

## "THE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY."—By HENRY GEORGE

### Reviews and Opinions of the New Edition

*The following review was issued from 94 Petty France to the Press and gave direction to excellent notices in many newspapers. It appeared in full in the "Paisley Daily Express" and the "Irish News," Dublin.*

Opinion on the burning question of the day is not slowly sounding an alarm. Politicians, statesmen and publicists have become anxious, yet no one has any message to deliver. Unemployment is the crux of the position, and it is around this baffling problem that conflicting thought seems to spend itself. Clearly some fundamental change is inevitable, and to those who look beneath the surface of things it would appear as if civilization was going through the birth-pangs of some new era. We may speculate as to what the change is to be, but that some change is coming no one seems to dispute. Is there a political economy to which the student and the man-in-the-street can turn for help? There may be, but it is not so recognized.

There is before us a new edition of *The Science of Political Economy*, by Henry George, published by the Henry George Foundation of London, at the moderate price of 2s. 6d., well bound in cloth. The book has been out of print for long years, and the publishers report that before going to Press they had orders for close upon 2,000 copies. It does look as if they were supplying a much-felt want.

#### A LOGICAL ANALYSIS

*The Science of Political Economy* is divided into five sections, each a link in a chain of logical analysis, full of argument and illustrations that strengthen the case it seeks to expound. Whether we agree with the writer or not his original ideas on the definition of wealth are clearly stated. The following passage indicates the scope and purpose of this work:—

"Of all the sciences, political economy is that which to civilized men of to-day is of most practical importance. It is the science to which must belong the solving of problems that at the close of a century of the greatest material and scientific development the world has yet seen, are in all civilized countries clouding the horizon of the future—the only science that can enable our civilization to escape already threatening catastrophe. Yet, surpassing in its practical importance as political economy is, he who to-day would form clear and sure ideas of what it really teaches must form them for himself.

"To define a word is to mark off what it includes from what it does not include—to make it in our minds, as it were, clear and sharp on its edges—so that it will always stand for the same thing or things, not at one time mean more and at another time less.

"Thus, beginning at the beginnings, let us consider the nature and scope of political economy, that we may see its origin and meaning, what it includes and what it does not include. If in this I ask the reader to go with me deeper than writers on political economy usually do, let him not think me wandering from the subject. He who would build a towering structure of brick and stone, that in stress and strain will stand firm and plumb, digs for its foundation to solid rock."

The two chapters on Conscious and Unconscious Co-operation, together with the chapters on The Two Sources of Value, Value from Production and Value from Obligation, well entitles *The Science of Political Economy* to a hearing from every student of social problems, and certainly to a place in every public library throughout the land.

#### ENLIGHTENING CHAPTERS

Another enlightening contribution that the book makes to economic study is in showing that the so-called Law of Diminishing Returns is not particular to Agriculture, but is of universal application. In the light of this exposition the chapters on time and space can be read with advantage.

The chapter on the Breakdown of Scholastic Political Economy is of more than historical interest. Here the author reveals in the course of his examination an acquaint-

ance with economic writings since the time of Adam Smith, and before his time, that makes the book to be one of no small standing. In almost every chapter, in words that never fail the thought, the student is helped to an understanding of the laws underlying the production and distribution of wealth.

### Storehouse of Ideas

*Reynolds's Illustrated News*, London, 1st January, gave this brief notice of the book:—

Now comes along the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, making accessible, at a ridiculously low price considering its size and importance, the work of another seminal thinker in the sphere of economics. *The Science of Political Economy*, by Henry George (Henry George Foundation, 2s. 6d.), is a book you cannot afford to miss.

Its 410 close-packed (and admirably indexed) pages are a marvel of lucid exposition, and a storehouse of ideas. Whether or not you agree with George's views (and he invites you to disagree, and to bring every theory he advances to the test of experience) you cannot but find him intensely stimulating.

Moreover, he goes deeper into the heart of things than most of the classical writers on economics. His opening chapters, in which he deals with the fundamental facts of human association without which economic relationships cannot arise, are unique in works of this kind.

Among other Press notices and reviews are those in the *Birkenhead News* (by "T.M.P."), *Keighley News*, *Yorks Observer*, *Co-operative Educator*, *Edinburgh Evening News*, *Aberdeen Press and Journal* and the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*.

### The Book as a Christmas Present

Mr C. H. Batty, President of the Hendon Rotary Club, chose a happy and generous-spirited way of recruiting students for *The Science of Political Economy*. He made the book his Christmas Card. Purchasing the copies from the Foundation he sent them with a special inscription by way of Christmas greetings to the Presidents of the 114 Rotary Clubs in London. We have been privileged to read a large number of compliments and thanks that have come to him and in these acknowledgments received from his friends and associates in the Rotary movement he can well be proud of a splendid purpose achieved.

The following extracts from some of the letters speak for themselves:—

"Political economy is a subject upon which my knowledge is unfortunately all too slender, and I have not read Henry George's works. I shall have much pleasure in doing so."

"Your charming and thoughtful Christmas present was a most pleasant surprise and all the nicer for that. You could not have thought of anything more suitable, for the information in the book will be of inestimable service in my Rotary work."

"I shall read it with the more interest because I know before you sent it you will have decided that it is 'the goods.'"

"I don't know what led you to select this present but I assure you, you could not have made another choice which would have been more to my liking."

"I have no first-hand acquaintance with the author's works, as he was looked upon as 'outside the pale' by the Professors in my student days, and I welcome the opportunity of reading it in the light of present-day conditions."

"Please accept my best thanks for Henry George's book which calls up memories of *Progress and Poverty*. I know I shall enjoy reading it."

"It is a subject I am greatly interested in, and I only wish the views expressed by the author were even more widely held than they are. But, still, I am one of those who has great hopes that the future may bring forth an alteration in social conditions that will prove of advantage to everybody."

"I much enjoy Henry George's writings on political economy. It is my favourite subject so I am looking