

## CHARITY AND THE CHARITABLE

By Ashley Mitchell

The recent munificent gifts for charitable purposes, by magnates of the motor industry specially, have brought the subject of philanthropy very much to the fore. It has many aspects, not least being that it causes many people to wonder why some men should be able to dispose of such huge sums while others are unable to secure a decent livelihood. It is a sign of the decadence of moral fibre in a nation when large scale charity is applauded without strong protests against the social inequalities it reveals. "Ill fares the land, To hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, And men decay." In too many parts of the country men are decaying to-day, and the benevolence of Lord Nuffield and his fellows can do nothing to remove the fundamental causes of social injustice.

However well-intentioned, these actions call attention to the unfair privilege these philanthropists enjoy in being allowed to put their hands into the pockets of their fellow citizens, under the shelter of special tariffs passed for their benefit. But when tariffs were given to other producers, Lord Nuffield did not hesitate to say, in 1935, "Steel producers have taken advantage of the duty to put up the price." After enjoying a tariff on his own products for years before the steel manufacturers obtained theirs, this benevolent philanthropist said, "If they defy me much longer, I will go into the steel trade and produce steel at the same price as the foreigner."

It is well that people should reflect on the source of the great sums given for charitable purposes, lest in applauding benevolence they forget the futility of such gifts in bringing about any improvement in social conditions. Of such men as do possess colossal wealth, the question should be asked: "Are there no philanthropically-minded men who will devote their wealth to supporting organizations and causes that are working to remove fundamental injustice?" Would-be philanthropists in Lancashire have no need to copy Messrs Nuffield and Austin. Let them look further back to the noble example of Lancashire men who generously upheld the Anti-Corn Law League—needed as much now as one hundred years ago—and recall the special meeting summoned in Manchester a few years after the repeal of the Corn Laws. A Tory government had been elected, and there was a whisper that there would be a reversion to tariffs. In a few minutes at that meeting £50,000 was promised for a campaign fund, and no more was heard of a return to restrictions.

Charity cannot effect any improvement. The Nuffields have been dwarfed by Rockefeller, and he has been overshadowed as an almsgiver by the British Government. Public charity through unemployment and poor relief has exceeded all private munificence, yet still the cry goes up "They have made our lives bitter with hard bondage." Charity cannot supersede justice. Social improvement can only be obtained by eliminating land monopoly and so securing economic liberty for all.

*At the Manchester Henry George Club, 19th February.*

CATFORD, LONDON.—I object very strongly to assist in any way in strengthening the landlords' position, so was unable to tell my Banker to send the odd shillings and pence to a fund which would be almost entirely devoted to increasing their profits, so have decided to tell my Bankers to allot that money to the cause of Land & Liberty so enclose cheque, 15s. 4d., which please use as you think best. If you could persuade your subscribers to support you to this extent it should augment your funds considerably. Will do all in my power to assist in the coming L.C.C. Election.

## TEACHERS WANTED

The Henry George School of Social Science seeks among the readers of *Land & Liberty* those who are willing to form and take charge of classes or study circles in their own home neighbourhood.

Communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr F. C. R. Douglas, 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1.

Who will engage in this education which offers so much of interest and attraction for teachers and members of classes alike? It requires no special training or great ability as speaker or lecturer, nor does it put any one to the necessity of preparing formal lectures. Indeed, a "guide" is a better term than the scholastic "teacher," and instead of the equally scholastic "classes" we should speak of discussion circles, to describe correctly the method of study which the School has evolved with most remarkable success. It is the method of question and answer which makes every session a delightful experience, the members instructing one another, while the function of the teacher is to help as he can and keep the discussion within the orderly arrangement of the subject.

It is voluntary work. No fees are charged. The only expense to students (if they have not the book already) is the one shilling for copy of the text book *Progress and Poverty*. To the teachers, the School provides the equipment which is very simple: it consists of a copy of the *Teacher's Manual* with its questions and answers, and of "assignments" distributed at each session by the teacher to the students showing the portion of the book that is to be read for the next weekly session and containing the questions they are to deal with.

There are ten sessions so that the course of study extends over ten weeks.

Where to meet? Many teachers are conducting such study circles in their own homes (and a good class may be as few as six) but it should not be difficult, if that is more convenient, to procure a room or small hall in the vicinity. That is a matter for due consultation, any reasonable expense in the matter being met by the School, which will be responsible for postages and circulars, etc., to advertise the class and bring it together.

The first step is to write to the School about your desire to engage in this vital educational work. No one who understands the teaching of Henry George should hesitate to undertake this work, because of lack of experience as a teacher. The method evolved in the *Manual* makes everything so simple and so practical.

### Correspondence Courses

The School offers facilities for study by correspondence, each correspondent going through the course at his or her own pace, according to the time that can be devoted to it. Already in response to our notice of last month a number of students have enrolled. This course is for the benefit not only of those who cannot join classes locally but also of any who contemplate forming classes and who would like to make themselves thoroughly familiar with the method of study beforehand. Besides it is "home work" of absorbing interest.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  
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