

HENRY GEORGE IN THE BRITISH ISLES, by Elwood P. Lawrence, The Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, Michigan, 1957, 203 pages, \$5.

A NEW book devoted to the influence of Henry George on the political thought of Great Britain is a pleasant surprise. As might be expected, this one, by a professor of English at Michigan State University, is very readable.

The opening paragraph states that "Only those Englishmen with long memories, or the small band still devoted to the single tax would greet the name of Henry George or his book *Progress and Poverty*, with more than a blank stare." This neatly sums up the Englishman's attitude to Henry George, and it is questionable whether present-day Americans realize how much he influenced British political thought in the 1880's.

Professor Lawrence is to be commended for his extensive research into British writings. There are no less than 578 references in this historical work which reflects the most complete and painstaking effort on the part of the author.

The volume is divided into three parts: cause, effect and result; with the third section by far the most interesting. Here the author reminds us of the considerable influence that Henry George had on the Liberal party and

of the progress of the taxation of land values bill under its champion, Lloyd George. We are taken through these developments, up to 1930, when the King (George V), in his speech at the opening of Parliament, included the announcement that land valuation would be introduced into that session of Parliament by his ministers. The bill was never presented, however, and the subsequent defeat of an alternative budget device attempted by the Chancellor, Philip Snowden, will capture the attention of anyone interested in British politics and the land question.

Members of "the small band still devoted to the single tax" in Westminster will certainly pause at the final chapter entitled "A Noble Failure." It is regrettable that of the three politicians who were then enthusiastic over the land question, only Herbert Morrison remains in the House of Commons (C. R. Atlee having been elevated to the House of Lords, and R. R. Stokes having recently died).

Dr. Lawrence has performed valuable service in gathering so much scattered information into one book which demonstrates Henry George's impact on the British and shows how he aroused them to a sense of the social and economic shortcomings of their culture.

You may order *Henry George in the British Isles* through the Henry George News, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y. The price is \$5.