

What Civilization Did For Edward Kelly

EDWARD KELLY lived in New York, where he was born, until he was 22. His mother was a janitress and he sold papers and did various odd jobs to help out. His father disappeared when Edward was fourteen and for a time Edward was the main support of his mother.

He had never learned to read and write, and no truant officer had ever presented himself at his home. At fifteen he got a year in Elmira for a clothing store theft. Because he was large for his age he was not put in school but set to work in the blacksmith shops. He was turned out as illiterate as he had entered.

The other day he was arrested for an attempt to burglarize another clothing store for which character of establishment he seems to have had a partiality. He is described as having an intelligent face, but found difficulty in expressing himself because of his limited vocabulary.

Maybe if he had been educated he would have remained a thief—perhaps he would have been a more expert thief. But the fact remains that he never had a chance to grow up an honest self-respecting lad. Society put the criminal stamp on him with his first offence, as it does with so many others, threw him into the scrap heap, forced him to consort with criminals, denied him mental and moral tuition because he was tall for a boy of fifteen, and after a year threw him out into the world again, not troubling itself as to what became of him.

The enlightened judge, George W. Martin, chairman of King's County Judges, before whom he was charged, had no option but to send him to Sing Sing, but before he sentenced him he had something to say, and we commend what he said to those who are interested in crime problems:

We have not an institution where we might send a defendant of this kind and rid him of his handicap and give him a chance to work out his talents for good. He is another proof of how far short we fall in solving crime problems justly and intelligently.

"We find alleged crime experts rushing into print with their blatant demand, 'put him in prison,' as the cure-all for crime. A parrot could say as much and reason as intelligently. Here we have an unfortunate illiterate, who has since 1923, been in and out of prison without the least effort on the part of the authorities to try to save him. It has just been a case of yank him and throw him out. A decent effort to save this boy in the first instance would have kept him from other crimes and done society a useful service.

"Now I must send him to Sing Sing because the law says I must. He is here as a second offender, and he must be sent to associate with hardened criminals and thereby become hardened in crime."

All honor to Judge Martin! Rarely do we hear from the bench a word in defence of the disinherited.

Pittsburgh Prepares for Great Jubilee Congress September 23-24-25

THE Pittsburgh Convention celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the publication of "Progress and Poverty," promises to be a splendid demonstration of the fact that the great movement inaugurated by Henry George through the completion in 1879 of his immortal volume, is today thoroughly alive and that the Georgists of America are ready to press forward toward even greater achievements in the future.

Chairman William N. McNair of the Convention Committee announces that preparations are now well advanced and that several thousand invitations have been mailed to all parts of the United States and Canada, with a view to a record-breaking attendance for this notable event. This is the Fourth Annual Henry George Congress and, like its worthy predecessors, is held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation of America, which has its national headquarters in Pittsburgh. The Henry George Club of Pittsburgh is giving its whole-hearted cooperation to the officers and committees of the Foundation in the convention preparations and will act as host.

United States Senator Clarence C. Dill, of the State of Washington, will honor the Henry George Congress with his presence and will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet on the evening of September 24th. A very high grade programme throughout is assured by the acceptances already received from speakers of ability and prominence and the plans which have been made for special features of interest. The list of distinguished speakers will include Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free-Trade and Mrs. Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George, both of whom are now in Europe in connection with the International Conference at Edinburgh; Hon. Lawson Purdy, former President of the New York City Tax Assessment Commission; Hon. William A. Magee, twice Mayor of Pittsburgh and sponsor of the famous Graded Tax Plan; Hon. Peter Witt, former member of Cleveland City Council, recently returned from an observation trip abroad; Hon. Thomas C. McMahon, now and for the past eight years Chief Tax Assessor of Pittsburgh; and Hon. Norman Thomas, Socialist nominee for President in 1928 and now a candidate for Mayor of New York City. The very significant declarations as to the importance of the land question made by Mr. Thomas during the late presidential campaign and his stand in favor of the taxation of land values as proposed by Henry George, will lend special interest to his appearance at the Single Tax Conference in Pittsburgh.

The subject of Senator Dill's address is not as yet known, but the committee is highly gratified that he has displayed