

Introducing Yoshisaburo Yamasaki

by V. G. PETERSON

*Henry George's Theory of Land Reform**, is the title of a handsome new volume just brought out by The Izumiya Co., Inc. of Japan. The author, Yoshisaburo Yamasaki, is a professor of social policy at the University of Kobe. According to an English translation of the table of contents, the book covers its subject with professional nicety. Divided into fifteen chapters, one of which gives a biographical sketch of Henry George, it treats such topics as: "Significance of Our Land and Land Policy"; "The Theory of Distribution with Special Reference to the Theory of Poverty"; "The United Labor Party, a Short History"; and "Some Effects of Georgist Movement and its Present Situation," to mention just a few. Elsewhere, Henry George is discussed in relation to Herbert Spencer and Leo Tolstoy.

What forces came into the life of Professor Yamasaki to chart his brilliant mind into these special channels of study, we do not know. But, we may soon learn, for this gentleman writes that he will sail for the United States in March, to spend the next ten months in New York. The journey, which is being financed and sponsored by Kobe University and the Rokkodai Foundation, is being made in the hope

of completing a Japanese translation of *Progress and Poverty*, a difficult task, but one for which the professor has an excellent background, as his published articles illustrate. These include "George and Tolstoy," which appeared in the Japanese Journal of Political Economy, and "The Influence of Henry George's Ideas upon Modern Japan," printed in English in the Kobe University Economic Review. The Schalkenbach Foundation has invited Professor Yamasaki to occupy one of its offices while he is in the metropolitan area.

As we contemplate with pleasure the coming visit of our new friend, and realize what he has accomplished without even the encouragement of a fellow Georgist close at hand, the significance of Henry George's words in *Social Problems*, is brought home to us and the lesson underscored.

Whoever becomes imbued with a noble idea kindles a flame from which other torches are lit, and influences those with whom he comes in contact, be they few or many." In the case of Professor Yamasaki, through his teaching and his writings, we can believe that his influence is upon many.

*295 pp., cloth, Price \$4.00 from Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 60 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

OPEN SESAME

A booklet from Dundee, Scotland is entitled "Open Sesame' Or Wealth for All." Its author, James Heron MacMurchie, deals with wealth and the profit motive as it pertains to the factors of production and distribution. He emphasizes the moral aspects of getting a living and blames taxation for many of our ills, showing that this is the result of a violation of the natural laws in the production and distribution of wealth.

"The profit motive is the incentive and taxation is the disincentive to production," states Mr. MacMurchie. "The profit motive is the dynamic power and taxation is the uncalled-for dead-weight brake on industry. This deadening brake is a revenue make-shift unwanted by capital and labor in the general run of industry. . . . Capital shuns investments where the prospects are unattractive. An incentive is the sine qua non of commerce."