

# History of a Montana Fortune

By G. GIACONE

**THE CLARKS:  
AN AMERICAN PHENOMENON**  
By William D. Mangam  
Silver Bow Press, \$2.50

This remarkable biography of the late Senator William Andrews Clark and his family will undoubtedly appeal to a great many readers who wish to get the low down on the Montana Copper King. The paramount significance to the disciples of Henry George, however, is that it exemplifies and substantiates two important economic theories of that great philosopher.

Although the theme of the narrative is the scandalous exposé of the Clark family, it is studded, nevertheless, with shocking revelations of the social evils inherent in inequitable distribution of wealth and power. We who have diligently perused "Progress and Poverty" know the devastating effects of the private control of natural resources and to have them publicized in a social document of this kind is, indeed, a big boost to our movement.

The story dates back to the gold discovery era and the chief character concerned is Senator Clark, who represented Montana in Congress from 1901 to 1907. When he was seventeen his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa and a few years later he continued westward to seek his fortune. During his adventures in the West, Mr. Clark had worked on numerous jobs, from a common laborer to a successful banker. Later he acquired his copper mines. He was an able, industrious, and shrewd man, whose impelling ambition made him one of the ten richest men living in his day.

Although all his enterprises had yielded him substantial profits under his excellent business management, Mr. Clark's principal interest lay in mining. In this field alone the foundation of his fabulous fortune was built in the six mines he owned outright. Each yielded several millions of dollars in profits.

However, his most prized and richest possession was the United

Verde Copper Mine in Arizona, that paid close a hundred millions in dividends. His other sources of income included three public utilities in Butte—the water supply, electric light and the street railway systems, all owned by Mr. Clark.

When Mr. Clark ran for Senator again in 1901 after two unsuccessful attempts he already enjoyed the distinction of being one of the wealthiest men in Montana. He depended on his vast fortune to buy his way to Congress in that year; by the free use of his money he had corrupted and debased the public life of the virile young commonwealth. Here the author delves into details on how Mr. Clark prevailed upon Montana's legislature, judges and other politicians with his incredible bribes and thereby blunted the weapons of justice—a venture in chicanery made possible only by his fantastic fortune amassed by the private ownership of natural resources.

At the expiration of his senatorial term Mr. Clark was at the height of his career as a mining magnate.



His enterprises had widened until they took in banking, lumbering, public utilities, cattle raising and beet sugar production. He was the sole owner of all these undertakings which he managed himself.

When Mr. Clark died in 1925 in his palatial mansion at Fifth Avenue and 77th Street, a building which took six years to construct at a cost of more than seven millions, he left the bulk of wealth to his children. His prized art collection, valued at three million dollars, was turned over to the Corcoran Gallery in Washington after the Metropolitan Museum had refused to comply with the restrictions imposed by Mr. Clark's will.

Mr. Mangam's biography emphasizes two points of Georgist theory. They are that most huge fortunes are made possible by monopolization of natural resources necessary to the production of all wealth; that those who possess or control them are really the persons who have the most influence with the operation of their government and power over the masses.

Such a condition of gross injustice in the distribution of wealth and power affects the economy of all forms of governments and breeds not only prostitution, ignorance, unemployment but contempt for law, religious and racial persecutions and war.

## Schedule of Classes (Fundamental Economics)

Fall Term, 1941—Philadelphia Extension

Henry George School of Social Science

West Branch Y. M. C. A.	52nd & Sansom Street	Oct. 9
Jewish Community Center	63rd & Ludlow Street	Oct. 9
Germantown Y. M. C. A.	5722 Greene Street	Oct. 6
Frankford Y. M. C. A.	Arrott & Lieper Streets	Oct. 8
North Branch Y. M. C. A.	1007 W. Lehigh Avenue	Oct. 9
Social Service Building	311 S. Juniper Street	Oct. 6
Southwest-Belmont Y. M. C. A.	1605 Catharine Street	Oct. 8
Neighborhood Center	426 Bainbridge Street	Oct. 8
Manoa, Pa. home of Miss Katherine Auchy		Oct. 8
Bristol, Pa.		Oct. 8
Red Cross Headquarters	252 Madison Street	
	911 Delaware Avenue	
	Wilmington, Del.	Oct. 6
Red Cross Headquarters	Wilmington, Del.	Oct. 8
Red Cross Headquarters	Wilmington, Del.	Oct. 10

All the above classes meet at 8:00 P.M.