

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Report

IF your eye has already strayed to the bottom of this report, you have noticed that it is not signed by one whose name has become familiar and dear to the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM. Early in March, Mrs. Antoinette Wambough, Executive Secretary of this Foundation, left the hustle and bustle of the business world for a quieter life at home. You who have read her reports and enjoyed correspondence with her know the deep devotion to the Foundation and its work which colored her many years of service. We shall all miss her very much.

The Foundation has, for over a decade, maintained headquarters at 11 Park Place, occupying a pleasant suite of offices overlooking City Hall Park. In the last two years, however, as the work grew and grew, our space became sadly inadequate. This spring it was decided to look around for a larger home. As most of you know, the Henry George School of Social Science now occupies its own building on East 29th Street and some of the space is not being used to the fullest extent. What more natural, then, than that our Directors should accept the invitation of the School to share the building with them? We shall occupy attractive quarters on the ground floor with our own entrance and a small window facing the street. Here we shall display our books. The work of the Foundation will go along in the same manner as it has for the past fourteen years, separate from any other organization and related only in respect of aims. With our larger quarters, and our increased facilities, we hope, indeed, to be more useful and more fruitful than ever before.

Interesting work is being done in C. C. C. camps in different parts of the country. We have already reported an active group in a Michigan camp; now we learn of the forming of a study group down in Texas. Today we heard from our Texas worker. He reports progress in the forming of study groups in his camp but bemoans the fact that "his boys" find it hard to understand "Progress and Poverty." We have sent him a dozen copies of the simpler version, "Significant Paragraphs From Progress and Poverty," by Harry Gunnison Brown. Where, more appropriately, could the seeds of freedom be sown than in C. C. C. camps, the very members of which are victims of our present economic errors?

We have had some correspondence with the trustees of the American Foundation for Abundance. This organization has a weekly newspaper of considerable circulation and has promised to help us to publicize the hundredth birthday of Henry George this September. A letter we received from these people is interesting. Speaking of the editor of their newspaper, it said: "The editor was for years a co-worker of the late Tom Johnson

of Cleveland and was himself actively engaged in the Single Tax Movement. While he has never given up the idea that our land should be returned to the people and possession of it based on occupancy and use, he would accomplish this in a somewhat different way than through the collection of economic rent. That, however, makes no difference in his and our respect for the splendid pioneer work done by Henry George and his collaborators in the Single-Tax Movement."

A new translation of "Progress and Poverty" into the Dutch tongue is now on sale in Holland and will soon be available in this country. Almost two years ago Mrs. Anna George deMille and the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation undertook to furnish a good part of the money needed to bring out this Dutch edition. Our many friends who helped with the fund will be glad to know that the book is now actually in use. Mr. H. Kolthek in Groningen, Holland, made the translation.

At the Associated Industries of Alabama convention to be held this month in Birmingham, Alabama, literature supplied by this Foundation will be distributed by Mr. E. W. Walthall. Though not a resident of Birmingham Mr. Walthall will travel to that city for the special purpose of putting our literature in the hands of the state's business men.

During the early part of March the Foundation performed an interesting experiment. We took one thousand names of readers of the magazine "Business Week" and circularized them with pamphlets written by Henry George and Professor John Dewey. The response was sufficient to convince us that those who follow the nation's business are willing to give hearing to a plan that will liberate the world from the state of dependency, the ever-present threat of war, and the downright poverty which exists today.

May we reiterate: after May 1, 1939 our address will be 32 East 29th Street, New York City. Send in your orders and requests as you always have done. There will be no change in our policies, but, we hope, an increased opportunity to serve.—V. G. PETERSON.

LET no one imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BY HENRY GEORGE.

IT is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly. Government should be repressive no further than is necessary to secure liberty by protecting the equal rights of each from aggression on the part of others, and the moment governmental prohibitions extend beyond this line they are in danger of defeating the very ends they are intended to serve.

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