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Starcke Urges U. S. Solve Land Problem

Seventy-five Years of *Progress and Poverty*

ANNIVERSARIES are great things. All the children and grandchildren come home in the spirit of delectable amity. And so it was at the 75th anniversary banquet in New York on May 15th at Town Hall Club. This was co-sponsored by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and Henry George School. As these two families have been closely connected for some time the anniversary attracted an unusual number of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A pleasant buzz began to build up in the lounge soon after six p. m. By seven all banquet tables were filled and the buzz had developed distinguishable human traits. At eight or so, Otto K. Dorn, vice president of the school and a trustee of both sponsoring organizations, extended a cordial welcome to all and presented the chairman, Ezra Cohen, who is also a trustee.

Mr. Cohen spoke interestingly of the history of the movement and introduced other guests at the table, including Lawson Purdy, president of the Schalkenbach Foundation. He was greeted by a rising ovation as he began to speak briefly of the influence on his philosophy of *Progress and Poverty*, the book of the evening.

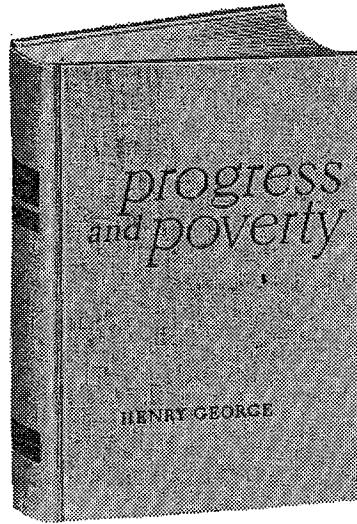
Now, at ninety (hard to believe), Mr. Purdy still speaks to large audiences without a microphone, and holds the same rapt attention he must have commanded from the groups who came to pause and stayed to listen in Henry George's day, when Mr. Purdy and other wonderful legendary characters spoke to all and sundry on the street corners of New York.

Presentation of First Copy

It followed with pleasing appropriateness for Mr. Purdy to close his remarks by presenting the first copy of the de luxe 75th anniversary edition of *Progress and Poverty* to John Fall of the New York Public Library. Mr. Fall spoke knowingly of the growing collection of valuable documents already in the New York Public Library, which includes recent additions given by Miss Agnes de Mille. He urged any who were especially interested in the scrap books to come soon and see them as their life is limited, and they will have to be microfilmed, as there is no known way to preserve them.

We have spoken of The Book, but this was also an evening to celebrate A Man. He, distinguished guest from Denmark, Dr. Viggo Starcke, deserves a volume by himself. His address was a masterpiece spoken with the persuasive voice of experience. It will long be remembered because of the simple eloquence of truth, frankness, sincerity and dignity.

At the close of his moving address, Miss V. G. Peterson, Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, took Dr. Starcke completely by surprise and presented him with an engrossed testimonial as a token of grati-



The Book—

This is the 75th anniversary de luxe edition of *Progress and Poverty*, published by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York. It was designed by Wallace Kibbe of San Francisco. Printed with wide margins, and handsomely bound in buckram, this is a fine example of the art of book-making. The price is five dollars a volume.

tude for his visit to America and the inspiration he has given to all who have heard him.

A number of guests were introduced from the audience. Among them were: Mrs. John Dewey; Raymond Moley; Henry Steeger, publisher; representatives of the Danish Information Bureau and the American Scandinavian Foundation; and directors of the Boston, Hartford, Philadelphia and Newark extensions of the Henry George School. Dr. Geoffrey Esty represented the Lincoln Foundation and Alexander Goldfinger took a bow for the Economics Education Institute of Newark, New Jersey.

That the 75th anniversary enjoyed the good wishes of many who could not be present is indicated by this letter to Robert Clancy, director of the Henry George School, from Broadus Mitchell of Rutgers University:

"Every economist must be eager to acknowledge the significance of *Progress and Poverty*. The acuteness of the reasoning, the ardor and high motive of the work, the faithfulness with which it reflected the problems not only of the day but of all times, and the sheer beauty of the book as a piece of literature have claimed for it a distinction and influence which speak for themselves. How many have been stirred for the first time to social awareness by these famous chapters! Of course it is difficult, and intrinsically unfair, to compare the productions of economic thinkers, for they had different objects. But on the basis of longevity alone, few are in the group to which *Progress and Poverty* belongs. And one may believe that the

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Progress and Poverty

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nobility of spirit of the book, quite apart from its learning, wisdom and specific recommendation, will project it into the far future."

Another university professor, Eric T. Goldman of Princeton, sent this statement:

"Commenting on the influence of *Progress and Poverty* is close to the superfluous, but perhaps one man's special experience is worth a moment. For some years prior to 1952, I was working on a history of American reform and over and over again my research ran into this fact. An enormous number of men and women, strikingly different people, men and women who were to lead twentieth century America in a dozen fields of humane activity, wrote or told someone that their whole thinking had been re-directed by reading *Progress and Poverty* in their formative years. In this respect no other book came anywhere near comparable influence, and I would like to add this word of tribute to a volume which magically catalyzed the best yearnings of our grandfathers and fathers."

Carl Shaw, an American soldier and rhapsodic Detroit Georgist, writing from Camp Truscott in Salzburg, Austria, sent congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary, and said, "we can feel proud to be associated with this book that has withstood all attacks for 75 years."