

Daughter Pays Tribute at Henry George Grave

CENTENARY CONFERENCE DELEGATES ATTEND
CEREMONY

THE 100th anniversary of the birth of Henry George, economist, philosopher and author of "Progress and Poverty" was celebrated on September 2. Mrs. Anna George deMille, his daughter, placed a bouquet of flowers on his grave at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Delegates from the Henry George Centenary conference attended the ceremony.

Laurence E. Henry, eighty-two years old, of Flushing, Queens, who said he was a life-time follower of the economist, laid a faded American flag on the grave. Mr. Henry said that the flag had seen service at the Battle of Gettysburg and had been displayed in parades when Mr. George ran for Mayor of New York City in 1886 and 1897.

There were no speeches, and after the delegates had observed a few minutes of silence they departed for a final meeting at a luncheon at the Casino of Nations at the World's Fair.

Business and Unemployment

By HARRY C. MAGUIRE

IS business to blame for unemployment? The radicals say it is. The Karl Marx or Socialist argument is that the capitalist unbalances distribution by taking a profit or "surplus value" from the workers. The latter cannot buy back all they produce; a surplus of goods accumulates; production slows down; men are idle; and there is a depression. The way to cure the disease is to remove the cause, i.e., the private ownership of capital. The State must own and run business, they assert. The fact that communism (which is socialism put into practice) has resulted in the total loss of individual liberty in Russia, in the suppression of freedom of publication, of speech, of religion, in universal poverty and squalor, and finally even the loss of the right to life itself, seems not to affect our radicals. "Business is to blame for unemployment" is their constant theme, day in and day out. The Karl Marx professors, the power behind the throne in Washington, turning out thousands of students from our colleges yearly, re-echo this communistic cry against business.

What is business doing about it? Business is taking a beating, lying down, by not denying it. There is a character in Greek mythology who was unconquered until it was found out that whenever his feet touched the earth his strength returned. The business haters and baiters cannot be overcome so long as they can say, unchallenged, that business is to blame for unemployment.

Productive capital, or real business, is to use the vernacular, "taking the rap." How can running a factory or a wheat farm, or a department store cause unemployment? When productive capital is unemployed, or idle, it earns no wages for itself—interest. In fact, it

tends to decay and dissipate. Leave any capital unused, such as machinery, for a number of years and it becomes junk—worthless. Real business, which is the making and distributing of goods, is eager to employ men. The childish Karl Marx dogma that business cannot function because of surplus value need not be considered here. No mature adult mind can believe that the wage earners who do *part* of the producing should receive *all* of the product and the wage savers (capital suppliers) nothing. Or, that the part of the product that goes to management and capital is surplus value, causing unemployment. It makes no sense—which is nonsense.

Business must stand up and fight the radical slogan that it is to blame for unemployment. This is as absurd as to say that labor is to blame for unemployment because it doesn't buy the entire products of business and thereby stops business running full time. Certainly both want to work to earn interest and wages, and neither is blamable for the depression.

What then is responsible for unemployment, if it is not business, labor, or Karl Marx's surplus value? The writer believes that Henry George's conclusion deserves careful investigation. He points out that a group owns and controls the land. Labor and business must use land. For permission to do so, this land monopoly group can take and *it does take* from them all they produce, except a bare living. At times of "land speculation," it tries to take more, not leaving them a bare living. Then labor and business become idle and unemployed—depression follows. George concludes that land monopoly is to blame for unemployment.

Autumn Report of Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

WITH pride we announce another printing of 10,000 copies of "Progress and Poverty." This, the twelfth printing from the Foundation's plates, brings the total "Progress and Poverty" published by us to 56,000 copies. Styles in books, like styles in ladies' hats, change with the seasons—and sometimes just as curiously. Keeping pace with the prevailing fashion, the new "Progress and Poverty" wears a varnished jacket. This modern process, which treats paper the way we have treated our floors for generations, heightens the color and adds an attractive gloss. Note the improvement the next time you order.

The Centenary celebrations brought to New York a large and enthusiastic army of the Warriors For Freedom. The Foundation's book display attracted considerable attention and resulted in the sale of two hundred books. The new "Henry George" by Albert Jay Nock, proved popular. This essay is still claiming the attention of the

reviewers, both over the radio and in the daily press. Our dollar paper-bound edition is moving rapidly.

The Honorable Lawson Purdy, President of the Foundation, spoke at the Friday afternoon session of the Conference. He sketched, briefly, the work of the organization since 1925 and made mention of the various financial grants (totalling \$53,000) which have been made to other institutions working for the promotion of George economics. Mr. Purdy stressed the need for keeping George's works before the public and the concentrated effort which must be made to maintain a market for them.

Our hats are off to Mr. Harold Buttenheim, editor of *The American City*. Mr. Buttenheim's article, "Henry George, Soothsayer or Seer?" which appeared in the September issue of *Survey Graphic* was judged one of the ten best magazine articles for the month of September. The selection was made by a committee of librarians acting for The Franklin Square Agency, a subsidiary of Harpers. Copies of this prize winning article are offered by the Foundation at 5 cents each.

On September 16 an excellent article, "Father of the Single Tax" appeared in the Weekly Magazine Section of *The Christian Science Monitor*. We wrote immediately to the *Monitor* expressing our appreciation and received the following letter from the author of the article.

"My dear Miss Peterson:

"Your letter to *The Christian Science Monitor* expressing interest in my article on Henry George, has been passed along to me. In my turn I am grateful for your interest and encouraging words and hereby tender my thanks. My deep interest in, and slight knowledge of, Henry George and his great work are directly traceable to the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

"In September, 1937, my interest in the subject was awakened through the Foundation's advertisement in *The Christian Science Monitor* and I enrolled as a correspondence student in the offered course. It was one of the most fascinating and profitable experiences I have ever had. I did all I possibly could by way of compensation, but it seemed woefully little. Then in June your letter came with a very significant and appealing paragraph tucked in the middle of it: 'As your birthday tribute to Henry George, will you renew and increase your efforts to widen his sphere of influence?' In wondering just what I could do, I thought of an article which could stand as my birthday tribute to Henry George. I wrote it with that thought uppermost, that it might widen his sphere of influence. I am, naturally, very touched that you have offered me such generous praise for my efforts.

"Most cordially yours,

(Signed) Joel Disher."

The Foundation's library has been enriched by two very beautifully and uniquely bound books: an 1880 edition of "Progress and Poverty" and an 1898 edition

of "The Science of Political Economy." The gift came from Mr. Charles J. Rittenhouse of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Here, in part, is the letter which accompanied the books, explaining their remarkable bindings:

"When you receive these books, you will see two of the most odd and extraordinary books you have possibly seen. I have bound them throughout with my own hands and have printed the titles in Gothic letters. The inside covers are solid cowhide sole leather about one-eighth inch thick which I shaved down from two pieces of leather one-quarter of an inch thick. The back bindings are reinforced with linen cloth some seventy years old and a piece of Morocco leather is used to give the books shape. As to the covers of the books themselves, I took one of my old parchment books—a Spanish-Latin The-saurus, published in Madrid in 1776, removed the cover and had it glued over the solid leather covers.

"The 'Progress and Poverty,' edition of 1880, I bought in Mexico City in one of the book stalls and have had it in my possession some fifteen years. Three years ago I left my books in storage down here and during one of the severe tropical storms the warehouse was flooded and a considerable number of my books got wet, among them was 'Progress and Poverty.' You will observe that some of the pages are slightly colored pink. All the more merit to the volume.

"I have pasted my Ex-Libris on the inside cover and on the first page I have written my dedicatory to the Foundation with my legal signature and scroll. You will also find in the books, book marks with my facsimile signature and my right index finger print.

"My main reason for donating these books to the Foundation is that I desire them to have a permanent home. The bindings are everlasting—as it is the parchment covers are already one-hundred-and-sixty years old. "With greetings and best wishes,

"Faithfully yours,

(Signed) C. J. Rittenhouse."

Orders were received this week from Emory University, Emory, Georgia and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. The first was for ten and the second for twenty copies of "Progress and Poverty."

Our autumn circularizing is getting under way. We have ten thousand pieces of mail going out this month. Special letters are being sent to each of the following groups: certified public accountants, high school principles and teachers of economics, young business executives and all the bookstores in the United States.

Can you help us to locate copies of "The Earth for All" calendar edited by Ernest Crosby and "Robinson Crusoe's Money" by David A. Welles? We have been asked to secure these publications and have thus far failed to obtain copies. Any information will be gratefully received.

V. G. PETERSON, Executive Secretary.