

IN A NEWSLETTER
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ARTHUR W. ROEBUCK

Robert Clancy

On November 17, 1971, Arthur Wentworth Roebuck of Toronto died at the age of 93. He had been a member of the Canadian Senate for many years. A devoted Georgist, he was Vice-President of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade.

Newspapers carried leading articles on the Senator's passing, and tributes far and wide were paid to him. He was lauded for his work in modernising Canada's divorce laws, and among his final tasks was legislation that outlawed racist propaganda.

Before being Senator, Roebuck served in the House of Commons and also in the Liberal government's cabinet. He was dismissed because he opposed the government's use of force against striking workers. He was responsible for the Industrial Standards Act and was active in promoting court reform. Working right to the end, he said, "I've been a reformer all my life. I still am."

A lifelong Georgist, Senator Roebuck was editor of a single tax paper as early as 1900. He was a founder of the Single Tax Association, later was a member of the Henry George Foundation of Canada and was on the governing committee of the School of Economic Science.

The following memorandum on Senator Roebuck was sent by his nephew, Mr. S.R. Walkinshaw:

"One of my early memories concerns a meeting of Georgists in Toronto at which my late uncle was the speaker. It was he who introduced me to Progress and Poverty. I shall always remember him as an uncompromising free trader and eloquent advocate of the Henry George School of economics.

"His career covered such fields as journalism, law and politics. He was successful in all. As a public servant he was twice elected to the Ontario Legislature and held the portfolios of Attorney-General, Minister of Labour and Ontario Hydro Commissioner. He was elected to the Government of Canada in 1940 and moved from there to the Senate of Canada in 1945. He served in this body with great distinction until his death. He will best be remembered for his concern for human rights and as a defender of the underdog.

"The Henry George movement has lost one of its most loyal supporters in his death and the movement will be poorer for his passing."