

Henry George. That step is reserved for another consummate political genius like Thomas Jefferson and the ground work for it is now being laid not alone in America, but in England, in her colonies and on the continent of Europe. The economic trend of the times, is forcing it upon civilization just as surely as the natural law forced upon mankind those other great reforms which came in orderly succession in centuries past and which mark new evels in the onward march of the race.

## Labor and Democracy

WHEN man in barbarous times roamed the forest primeval he had the whole earth for a hunting ground. He wandered wherever the pastures tempted him, the climate beckoned and the skies allured. But, as time went on, the stronger tribes drove off the weaker, till, with the advent of so-called civilization, the world was "owned" by a few powerful ones for whose gratification the masses had to endure unending toil. In the course of the long struggle against tyranny and oppression an inspiration was born to which all the down-trodden peoples sought to give practical effect. They aspired, in short, to bring about a return to the old state of things in which the earth belonged to all, and every man was more or less master of his fate.

The aspiration seemed incapable of realization, for everywhere the strong ones who "owned" the earth had armies and navies at their command, while the landless many, though far greater in numbers, had nothing but the desire to regain their long-lost rights. It was evident that, so long as the powerful ones "owned" the earth, they could command the services of the landless, or compel them to hand over an ever increasing share of their gains for the privilege of being allowed to live. It was further evident that, so long as this state of things continued, the masses were practically the slaves of the few.

### NO COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC.

The long cherished aspiration of the many crystallized itself in a single word—DEMOCRACY—a hitherto non-existent state of society in which the people govern themselves, have equal opportunities, equal liberties, and equal rights, no individual or class being privileged above the rest. The people succeeded so far as to establish a state in which they governed themselves, but DEMOCRACY, with its equal rights to the earth and special privileges for none, was as far from being achieved as ever. At last a genius arose—lowly, obscure, with nothing but his own inherent greatness to distinguish him from the mob—who saw through the intricate maze of which modern society is composed, probed it to its very depths, discovered its secret, and in the very heart of it found the key to the riddle which had hitherto puzzled and baffled mankind. He sympathized with the aspiration of the masses, saw how the difficulties which encompassed it could be overcome, how the earth could be restored to its

rightful owners, how privilege could be abolished, and how DEMOCRACY could be achieved.

### HOW LAND VALUE IS CREATED.

It was clear that the problem could not be solved by cutting the land up into little pieces and giving each one a slice. In the first place, lots of people would not know what to do with it and would be no better off than before, and, in the second place, the very first baby born after the division had been made would render it unjust. But there was another and far different way of doing it, which went right to the root of things and solved the problem in the happiest way. It was clear that, while the land itself could not be equally divided, the land value could. It was further seen that this land value had been, and is still being, directly created solely by the presence and needs of the people as a whole; that without their presence and needs land would have no value at all; and that it varied in value according to the presence and needs of the community, being low in value when the people were few and their needs small, and high—sometimes enormously high—wherever they congregated in great numbers, and their need for land was unusually keen.

### AN APPROPRIATION, NOT A TAX!

It was seen that this land value had hitherto been appropriated, and was still being appropriated, by those who "owned" the land, without any right whatever on their part, and that the way to restore the rights of the whole people to the land was to make every land holder hand over to the community the economic rent, that is, the annual land value apart altogether from the value of any improvement in the shape of a building that had been erected upon it, in return for the privilege of being allowed to retain possession of the land for the current year. So long as the community was paid the economic rent the land could be held without any interference from the State. It has long been known that the revenue that would thus be obtained—which now goes to the so-called land owners, who did not create it, instead of to the community which did—would be amply sufficient to meet all the normal expenses of government and all the reasonable requirements of society. The appropriation by the community of the land value created by the community would have two outstanding results. It would open up the land to labor so that opportunities for employment would abound, production would increase, trade would improve, and there need be no unemployed. It would also—at any rate in normal times—do away with taxation of any kind, for the economic rent would be amply sufficient for the purpose, and to appropriate on behalf of the community what is created by and therefore belongs to the community would be an appropriation, not a tax.

### THE ONE THING THAT MATTERS.

This principle has been brought into practical opera-



tion in the municipal sphere in Queensland and in New South Wales where it has proved wonderfully successful and when it is extended to the State and Federal spheres, and the iniquitous system of privilege to local manufacturers known as "Protection" is done away with, the foundation of modern DEMOCRACY will have been securely laid, international wars will be a thing of the past, and humanity will have entered upon the greatest period in history since the appearance of man. But we in Australia are far from being anywhere near that state as yet. When the Australian workers abandon the strike, which has cost them millions of pounds during the last few years and left them worse off than before; when they cease regarding capital as the enemy of labor, and recognize that both capital and labor are mutually interested in the work they perform; when they give a fair days' toil for a fair day's pay, instead of dishonestly going as slow as they possibly can; when they get rid of the undemocratic principle of compulsion whether applied to arbitration awards, preference to unionists, joining unions, or even to the minimum wage; when in short, the Australian workers completely change their present attitude on almost every conceivable subject, and concentrate their attention on the one thing that matters—how to re-establish their long-lost rights in the land—then, but not till then, will AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY stand a chance of coming into its own.

—PERCY R. MEGGY.

## An Amusing Autobiography

THE following amusing autobiography is that of our friend, Edmund Vance Cooke. Mr. Cooke is no mean poet—indeed he is a sort of composite James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field, with an original touch of his own. His poems have been very widely copied, and are deserving of the vogue they have secured. But let Mr. Cooke tell his own story in his own amusing way:

"I was born Somewhere-in-Canada in the year of —— (deleted by censor). Place of interment not yet determined.

I had one father and one mother, and while I was yet in long clothes I brought them with me to the United States. At that time I was unable to write or speak the English tongue, though my father was an Englishman, tracing his ancestry back to his ancestors, and my mother was a Canadian of Irish, Scotch, French and other allied strains.

I finally settled in Ohio, overlooking the fact that I was not eligible to the presidency, and led a blameless life until the age of 12, when I began to write for publication. At the age of 14 an editor (name withheld at the request of his family) sent me a check for a contribution, and from that time I have never faltered in my downward career. Since then I have published a dozen books which have

won the enthusiastic approval of my publishers and myself.

Among these books are "Chronicles of the Little Tot" and "Impertinent Poems," the original poems of which first appeared in the pages of The S—E—P— (name of magazine withheld at the request of George Horace Lorimer); and I have also written many better poems which have been rejected by the same publication.

I early discovered that I was a more appreciative reader of my own writings than anyone else, and hence I have been reading them to whomever would pay the admission fee for over 20 years, unflinchingly facing audiences in every state of the Union except Nevada, there being no audience room in that state small enough to accommodate the total population.

Aside from reading my own writings in public I have no other bad habits. I do not even play golf.

In politics I am a Single Taxer and consequently I have few supporters in public office and my opinion of them is usually worse than that.

In appearance I am a vanishing blond and I wear my clothes well. My shoes are just as well-worn as my clothes.

My favorite composer —— (name deleted by rival) and my favorite author I have already mentioned.

When I began my career I was a poor young man and now I have a wife and three children.

Owing to the Hooverization of white paper and printer's ink, my full name and titles are not given here, but the rest of it is Edmund Vance Cooke."

## The Libertarian Suspends Publication

THE *Libertarian* which was published for three years at Greenville, South Carolina, and which bade fair to be representative of the liberal thought of the South, has suspended publication. It is a distinct loss.

The special Henry George number of the *Libertarian* was an achievement which reflected credit upon Messrs. Burbage and Bridges. Through the assistance of the Schalkenbach Fund numbers of these bound in stiff covers were placed in public libraries of the country. Copies of the Henry George number may still be secured of the publishers.

The former editor of the *Libertarian*, Mr. Ernest Bridges, writes us under date of July 21: "Do not suppose that because the magazine is no more there has been any decline in my enthusiasm for the Henry George movement. I am still young—36 years—and so clear is my insight into the message of George that I am almost oppressed with the sense of responsibility to do my utmost for the cause. Whether the victory is won in my time or not, I have resolved to do my part."

Two men take tribute on a busy spot;  
One holds a hat, and one—a vacant lot!—HORATIO.