

## The "Anti-Poverty Society"

THE tearing down of the old Academy of Music in New York City is a reminder of the time when, nearly forty years ago, that building echoed to denunciations of involuntary poverty as something wholly man-made, and demands for a radical change in the system of land ownership that is responsible for poverty.

Forty years have passed; Henry George, Father Edward McGlynn, and the others who assailed the innermost ramparts of the citadel of privilege, seem to be forgotten. The landlords still take their mighty toll of the product of industry and trade, and the evil newspapers point to increases of billions of dollars in land values as evidence of prosperity. So far as the great majority of the 6,000,000 dwellers in New York seem to know or care, there is no land question that affects their interests.

What kind of animal is man? To the people of New York came the "Prophet of San Francisco," to preach the ever-old and ever-new gospel of justice, freedom and human brotherhood. He lived, labored, and died working for these aims. He challenged the very basis of the social order that rests upon the assumption that the earth belongs to the favored few, to whom the many must pay ransom for the right to exist. He passed, and there has been no other to take up his work and carry it on to a triumphal conclusion.

Why is it that the question of man's right to the use of the earth is no longer discussed, or even mentioned? The press is silent. The so-called "liberal" journals prate of parlor socialism and paternalistic schemes, but refuse to print anything so radical as the simple truth that our present land system is a gigantic robbery of the many for the benefit of the few. Privilege is enthroned, and the horde of special-interest beneficiaries steadily increases. How long, Oh Lord! how long?

## Some Mellon Economics

SECRETARY of the Treasury Mellon denounced the McNary-Haugen bill, designed to give the farmers some of the benefits of the protective tariff, on the ground that if enacted that measure would result in the sale of staple farm products to foreigners at lower prices than those paid by domestic consumers. That foreigners should profit by the aid of Government subsidies to our farmers was, to Mr. Mellon, an absurd proposition, that need only be stated to be condemned.

And Secretary Mellon is right. To tax the American people in order that surplus farm crops can be sold at low prices to European consumers, is manifestly unsound and unjust. The defeat of the bill, despite the political pressure brought to bear by the western farm states, shows that the Congress has more intelligence and courage than it is generally credited with.

So much for the farmer's side of the protective tariff scheme. How about our highly protected manufacturers, who are enabled to extort from the American farmers at least \$400,000,000, annually by reason of the high duties on imports? Do they sell to the foreigners at prices lower than the domestic consumer pays? Assuredly they do, in many cases the difference between the export and the domestic price being from 20 to 40 per cent. Mr. Mellon's Aluminum Company sells kitchenware to the benighted heathen much cheaper than to the American farmer. The United States Steel Corporation, that in the past twenty-five years has been enabled by the tariff to rob the people of the United States to the extent of at least \$1,000,000,000.00, in the shape of higher prices than would have prevailed under free trade, also sells its products for export at reduced prices. So with many other articles of general consumption. The farmer's housewife pays a heavy duty on her sewing machine. The same machine is sold at a substantially lower price to the women of South America, Africa or Asia.

What is Mr. Mellon kicking about? He has accumulated his immense fortune, estimated at \$200,000,000, largely through the operations of the tariff. Does he think it is all right for the wives and daughters of the farmers to pay a 70 per cent. tax on stockings, in order that America hosiery manufacturers can make exorbitant profits, while selling stockings cheaper in the British markets than at home? If the American people are to be robbed by high tariff taxes for the benefit of the manufacturers, why should not the system be applied for the benefit of the farmers as well?

## After Forty Years

THE fortieth anniversary of Henry George's memorable campaign for Mayor of New York City will bring to the survivors of those stirring days mingled feelings of pleasure and disappointment. The first real protest against the fundamental injustice of the existing system of land ownership to be voiced in American politics, the candidacy of the San Francisco printer, who had in Progress and Poverty challenged the age-old theories of private property in land, was hailed as the beginning of a movement that would destroy vested privilege and establish economic justice. With burning enthusiasm those who had seen the light of the torch held high by the simple, sincere, earnest prophet of justice and brotherhood, threw themselves into the contest for Mayor with the hope that out of the discussion provoked by the introduction of fundamental principles of social organization might come enlightenment that would make real the vision of a better day. That Henry George was defeated by a narrow plurality did not matter. What was important was the forcing into the political arena of an issue that had hitherto been ignored. Surely, they thought, it cannot be long

before the principles so clearly and courageously set forth by this leader of men will be everywhere accepted.

And now! After forty years what are conditions today? There is not the slightest excuse for ignoring the fact that so far as having any influence on public policies is concerned, there is no advance over 1886 in understanding, or will to apply, the truths then proclaimed by Henry George and his disciples. Many of the latter became estranged or discouraged: so-called "labor leaders" returned to their former political parties; even among those entitled to be termed "Single Taxers" because they were doing something to bring about the adoption of the Single Tax there arose grave differences of opinion concerning policies. Looking backward over the political movements with which many of those active in the 1886 campaign subsequently allied themselves, is only to recall a long history of futility and failure. Grover Cleveland, W. J. Bryan, W. R. Hearst, Tom Watson, Robert M. La Follette, were some of those supported in the vain expectation that in some way the Single Tax cause would be advanced. Even William H. Taft, President of the United States, found Single Tax supporters for his corrupt and dishonorable scheme for buying newspaper support for his discredited administration by putting print paper on the free list.

Mistakes? Yes, many of them. As was to have been expected, with a fallible and imperfect humanity. But the truths affirmed forty years ago are still eternally true, and more urgently needed for the welfare of mankind. Will another forty years see greater advancement toward their recognition?

## Delightful Sarcasm

EVERY now and then, you know, after a lifetime of right thinking, even a professor yearns to say what he thinks instead of what he ought to think; and, with all the advantages of his environment to withhold him from a course so unbecoming, sometimes he does it. Every now and then those in whom mental curiosity is active make a discovery and announce it, in spite of consequences; or they become interested in a conjecture and desire to follow it up. Every now and then they forget where they are, and liberate ideas for adults, instead of confining themselves to what is entirely safe and proper for young people who are being instructed to avoid all the rash experiments of their parents. Every now and then the experience and ratiocination of professors lead them to conclusions that are at variance with the well-known wisdom of the ages, which, in the main, they are employed to transmit.—STUART P. SHERMAN in *Scribner's*.

If God made the earth to be private property of the few and not the heritage of all, then He is the Father of the few and the step-father of the rest.—REV. FATHER MCGLYNN.

## Henry George Foundation Sponsors Forward Movement

THE Henry George Foundation of America, a new national Single Tax organization, has been born during the past month and will be formally launched at the Henry George Congress to be held in Philadelphia on September 2nd. It has grown out of the interest and activities of Single Tax leaders in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, who have joined the prominent figures in the national movement for the purpose of establishing a strong organization of national scope.

The foundation is being incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Foundation is to popularize the Single Tax idea, or as set forth in the language of the charter, for the stimulation of interest in the study of the science of political economy and, particularly, for the promulgation and application of the principles of the Georgean school of political economy, the economic philosophy of Henry George as presented to the world in "Progress and Poverty" and his other works.

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation includes Warren Worth Bailey, Paul de Moll, Charles R. Eckert, George E. Evans, Frederic C. Howe, Charles H. Ingersoll, J. C. Lincoln, George P. Loomis, John Mellor, Joseph Dana Miller, B. B. McGinnis, Hugo W. Noren, William E. Schoyer, Cornelius D. Scully, George J. Shaffer, Charles F. Shandrew, Carl D. Smith, Ralph E. Smith, Frank Stephens, George W. Wakefield and Percy R. Williams. George E. Evans has been chosen as President, Paul de Moll, Vice-President, William E. Schoyer, Treasurer, and Percy R. Williams, Secretary.

The National Advisory Commission, which is being formed, will include Louis F. Post, Will Atkinson, Henry P. Boynton, Benjamin W. Burger, George H. Duncan, H. B. Emigh, Fenton Lawson, Fay Lewis, Francis W. Maguire, Frederick H. Monroe, Jackson H. Ralston, Vernon J. Rose, Robert D. Towne, W. S. U'Ren, Peter Witt, Wm. A. Black, S. A. Stockwell, and a number of others prominent and active in the Single Tax movement. Henry W. Olney, of Washington, D. C., may be added to the National Advisory Commission.

The goal set by the leaders of the Foundation is a million dollar endowment fund. While this high ambition may not be realized in the immediate future, confidence is felt that a very substantial endowment will be made available for the broad educational campaign that is soon to be undertaken.

There has long been a feeling that the old home on Tenth Street in Philadelphia, where Henry George was born on September 2d, 1839, and which fortunately is still standing, should be preserved and made an historic shrine, which may be visited in the years to come by the thousands of his devoted disciples who shall visit Philadelphia. Believing