

Capitalism vs. Monopoly**By Helen Cartier**

In the January 6th issue of the Saturday Review of Literature, devoted to a cultural inventory of the Ohio Valley, James H. Rodebaugh, under the caption "A Decade of Reform", writes: "The philosophical background of the civic revival derived immediately from the works of Henry George, Edward Bellamy, and Henry Demarest Lloyd. Their analysis of the unwholesome development of industrial civilizations, their protest against the rise of overpowering business combinations, and their conclusion that the state and a planned economy were the agency and means of achieving economic democracy became the guiding principles of the movement..."

Mr. Rodebaugh is correct when he states that the civic revival derived immediately from the works of these men, but completely erroneous when he lumps them together under one conclusion—that "the state and a planned economy were the agency and means of achieving economic democracy..."

Henry George was neither a statist nor a "planner." Quite the opposite. He was an arch-individualist and believed in capitalism. The confusion that exists with regard to Henry George can be attributed to the confusion that exists with regard to the term "capitalism." In the minds of most people capitalism and monopoly are synonymous—and their antithesis is socialism. Because George opposed the existing order he was assumed to be a socialist. This is not true.

George's main contention can be summed up as follows: That the evils attendant on poverty and depressions are traceable to private property in land, which permits valuable land sites and natural resources to be withheld from use.

He advocated a revision of our laws regarding private property and common property, by making a distinction between what was the

product of man's labor and what was not. Land, nature's gift, must be made common property; and wealth, the product of labor, private property. Only in this way could the ends of justice be served.

Henry George proved conclusively that land monopoly was the source of all monopolies, and failure to eliminate it would result in failure to eliminate the derivatives of this monopoly, which inevitably lead to unemployment, depressions, intolerance, and wars.

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