



"DUNCAN THE DRUGGIST"

George H. Duncan of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, author of *People, Land and Taxes*, died on September 21st at the age of 81, after a long record of public service and devotion to his ideals. He attended Amherst College but was called home in his senior year because of the death of his father, at which time he took over the family drug store. Later, however, he was awarded MA degrees from both Amherst and Dartmouth for his contribution in the important fields of taxation and public affairs. Described as the "elder statesman" of the Democratic party, he held virtually every local office open to a resident of Jaffrey at the local, state and federal levels, and represented his township in the General Court for eleven terms—a record equalled by only six other people in the history of New Hampshire.

Nationally known as a single taxer, he was president of the New Hampshire branch of the Henry George Foundation and lectured for that organization as well as for the Grange and Farm Bureau. He was a strong advocate of publicly owned public utilities and was active in the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, thus serving his community both in and out of office.

Among many tributes accorded him by the newspapers we chose an editorial by Richard A. Noyes, editor of the *Weekly Monadnock Ledger*, "Let George Do It," as a reflection of the contribution made by Mr. Duncan to the cause he soberly and steadily espoused.

The funeral service which he himself planned took place in Jaffrey's beautiful community hall, and was attended by 300 persons. Readings which made up the service included, from the Bible, Revelations 21: 1-4 and 22: 1-5; also Leviticus 25: 1, 19 and Ecclesiastes 12: 1-7. Several poems and portions of poems were read, including Tennyson's familiar "Crossing the Bar." Tucked in between the poetry and the scriptures was an inspired selection from the concluding chapter of *Progress and Poverty*, beginning "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance."

Six men took charge of the foregoing program: from Massachusetts, Joseph Richards and Benton MacKaye of Harvard and Shirley, respectively. From New Hampshire, the Reverend Richard A. Day of Peterborough, Heman Chase of Alstead, Lawrance Rathbun of Harrisville, Henry I. Baldwin of Hillsborough and Richard A. Noyes of Jaffrey.

At the noon luncheon of the Jaffrey Lions Club the following day, Heman Chase, active teacher of the philosophy of Henry George, addressed an audience of forty business and professional men on the subject of Mr. Duncan's philosophy, giving first the history of the philosophy, then the mechanics of putting the principles into effect. It was, said Prescott Duncan, son of George H., who presided, "a perfect occasion for a statement of Georgism."