

drawn so heavily from us by the holding and owning of land of the country? If the Government are not prepared to tackle this problem of rating, the municipalities should have control, as they have in other countries, so that they might impose the burden on those who draw £600,000,000 in rent from the land of the people.

MR MACLAREN (Labour): I wonder if the hon. Member (supporting the resolution) or those representing the Ministry of Health have ever read the history of the Enclosure Acts in England. If there is any chapter in the history of England that is more damnable than another—I am using words not even commensurate to the circumstances—it is that chapter, when even the vicars of parishes and others used this House in a most diabolical and corrupt manner to rob the land from the common people for their immediate friends; and we have to listen to the lineal descendants of that galaxy of honest men of the 18th century telling us to-night that the whole tendency is for Socialists to get something out of the rich for the poor. It is necessary to bring up the past to remind hon. Members opposite, who boast of their Conservative heritage, that they were the people who started that kind of thing in the history of England.

The hon. Member for Greenwich (Sir G. Hume) lifted up a volume of the *Official Report* and read a series of questions invented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as questions which must be reviewed and weighed in the mind before there can be any examination into the whole question of the depressing influence of local taxation on local industry. I want to say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer devised those questions as being, every one of them, more futile than the other, and none of them necessary. He put up this series of questions for nothing more nor less than sheer camouflage. It is true that this question of rating has to be faced, and must be faced, and that this Government used the King's Speech to raise false hopes in the minds of the industrialists of this country that they were going to do something about rating; and the other night we were told that nothing would be done.

This problem is really one of keeping poverty in check. You must, in spite of yourselves, allow this enormous expenditure to rise year after year—for what? For looking after the poor, for administering clinics for children, for looking after sanatoria. The whole tendency of modern Governments is not to cut off the causes which give rise to this enormous expenditure; they leave the causes constantly to generate the same diseases, while we spend enormous sums of public money merely to try and patch the diseases which are generated by causes. I challenge any Member to show that the rates must come down. They must go up, and with the growing intelligence of the administrators of local authorities taking full advantage of enactments passed in this House, the rates will go up, despite any attempt of inquisitorial examinations or imprisonments or exposures of other men who do not agree with the Conservative party. The Conservative mind is caught between two difficulties. It has either to stop this public expenditure on account of the menace of the rates on industry, with the result that revolution is bound to follow, or stem revolution by ever increasing this burden. The poverty and destitution and the disinherited masses floating about this country are not the creation of the Labour party or of Socialists or of local authorities. These things are the creation of rapacious and unjust measures.

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## "PROGRESS AND POVERTY" ABRIDGED

By Prof. H. Gunnison Brown

During his visit to Europe last summer, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy announced that the Schalkenbach Foundation, of which he is the President, were engaged in a special piece of work in their aim to promote the teaching of Henry George. The impetus had come from Professor Harry Gunnison Brown of the University of Missouri, who was concerned to see an abridgment of *Progress and Poverty* that he and professors and teachers in the same faculty in other universities or schools could use as a text-book in the classes on economics. Professor Brown has made a handy and easily read condensation of the book in 80 pages, which has now been published for the Schalkenbach Foundation by Doubleday, Doran & Co., New York, under the title *Significant Paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty."*

The Schalkenbach Foundation have to be congratulated in the support for their promising enterprise that they have got from Professor John Dewey of Columbia University, whose name is a household word in American educational circles. The Foreword that Professor Dewey has written, paying his tribute in "An Appreciation of Henry George," must arrest attention not only for what is said, but also for the authority with which it is clothed. It is an admonition to the colleges that have hitherto either kept Henry George's works outside the curriculum or have told students not to waste any time on them. Sinister influences have tried thus to shut the door on the truth; but it is a gratifying sign of progress that in America, at any rate, "the conspiracy of silence," as Tolstoy named it, is being broken in these seats of learning. Professor Brown himself teaches the Henry George point of view to his large classes. Professors in other American Universities, if they do not actually uphold or endorse the teaching, at least explain it fully and impartially for the information of their students. Notable evidence of this advance in the scholastic attitude is seen in the Appendix to Professor Brown's abridgment, where one may read the declared opinions in favour of land value taxation as expressed by many leading American economists.

We hope the Schalkenbach Foundation will succeed in placing the *Significant Paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty"* in the hands of many students and teachers, as well as among the many who are not at school or college but who should know and really desire to know something about the economic philosophy of Henry George. The book is published in the United States at 50 cents. We have been favoured with supplies for sale from our Offices and invite orders now at 2s. retail or 2s. 2d. each, post paid.

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