

Pennsylvania recently which were very successful. Haines D. Albright spoke to a large audience on Child Labor at Columbia, Frank Stephens spoke on the same subject at South Bethlehem to a large and appreciative audience. He created a profound impression and was invited to speak at Lehigh University as a result of his masterly logic and persuasive eloquence.

Wm. L. Ross spoke to a very successful meeting at Titusville on the same subject. He spoke also at Erie in connection with the Industrial Exhibit on The "Consumer's Responsibility." In spite of the fact that Walter Damrosch drew an immense audience within a stone's throw of the High School where the meeting was held, the meeting was a success. The newspapers were friendly and gave fine reports amounting in all to four and a half columns in the three dailies. The *Erie Times* gave two full columns headed, "The Philosophy of Henry George." The speaker spent the greater part of his time in expounding this philosophy. The Superintendent of Public Schools made Mr. Ross promise to return and address the Teacher's Association and also the Trades Unions.

FLORENCE A. BURLEIGH.

THE LATE WILLIAM M. HINTON.

And now the scythe of the Great Reaper has taken William M. Hinton of San Francisco, who will be known to those of the future who take an interest in the history of "Progress and Poverty" as the first printer of that book, the type having been set and the five hundred copies of what was known as the "Author's Edition," having been struck off on the press in his little San Francisco printing office in the fall of 1879.

When, after my father's death, I went to California to gather at first hand materials for the biography which subsequently appeared, Mr. Hinton was one of the men with whom I talked with most profit, since it was he and Edward R. Taylor, also of that city, with whom my father probably had the closest communion during the writing and printing of that book.

Mr. Hinton and my father had met twenty years before the appearance of "Progress and Poverty" and had become partners in a daily newspaper in 1871, eight years before the book appeared. It seems likely that but for Mr. Hinton the appearance of "Progress and Poverty" might have been much delayed, and certainly but for his faith and help, the author would have had to face still greater hardships than those that fell to his lot.

William M. Hinton was of English birth and parentage. He was brought to this country when a child by his father, I. T. Hinton, who came to sell a history of the United States, written by himself and his

brother, John Howard Hinton. Curiously enough, they first went to Philadelphia, where, when William M. Hinton was ten years old, my father was born in 1839. But the two men who were to be such good friends did not meet until the California days. Both were drawn there following the gold rush and in quest of fortunes, and both settled down to the same vocation—printing.

But they did not come close together until 1871, when my father had graduated from the printer's case and had become an active newspaper man.

At that time my father had reached the parting of the ways and believed his future lay in the East. He had come back from the East after an unsuccessful struggle to establish a telegraph news agency against the open and secret opposition of the Associated Press and the Western Union Telegraph Company, in which struggle the "San Francisco *Herald*," for which he had been the eastern correspondent, had died. He had later become the editor of the "Sacramento *Reporter*," and had fought a popular battle against the overshadowing Central Pacific Railroad, only to have that corporation buy a majority interest in the paper and throw him out. He had then run for the State legislature and had been defeated, and later had published a little pamphlet entitled "Our Land and Land Policy," which contained the elements of the later famous "Progress and Poverty," but which, save for the encouraging words of a few friends attracted practically no attention. Added to these discouragements, my father was a poor man and had a family to support.

It was under these circumstances that he talked with Mr. Hinton, relative to which the latter gave me a statement which I incorporated in my father's biography. Mr. Hinton said:

"Mr. George was talking of going East to settle. I had read his pamphlet 'Our Land and Land Policy,' and was taken with it, believing its author showed marked ability. In talking with him about it and other things, I asked him why he did not start a newspaper. He replied that he had no money; to which I said that anybody could start one with money, but that the difficult and commendable achievement was to start one without it. I had no thought about entering upon such an enterprise myself, as I was getting a good living out of the job printing establishment of Mahan & Co., of which firm I was a partner. I made the suggestion to Mr. George simply because at the time he had no employment.

"Yet, as a result of this casual conversation, the idea catching fire in his mind, I found myself before long getting into the thing, though even then I purposed to stay only until it should be set on its feet, planning then to withdraw.

"Three of us entered into an equal partnership—George, who was to be the editor; myself, who was to superintend the printing; and A. H. Rapp, a member of my job printing firm, who was to be business manager.

"We got together about \$1,800 dollars, and this and some more that we got in by the sale in advance of delivery routes, constituted all the capital we had with which to start a daily newspaper. We lost no time, and on Monday, December 4, 1871, the first copy of the *Daily Evening Post* appeared, with Hinton, Rapp & Co. as publishers, and Henry George as editor. Our office was at 605 Montgomery street, west side, a few doors north of Clay."

This was the first one cent paper west of the Rocky Mountains. It flourished and was built up to a five cent paper. Perhaps "Progress and Poverty" never would have been written but for the failure of a morning paper which the partners attempted but failed to establish in connection with it. They borrowed the money of John P. Jones, who for many years since was United States Senator from Nevada. A drouth, a commercial depression and a financial panic came in California, and when money was thus made tight, Jones suddenly called his loan, without giving my father even an audience. My father wanted to fight, but Mr. Hinton was for surrender in order to insure the safety of an interest one of his relatives had in the paper. For this reason my father acquiesced, and together my father and Mr. Hinton went out of the *Post*, the former at least "flat broke."

He obtained appointment to the only political office he ever held in his life—State Inspector of Gas Meters—and then sat down to writing "Progress and Poverty" out of the little pamphlet of half a dozen years before.

Mr. Hinton was a man of good education—probably obtained through his father and uncle. He had read widely and spoke French well. He had a good mind and was sincere in his friendship for my father and sympathetic with his ideas. He, after Dr. Taylor, was consulted about the writing as it went forward, chapter by chapter, and he had an abiding faith in the truths it set forth.

But when the book had been written no publisher would take it on the ordinary terms. Some, like Harper and Scribner, not on any terms whatever. D. Appleton & Co. agreed to take the risk of publication—if the author would bear the main cost.

There was nothing to do but accept this discouraging proposal. Yet, my father, Taylor and Hinton were firm in the belief that the book contained a great truth and would get attention if once it were to be properly offered to the world.

Mr. Hinton said he would set the book in his office—he having opened a small job office after going out of the "*Post*." He

said he would ask my father to pay for the work when he could, which, sanguine men that they were, they thought might be done by the sale of a special author's edition, from the plates before the plates were sent to Appleton in New York.

Mr. Hinton bought some new type and my father, standing in his shirt sleeves at a case, set up the first "stickful" of type on the book that was to make him famous.

I remember the little office very well, being there as a "devil" at the time, my father thinking that a printing office would give me a better education than finishing my course in a grammar school. And James H. Barry, the brilliant, virile and courageous editor and owner of *The Star*, of San Francisco in recent years, was a compositor there in those days, and set type on the book which he has many times since said he did not then appreciate, but for which his magnificent work for the Single Tax cause now proves him far and wide to have the profoundest admiration.

The man that appeared least concerned, indeed, least interested, about the office was Mr. Hinton himself. Outwardly he was slow and lethargic; very deliberate in conversation and prone to dry humor. He would appear to a casual acquaintance as the last man to be interested in the subject of political economy and to go to the considerable expense of putting a work on that subject into type—a work written by an obscure newspaper man to boot.

But beneath the surface Mr. Hinton was keen, and penetrating; a close, careful reasoner; and ready to listen and be shown where he was in error. As Mr. Barry has said, most of the men in the office who were setting the type on "Progress and Poverty" thought "the old man," as they not disrespectfully called him, was led away by his friendly feelings to undertake such a burden. But he knew, and events proved that he knew.

Later when the "Author's Edition" appeared, enough copies were sold at three dollars a copy among friends in California to reimburse Mr. Hinton for most of his outlay, the remainder coming a little later from other sources. And I am sure that it was one of the deepest satisfactions of his life that it was in his office and by his sympathy and friendly credit that his friend Henry George gave "Progress and Poverty" to the world—at least at that time.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

DEATH OF HON. DAVID OVERMEYER.

The recent death at his home in Topeka, Kan., of pneumonia, of David Overmeyer is a serious loss to his State and nation. He was one of the early disciples of Henry George and was ever zealous, consistent and fearless in advocating fundamental democracy in all its phases. After a close