

An executive in a manufacturing concern eight miles from Hudson, New York (where I teach), who would never attend a class, has bought four copies of our text-book, "Progress and Poverty," to give away. In his office recently I noticed one of the tracts printed by Mr. Goeller that I did not recall giving to him. He said it had come back to him with acknowledgment of a "small contribution" he had made to Gilbert Tucker's group, the Tax Relief Association (I had sent them his name), and that he kept it on his desk "to start arguments with"!

I experienced one of my bitterest disappointments when the social science teacher from the Hudson High School dropped out of my class. A year later I had a chance to tell him that President Knarr of our Henry George Fellowship had recently seen a Cornell University text-book which gave considerable favorable treatment to the Georgeist Philosophy. His reply was, "Why shouldn't they? There are no arguments against it. I teach it as much as the Syllabus will permit."

A local merchant who "had no time" for class borrowed my copy of "Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty." He kept it so long that I finally asked him to return it unread so I could lend it to someone else. He stalled and when I finally recovered the book he had read it and said he was convinced that Single Tax would work if it were possible to get it tried.

I could give many more instances of books sold to people whom I unsuccessfully solicited to attend classes at the school. Some were influential people, some were not. Some read the books, others did not. I always have a copy of "Progress and Poverty" in my car and have sold them to all kinds of people in all kinds of places. I hope these facts may encourage some other teacher who is working alone "out in the sticks" where you cannot send out a thousand class announcements to a thousand *new* names twice a year but have to get your pupils by knocking them down and dragging them in. I feel if the class had continued in Albany and the one promised in Poughkeepsie would start, it would not only produce results both tangible and intangible in those cities, but would add to the prestige of my work in Hudson. Every outpost helps, but it is harder to keep up one's courage on the frontiers than where one attends large faculty meetings every few months.

One way we try to get publicity for the Hudson Extension is by exhibits in the windows of vacant stores. I like to think that there may be some intangible propaganda there—that some prejudice against our ideas may be broken down in minds of people we never contact in any other way.

The way of education is a long, slow way, it is a hard struggle. But it is *not* a futile endeavor. The "by-products" that we may never hear of are incalculable. In the work of education the best advice to follow is—haste not, rest not. "Its growth is in other hands."

## Abel Brink

**I**N the death of Abel Brink, early in January, 1940, the movement in Denmark has lost one of its ablest adherents. Of Abel Brink it can indeed be said that he toiled for the Truth, suffered for it, and died for it. Never robust, Brink spent most of his life in fighting for the rights of man. He died in his early fifties after a long illness. His mental and spiritual energy, his power of faith and devotion to the Truth, were too much for his frail body to support any longer.

His interest in political economy dates from his school years. Scarcely twenty when a pupil in Jakob Lange's People's High School (Adult High School), Brink translated an English book on political economy, the effort incidentally affording him an easy way to learn English. He was then planning to come to the United States. Later when he did come to this country, he spent several years on a relative's farm, then returned to Denmark to finish his education and get his University degree. He subsequently entered Government employ, and became a member of the Valuation Commission, interesting himself particularly in Land Valuation. If Denmark today has one of the best land valuation systems in the world, a system that is part of the governmental functions, it is because of Abel Brink's many years of work. He studied the systems in use in other lands. Among the systems he introduced was the Purdy Unit (New York City) system of urban land valuation for Copenhagen and other large towns. He also mapped farm land and did many things to make the government and the people of his country understand the immense importance, as a sound basis for political economy, of a proper understanding of land values.

For over twenty years Mr. Brink has been prominent in the Georgeist work in Denmark. He was a spearhead at all important meetings in his own country and at many a Conference in other lands. A quiet, shy man, a rather dry speaker and writer, the facts he had to tell were nevertheless of great importance. The papers written by him for various conventions would, of themselves, make an enlightening record of the work in Denmark.

For many years Mr. Brink had been editor of *Grundskyld*, the official organ of the Danish Henry George Association, or, as it subtitles itself, the "Association for Ground Debt and Free Trade." Our Danish comrades, incidentally, do not call themselves Single Taxers, but Georgeists. They do not speak of "Single Tax" but have, as the basis of their work and teachings, the words "Ground Debt" (*Grundskyld*, i. e., the debt owed to the community for the use of land).

Abel Brink was as faithful at this work as at all his other labor for the Truth in which he believed. As he was not gifted with the personal magnetism that aids

other workers in the Cause, in Denmark as elsewhere, Brink's influence relied mainly upon the unassailable truth of his argumentation, upon his astounding knowledge of facts, and his ability to marshal them. His keen sense of justice, his unswerving devotion to the Truth burned through his quiet, rather restrained, manner, and made itself felt whenever he spoke and wrote.

The January issue of *Grundskyld* was devoted mainly to tributes to Brink by leading associates, Jakob Lange, veteran of the Danish movement; K. J. Kristensen; F. Folke; J. L. Bjorner and Mrs. Signe Bjorner, as well as many others. His comrades spoke at the funeral ceremony, and a memorial meeting was held by the Henry George Association, in the form of a dinner at the Grundtvig House in Copenhagen. The tone of this meeting, as described in *Grundskyld*, was hopeful and cheerful, as Brink himself would have wished it. The speeches told of his fine work, of the tributes coming from other lands. It was on this occasion that Mr. Folke told of Abel Brink's last wish, his request that the words THE EARTH FOR THE PEOPLE might be carved on his gravestone.

Abel Brink's life, and the prominence he attained in the work for the Truth in which he believed, were a fine example of the power of faith. Lacking, either in appearance or manner, in that personal charm that attracts attention to the individual himself and may outweigh the cause he advocates, Brink worked his way up to a leading position in the Movement by his steadfast faith, his unswerving loyalty, his clear incisive understanding. He will be greatly missed in Denmark as elsewhere where Georgeists meet. And his name will stand high in the ranks of those who remained faithful . . . "even unto death."  
—GRACE ISABEL COLBRON

## Fellow Journeyman

THREE famous men have passed away recently, all within a short time of one another, all distinguished in their respective fields, all friends of the Henry George cause. They are, Raymond V. Ingersoll, Hamlin Garland and Edwin Markham.

It was a useful public career that came to an untimely end with the passing of Raymond Ingersoll, on February 24, 1940, at the age of 65. His interest in public affairs began forty years ago, when he was active in the New York City election which threw out the Tammany mayor, Van Wyck, and brought in Seth Low, who was then President of Columbia University. From 1919 to 1924, Ingersoll was secretary of the influential civic group, the City Club of New York. In 1924, he was selected as Impartial Chairman to arbitrate the labor disputes in the cloak and suit industry. He received wide com-

mendation from all sides for his fair and impartial adjudications. He resigned this post in 1931. In 1933 he was elected President of the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, and was re-elected in 1937. This position he retained, honorably and efficiently, up to his recent death. Though not active in the Georgeist cause, he was known to be very friendly, and was always prepared to lend his aid and influence when called upon to do so. He preferred to be known as a tax reformer rather than a single taxer, but conceded that his entire knowledge of taxation came to him from his study of Henry George.

Hamlin Garland, the "dean of American letters", died March 4, 1940, at the age of 79. He came from a pioneering family, and was born in Wisconsin in its frontier days. His chief sympathies and interests lay with the frontier pioneers, whom he has immortalized in his literary works. His travels took him to Iowa, Dakota, California and the Yukon. He foresaw the defeat of the pioneers in the economic system that was taking hold. Garland's accepted masterpiece, "A Son of the Middle Border" is the story of his own family, and its westward migrations, in the constant driving search for better land on which to settle. Having had the privilege of observing the land question at first hand, Garland was greatly influenced by Henry George. He was a member of the first National Conference of Single Taxers in 1890, and it was he who officiated in welcoming Henry George back to America after his travels abroad.

Our third friend, Edwin Markham, died on March 7, 1940. He would have celebrated his 88th birthday on April 23. Markham was born in Oregon, wrote verses since childhood, and worked on farms and cattle ranches. He lived in obscurity until his 47th year, when the poem that brought him fame was given to the world. "The Man with the Hoe" has been circulated more than any other single poem. Markham said that he was inspired by Millet's painting of the same name, in which the apathetic hoeman did indeed seem to be "bowed by the weight of centuries". "The yeoman," said the poet, "is the landed and well-to-do farmer. You need shed no tears for him. But here, in Millet's picture is his opposite, the hoeman, the landless and soul-blighted workman of the world." Markham's sense of outrage at this economic inequality resolved itself into his poem.

"Plundered, profaned, disinherited,  
Cries protest to the Judges of the World,  
A protest that is also a prophecy."

The founder of LAND AND FREEDOM, Joseph Dana Miller, was one of the first to bring Markham's poem to public attention. While Markham was a prolific writer and lecturer, he has not been able to escape the onus of being a one-poem poet. But he might well have been consoled with the knowledge that no one else ever made a deeper furrow with a mere hoe.