justice Under the Law." The books of Henry George are being read by old and young who discover that political economy, instead of being a dismal science, is the most exciting and necessary subject to understand.—*J. Rupert Mason, San Francisco.*

My cordial thanks for the copy of the new edition. The need for condensing was long overdue and this task has been faithfully done. The classic has been rejuvenated. The parcel of 20 copies has arrived and these have been distributed as a beginning. A bulk order for 250 copies will follow shortly—*E. F. Halkyard, Henry George Foundation, Australia.*

This is a beautiful piece of work and I congratulate you heartily on the contribution it makes to the cause. I like the headings you have put in. I like all that my eye has taken in so far. It is simply fine—*Miss V. G. Peterson, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York.*

Thank you sincerely for sending the book. You have done an excellent job of it in keeping the best parts, and the heading will make it much easier for teaching. Herewith a preliminary order for 10 copies—*Miss Strehel Walton, Henry George School of Social Science, Quebec.*

### Recommended to Pacifists

From Miss Betty Walden, Chiswick, W4: "World peace cannot be realized while economic injustice prevails, and the greatest economic injustices from which man is suffering to-day are (1) the unequal distribution of wealth caused by the system of land tenure which deprives the majority of access to the world's natural resources, and (2) travel and trade restrictions which separate mankind and prevent

co-operation between nations. Henry George's plan, outlined in *Progress and Poverty*, provides the best way of dealing with these." Letter in *Peace News*, October 30.

From Mr. V. G. Saldji, Brixton, S.W.9: "I have read the new edition of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* and cannot think of any greater challenge to offer to our earnest practical peacemakers than that they read this great work that sets out to analyse 'the countless evils within the social system.' If they do not come to the same conclusion as Henry George they will have benefited by the enlarged vision and mental stimulus that it cannot fail to give them." Letter in *Peace News*, November 20.

### Welcomed by Six Parliamentarians

This new edition of the classic on the taxation of land values will, I am sure, be of great interest and assistance to both the students of politics and to those who are interested in the problem of ensuring the fullest use of land for the benefit of the people—*Sir Hartley Shawcross, Q.C., M.P.*

It is very well done and attractive. I wish that it could be read by the many pseudo-economists who "explain" our economic debacles so glibly and offer new explanations every few months—*H. G. McGhee, M.P.*

Commendations have been received from the following Labour Members: *C. W. Gibson, C. R. Hobson, J. H. Hudson and R. R. Stokes.*

At the instance of Mr. G. G. Aylward and Mr. H. R. Lee, copies of the new edition have been purchased by Chiswick and Portsmouth Public Libraries.

All readers are asked to exercise their rights as ratepayers to recommend their Library Committees to purchase a copy of this new edition. Members of private subscription libraries are asked similarly to help to swell the sales, circulation and influence of this edition.