

end that we shall win eternal social life, and not come to one of the smashes of civilization with the wrecks of which history is strewn; that I owe to Henry George."—*Herbert Quick.*

"I account it a great privilege to have known Henry George. When I first read 'Progress and Poverty' I said 'What manner of man is this? Surely, mere uninspired man has rarely spoken as this man speaks.' I marvelled at the wondrous light that he threw on the problem of the cause and the remedy of poverty; and I rejoiced exceedingly in his luminous demonstration of the truth, that involuntary poverty is not the result of the niggardliness of the Creator, but of the cupidity and stupidity of His children. In the last chapter of 'Progress and Poverty' Henry George rises to sublimest heights of intellect and feeling, and the philosopher takes on the character of a Hebrew prophet and Christian apostle in telling of the immortality of the soul and of eternal verities of which the things of time and space are but signs and symbols."

"'Progress and Poverty' is not merely a treatise of political economy and philosophy; it is also a poem, a prophesy and a prayer. In the last chapter Henry George tells how in quest of economic truth, he found, not only that, but something better, and as he says, 'A faith that was dead revived.' His philosophy appeals to rational instincts of fundamental religious truths, and this philosophy pervaded the character and life the man himself. Therefore it is, that so many of the millions of his readers, the hundreds of thousands who have heard his voice through the world, but most of all, those who have enjoyed his friendship, loved and revered the man 'as much as man could, this side idolatry,' and therefore was it, as was said of old, the common people heard him gladly. He died just as he

would have died, a willing martyr in an actual struggle for honesty and justice and the emancipation of the race. But Henry George is not dead—he is more alive than ever. He believed with an intensity of faith that was almost vision, in the immortality of the soul, and in the ultimate triumph of justice. His faith was not in vain. He lives in the immortal life beyond and lives more than ever in the life that is here."—*Dr. Edward McGlynn.*

All honest investigators will admit that in Henry George we have a man earnest as fire in his devotion to an ideal—earnest in his effort to find a solution for the difficult and anxious problem of social justice. To this effort he gave all his days and dreams down to the last hour of his heroic life.

I look on Henry George as a great prophet and leader of the race, for I join thousands of careful thinkers in believing that his proposal for a more equitable distribution of the land is perhaps the first step to be taken in the establishment of a just social order upon the planet.

I cannot speak of this great soul without emotion. He did not see in the land problem a cold hard question of economics merely; he saw in it a vital problem of religion, a problem of the soul and its destinies.

Henry George was a man of the people, a man God quickened and consecrated, a man worthy of eternal honour.—*Edwin Markham (Author of "The Man with the Hoe," etc.).*

[Mr. Will Atkinson, 64 & 66, Murray Street, New York City, who is compiling "The Henry George We Knew," invites chapters to the book—what is printed above will be a guide—from everyone in every country who can contribute something of value.—Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.]

## THE LAND QUESTION IN KENYA

By E. M. Ginders

A notice appeared in the October issue, 1916, of LAND & LIBERTY (Land Values) of an article by Col. Josiah G. Wedgwood on the Land Settlement Scheme, which had been prepared by the Government of British East Africa (Kenya) for the approval of our Colonial Office.

This contemplated the leasing of land to settlers at a rent based upon unimproved values and subject to periodic revision on this basis. Continuity of tenancy was to be conditional upon the holder making improvements or providing stock upon a scale proportionate to the extent of the holding over a time period.

Behind such an enlightened scheme must surely have been the men, or their traditions, who in their day did the good work in Nigeria and the Malay States, which at this time is yielding abundant harvest. When the dark age of Economics is passed, their names will stand high in the Hall of Valhalla.

Whether or no, nothing has since been heard of the scheme. It was smothered at birth, and in consequence we are faced with a crop of scandals and problems which its application, at that time, would have prevented and to-day would cure.

Relieved of all restraint and responsibility, except in some cases a nominal consideration or peppercorn rent which strengthened their titles, the demand of the "white settlers" for land in the Kenya Highlands became insatiable, their appetite grew by what it fed on.

The noble pioneers of Empire holding 150 square miles, wanted as much again, and got it. Among a thousand or so lesser fry "farms" of ten to thirty square miles are moderate holdings. In odd corners of

their vast estates they raise maize, coffee and other crops, but the harvest they are really waiting for is unearned increment, to be reaped at the expense of the British taxpayer, the native population, and of later arrivals in the colony. Let us see how it works out.

From Mr. Linfield's supplement to the recently issued report of the East African Commission we read that, "the sums advanced (British taxpayers' money for Railway construction and development works) have never been made a definite charge on the works to be undertaken with clear conditions providing for repayment of principal and interest. Thus, to take a well-known case, the profits of the Uganda Railway, which cost the Imperial taxpayer five-and-a-half millions, were for many years used to help balance the annual Budget of Kenya."

He goes on to tell us that in the past very little has been done towards repaying principal and interest charges on works which have become productive.

It would be interesting to know what, in fact, if anything, has been done in this connection.

Mr. Linfield also informs us that "in certain of the Dependencies (why this reticence?) large areas of land have been acquired by individuals at a very low price. Transport facilities provided at the cost of Imperial funds will have the effect of increasing enormously the value of such lands, and the owners should not object to having a charge levied on such lands, etc."

Then again: "In some cases little or no development work has been done in these areas. They are being held up until the general advance of the Dependency increases the value of the land, when it will be broken up and sold in lots to newcomers."

Even now pressure is being put upon the Colonial Secretary, involving further grants from Imperial funds

for the development of this area. One of the pleas advanced is that by this means unemployment at home will be relieved.

The Chinaman, who is held up to ridicule, at least got his roast pork for his sacrifice, where these muddle-heads would only produce the smell of it.

Under existing arrangements all we should get would be a stimulation of some industries at the expense of others, whilst the values created in the process would go into private pockets in the Kenya Highlands.

Judging by our experiences at home, this characteristic should recommend the proposal to our statesmen.

When the process has gone far enough one may expect that the advantages of Kenya will be properly boosted and grants in aid, more public money put up, to enable new settlers to buy out the old ones at the full market price, *i.e.*, the original price, which was nothing to speak of, plus the capitalized value of improvements provided by nation and Imperial taxpayers.

This part of the business can wait for the time being.

An abundant supply of native labour at the lowest possible wage is essential if top prices are to be realized, and in Kenya everything possible is being done to supply the want.

If the confiscation of essential parts of native reserves, shutting flocks off Highland pastures in dry seasons, involving wholesale destruction, will not suffice, there are other and more direct methods. Penal taxation of head and hut falling on men and women, old and young, and on cattle barns too where practicable.

Impediments placed in the way of trade and movement, finger print docketing, identification papers,

labour certificates, forced labour, veiled and unveiled, are all parts of the machinery employed.

If further stimulus is required, this too is provided at the port of entry, where such poor junk of international trade as the impoverished natives can contrive to buy is taxed on arrival. Surely every possible inducement has been provided to cause the native to work for white man's money, little as it is, and yet there is reluctance.

This being so it is plain that in spite of declarations for public consumption as to sacred trusts, so far as the Kenya Colony is concerned, neither the British taxpayer nor the native tribes are getting a fair deal.

In place of a thriving trade, operated to mutual advantage, which would have been possible under just and honest administration, the British taxpayer is riddled with development expenses. The reckless and unnecessary alienation of Kenya Highlands has made the colony a place to be avoided by overseas settlers.

There is, however, a remedy for the evils which beset the colony, which it is to be hoped some early Government will have the courage and power to enforce; it will be found in the suggestions of the Kenya Government of 1916. When these are made applicable to men of all races and colours, we shall get the same harmony prevailing in Kenya as we find in the Malay Peninsula. The hut, head and import taxes can then go by the board and with them all the machinery of oppression.

'Tis said that charity begins at home, if so, the origin of Justice will be as humble, for these are kindred of one sire. Then must the wrongs of Kenya wait her coming to our door. When the knock sounds may we be waiting there.

## MILLIONS LOST ON LAND SETTLEMENT

### The Cost of State Purchase and Control

The Select Committee on the Estimates in its report dealing with the Ministry of Agriculture show that the estimated expenditure of that Department for the current year is £2,840,386 compared with a net expenditure of £2,201,446 last year, the increase being chiefly due to the beet sugar subsidy. In 1913-14 the net expenditure was £264,312. Since that date nine new departments have been organized in the Ministry.

With regard to the land settlement scheme, the State in its endeavours to assist ex-servicemen undertook, under the Land Settlement Act, 1919, to bear the whole loss on both capital and revenue accounts incurred by county councils to 31st March, 1926, the date of valuation, when the loss is estimated to amount to between 40 and 50 per cent. At the lower figure (state the Committee) this would work out at about £6,000,000, making an approximate total loss of £9,500,000, representing capital and interest. This is about £38 per acre, and over £550 per tenant.

The total area acquired by County Councils in England and Wales for small holdings under all their powers is about 450,000 acres. Of these some 200,000 acres were acquired under the Small Holdings and Allotments Acts 1908 at an average price of about £32 10s. per acre, and about 250,000 acres under the Land Settlement Facilities Act of 1919. Of the land acquired under the 1919 Act, 214,338 acres were purchased for cash at a total cost of £9,088,830, or an average of about £42 10s. per acre. The rest has been taken on lease or purchased in consideration of annuities or rent charges.

To the purchase price of £9,088,830 must be added about £5,400,000 for capital commitments in respect of adaptation and equipment, and further sums representing miscellaneous capital expenditure. The total capital

expenditure has been about £15,365,000, or approximately £60 per acre. The total number of small holdings created is slightly over 30,000. The average rentals are about £2 per acre.

### Costly Experiments

Commenting on the "considerable loss" which has attended the direct farming operations in which the Ministry has engaged, the report remarks that arrangements were made to manage some of these farm settlements on a profit-sharing basis, but so far no profits have been available for distribution. Negotiations are pending for the disposal of several of the properties. The Ministry, it is stated, "are greatly disturbed at the financial losses at the profit-sharing farm at Patrington in Yorkshire, and have employed a well-known agriculturist to make a report on the farming and management of the estate.

The Committee offer the opinion that "No new farming operations should be carried out by the Ministry, and that any new small holdings scheme that may be undertaken should be on an economic and self-supporting basis."

### Minimum Wage Control

It is mentioned that the total additional expenditure necessitated by the working of the Agricultural Wages Regulation Act (1924) amounts to £42,158. There is an additional staff employed for this Act, of forty-two persons. There is a Central Wages Board of twenty-one persons, and there are forty-one district committees which are served by secretaries appointed and paid by the Ministry. All the members of the Central Wages Board and district committees are entitled to draw allowances varying from £3 3s. per day to 14s. per day.

[It may be noted that while the allowances to wage-fixing officials are £3 3s. to 14s. *per day*, the agricultural labourer for whom all this machinery is established gets, for example, in Norfolk 28s. *per week* as his fixed minimum wage.—Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.]