

## "THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT"



GEORGE LAMB  
(Aged 65 years)

For the man who, seeing the want and misery, the ignorance and brutishness caused by unjust social institutions, sets himself, in so far as he has strength, to right them, there is disappointment and bitterness. So it has been of old time. So it is even now.

Let us not disguise it. Over and over again has the standard of Truth and Justice been raised in this world. Over and over again has it been trampled down—oft-times in blood. If they are weak forces that are opposed to Truth, how should Error so long prevail? If Justice has but to raise her head to have Injustice flee before her, how should the wail of the oppressed so long go up?

But for those who see Truth and would follow her; for those who recognize Justice and would stand for her, success is not the only thing. Success! Why, Falsehood has often that to give; and Injustice often has that to give. Must not Truth and Justice have something to give that is their own by proper right—theirs in essence, and not by accident?

That they have, and that here and now, every one who has felt their exaltation knows.—*Henry George.*

In the passing of George Lamb, the United Committee and the movement for which it speaks has lost one of its most earnest and lovable adherents. During the past twenty-six years through indifferent health he had been unable to take his place in the open field of our activities, and because of this frailty his name is not familiar to our people. He was known only by a few, outside his associates in the early days of the movement.

A keen politician, George Lamb looked to his municipal experience fitting him the better to enter with so much strength and authority into the wider field of political endeavour. It was the hope and expectation of his friends who saw in him the promise of a leader with understanding, high courage, tact and tenacity. But it was not to be. He suffered much but was never known to complain. He watched from afar the onward sweep of the campaign and his heart rejoiced at the progress. He longed to be in the fighting line, and once, some ten years since, in his own questioning and pleasing manner, said to me: "I have not yet lost hope of being more useful to the cause; I feel I am gaining new strength and if it continues my purpose, as you know, is to give myself wholly to the movement." He had the passion for active service and if the hope of better

health had been the realization and not the dream the name of George Lamb would have figured in Parliamentary circles as one of the foremost exponents of the Land Value policy.

No man was more deeply attached to the teaching of Henry George. He was intellectually convinced and spiritually moved as few men are. In the fall of 1924, when he was leaving with his sister for his favourite winter resort in California, I presented him with a typewritten passage from *PROGRESS AND POVERTY* which he might use to engage some fellow-traveller in conversation, so to provoke conversations on the merits of the book. He replied: "You have given me just what I wanted. It is my favourite reading in *PROGRESS AND POVERTY*. It is this appeal that brought me into the movement and more than anything else keeps me with you." The appeal is now in pamphlet form, entitled *THE MASTER MOTIVE OF HUMAN ACTION*. It will remain a permanent piece of our literature, a happy and inspiring memory of our colleague.

It is not my province to tell of his standing as a business man and employer of labour. Enough to say that the staff of Lamb Bros. one and all adored their chief; at the graveside the workers of the Firm paid high respect to his memory. No one could help loving the man and those who were intimately connected with his life in industry, or in any capacity, became as a matter of course attached to him. He understood the consequences of divorcing man from the bounties of nature, and when he encountered them in any undisciplined form then was patience seen in touch with a heart that was mute at the balance. There are not a few who in their extremity can recall with gratitude the wise counsel and the helping hand of George Lamb.

Twelve years ago he became a member of the United Committee and at once identified himself with its work and outlook. His generous and never failing support could always be relied upon. In this he had no sympathy and little patience with the idea that his contributions to the funds should be governed by what others gave. He never asked what this or that man was giving. For him that was a question that lay between the giver and his own sense of obligation to the movement, and he charged me never to mention what he gave, or the number of his donations. He was a business man of first rank, but the office had his complete confidence. He had no time for any detailed statement as to how the money was spent; *LAND & LIBERTY* could give him, or anyone else concerned, all the assurance that his support of the Committee was justified.

He was ever free and ready with appreciations. Here is an excerpt from one of his letters written years ago: "Mr. F. Folke, at the end of Mr. Madsen's article, breathes the spirit of Henry George and it is in the right company in the pages of *LAND & LIBERTY*." Again, last year, on his return home from his last resting in California: "It is most cheering to hear of your two visitors, and shows the absolute necessity of keeping *LAND & LIBERTY* at its work. We must keep the flag flying."

His last impulse to engage himself personally in the argument, written 9th January, 1925, is in the light of his passing on a year later, an affecting memory: "It came to me this A.M. that it would give me a greater interest in life if I could put a little of my own thoughts into our cause and that step by step I might express myself better. I wish to make myself clear on paper to begin with. I enclose something for *LAND & LIBERTY*. It is my first attempt since I wrote on the question in our local Press, thirty years ago." This

latest and last word from his pen appeared in the February, 1925, issue of the magazine.

The health of our colleague and friend was ever the affectionate care of his devoted sister and brother, and they can tell how he played the man. For ourselves he had ever a smile and an encouraging word. His first visits to the office after one of his sojourns abroad were events of a high purpose ever to be remembered and associated with the things of the Spirit. His warm greeting, his joyous countenance, his voice and his questions turned the room into a conference on the position of the movement at home and abroad.

His interest in what was uppermost at the moment was ever the same. If want of money interfered with any project, any urgent piece of publicity, he would say: "If this must be done, let it be done; you know the cause is never out of my mind." Again, he would say: "I am not giving all I should give;" and his last words were of inspiration and assurance that all would yet be well. It may be difficult for the United Committee to find such another generous and unflinching supporter; it is impossible to imagine anyone taking the place he held in our esteem and which he now holds in our affectionate remembrance.

He had ever a word for the plain truth on the land question. He was honourably retired and without a murmur accepted the inevitable; yet in the background, in his own winning way, he kept the faith and gladly put his will to serve at the disposal of the United Committee. He was modest and unassuming and readily gained a hearing in any company. He was not out for success in his day; he was out for progress and he was happy in the thought that the cause he had made his own had something to give him, something that belonged to it by proper right and not by accident.

George Lamb's last words to his colleagues and co-workers in Henry George were passed on by his sister. With a smile he whispered: "Send them all my love."

We extend to his sister and brother our sincerest sympathy in their irreparable loss.

J. P.

### MEMORIAL MEETING

George Lamb, member of the United Committee, passed away peacefully at his home at Caldy, on Friday, 1st January, after a six-weeks' illness, in which there was no pain but only a growing sense of physical weakness.

A gathering of friends who knew George Lamb intimately was held on 13th January, under the auspices of the United Committee, at 11, Tothill Street, to pay respect to his memory. It was a sad moment but the grief over the loss of such a stalwart friend and colleague was dispelled as each speaker gave gratitude for having enjoyed the privilege of his comradeship in their common cause. Among those present were Mr. Richard McGhee, Mr. Fred Crilly, Mrs. Warburton, Mr. and Mrs. John Paul and Mr. and Mrs. Madsen. Letters of regret at not being able to attend came from a number of friends, including Messrs. L. P. Jacobs, W. R. Lester and ex-Bailie Peter Burt, J.P.

Mr. Paul said: We have met to offer a tribute to the memory of a friend and a colleague in the Henry George movement. George Lamb established the firm of Lamb Brothers, Bootle, 40 years ago. Seven years later he entered the Bootle Town Council and was elected Mayor 1889-1900, being the first man in England to occupy such a position as an uncompromising advocate of Henry George's ideas. To celebrate the event the Liberal and District Society for the Taxation of Land Values entertained him to a banquet. The Mayor could not be present, the report of the proceedings explains, owing to a severe cold. Mr. R. Lamb responded

to the toast on behalf of his brother, who, he said, had commissioned him to read a speech which he had prepared.

The following extract indicates the grasp the guest of the evening had of the practical side of the question thirty years ago:—

"This land value question has been head and shoulders above party political warfare for years. We, who have studied it deeply, who have lived with it, and find that the question stands for the life of our country, stands for humanity, we long with a great yearning that it may very soon now be brought into active political warfare, and that it may be made a strong and central plank in the platform of one of the great parties. To-night, and for many nights, but especially to-night, my colour is quite a neutral tint.

"I hardly know how many years it is since I took to the study of the land question. I know I attended the first meeting addressed by Henry George in Liverpool, under the auspices of the Financial Reform Association. My interest had been sufficiently aroused to be drawn to the meeting. Many people have been driven to the question through suffering hardship, frequently incidental to our present land system. It was not so with me. So far, I have no personal tale of woe to record, nor has my family. I was attracted both by the fiscal and the economic bearings of the question. I applied the arguments used to my own native town. The more I investigated the matter, the more proof I found in the soundness, of the justice, of Taxing Land Values. . . . Pass into law the Taxation of Land Values and see how it would work. Follow the example of London with its free ferry, and run your electric trams free, or for next to nothing, if that sounds too advanced. For every improvement you made, in frequency of service, in the rapidity of service, you would attract passengers to your trams; you would attract people to live and shopkeepers to compete to get in the neighbourhood (which would be all over your city) of your free and excellent tram system. It would not be a question of money to the workman, how far he could live from his work, but of time only in getting from the outskirts to his shop or factory. Such a free system would add considerably to the value of land; and that value the community should take, by means of a tax on land values. Under the land value system of raising revenue valuable idle land on the outskirts of Liverpool could not be held out of use as it is at present. The monopoly of land would be broken down. By this Tax on Land Values you are going to increase the marketable quantity of land. This, as you are aware, can have but one result—land will be cheaper; you break down the monopoly; you free the land from the shackles that now bind it, and give free play to the natural progressive character of our British trade and Commerce."

It was the speech of a business man addressing a business community; but behind this practical statement the disciple of Henry George was apparent.

On account of ill-health George Lamb had lived more or less in retirement ever since. He was not in the fighting line, though he was eager at all times to be in touch with any land value publicity campaign. He was chief among those who held LAND & LIBERTY to be the most important agency engaged anywhere in preaching the economic truth proclaimed by Henry George. That was his opinion and he lived up to it. The United Committee and the journal have lost a great strength in the death of George Lamb; but we can all rejoice in the fact that he has been with us for so many years. We are met not to mourn his loss so much as to express our deep affection for the man and his enduring friendship.

Mr. Richard McGhee said: I had the privilege of George Lamb's acquaintance for a period of 44 years just this very month. I certainly did not know then that George Lamb's entrance into this movement was such a valuable acquisition as it subsequently turned