

FOREWORD

Henry George (1839-1897), America's foremost economic thinker, expressed his ideas in nine major works, of which Progress and Poverty is acknowledged to be his masterpiece.

In this book, George sought an answer to the modern "riddle of the Sphinx": Why does poverty persist in spite of increase of productive power? After analyzing the problem he found the answer in the tendency of the rent of land to even greater increase, thus depriving labor and capital of the increase that would otherwise be theirs. George offered as the remedy the public appropriation of rent through taxation, and the abolition of all other taxes, thus insuring to labor and capital their full rewards. This remedy became known as the "single tax."

George's analysis and remedy, and the social philosophy developed around it, had world-wide reverberations almost immediately and spurred a far-flung and many-sided movement.

This is the story of one man who was profoundly influenced by Henry George's philosophy, who participated in the movement for nearly forty years, and whose life and work culminated in the founding of the Henry George School of Social Science.