

## 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

such a friendly interest in the cause which the Henry George Foundation represents as is indicated by his favorable response to the invitation. Peter Witt will have a message of special interest dealing with the Labor Party victory in the recent British elections and the campaign preceding it, which he had the opportunity to observe at first hand.

The Jubilee Congress will bring to Pittsburgh most of the still active members of the "Old Guard" of the Single Tax movement, as well as a number of the younger leaders and workers from all sections. Early reports indicate good delegations from New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Cincinnati and St Louis, and many other cities will doubtless have representation on the roll of honor, including at least some points in the South and Far West where greater distances are involved.

The number of formal, extended addresses at the Pittsburgh Congress will be somewhat limited, but quite a large number of persons will participate either in the formal speaking programme or in the informal discussions which will characterize the morning and afternoon conferences of the three-day session. Among those whose presence and participation are already either assured or anticipated as probable are Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Joseph Dana Miller, Edward Polak, Frederic C. Howe, Poultney Bigelow, Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, Frank Stephens, Bolton Hall, Harry H. Willock, Gerrit J. Johnson, Charles H. Ingersoll, Dr. J. H. Dillard, Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr., Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, Will Atkinson, Chester C. Platt, James F. Morton, Frederick H. Monroe, Robert C. Macauley, August Wiliges, Samuel Danziger, Charles LeBaron Goeller, J. C. Lincoln, Fiske Warren, John J. Murphy, Charles J. Ogle, Harry W. Olney, Dr. Mark Millikin, Charles R. Eckert, Otto Cullman, Emil O. Jorgensen, Clayton J. Ewing, and John Lawrence Monroe. Bolton Smith, John B. Sharpe, Fenton Lawson, Henry P. Boynton, Frank T. Stirlith, Harold Sudell, George H. Hallett and Vernon J. Rose.

Canada will be ably represented by A. C. Campbell, of Ottawa, and Alan C. Thompson, of Toronto. A good Canadian delegation is anticipated this year. There also is a strong probability that Australia will be represented by a prominent Georgist. If Europe is not represented directly, the Pittsburgh Congress will nevertheless be assured of fresh reports concerning the very latest developments in Great Britain and on the continent and the high spots of the Edinburgh International Conference will be presented by several speakers, chief of whom will be President Hennessy of the International Union. The address of welcome will be delivered by Hon. James H. Gray of the Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County, an outstanding independent "progressive" of Western Pennsylvania.

In order that the visiting delegates may receive direct information from the highest authoritative sources with re-

gard to Pittsburgh's famous Graded Tax Plan, the committee has arranged for addresses on this subject by Hon. William A. Magee, former Mayor and political sponsor of the Graded Tax and by the Chairman of the Board of City Assessors, Hon. Thomas C. McMahon, who not only served under Mayor Magee in the early days, but is serving as the head of the Tax Department under the present city administration.

A special effort is being made to secure the presence of Prof. John Dewey of Columbia University, now abroad, who has been communicated with in London. It is also hoped that John Z. White, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, and some others of special prominence in the movement will be among those participating.

Conferences occupying the morning and afternoon periods will be featured by the discussion of Educational Methods, Political Policy, Organization, Single Tax Enclaves, and General Propaganda Policy, during which a variety of viewpoints will doubtless be presented by some of the ablest spokesmen. Two public meetings are planned for this year's convention and Monday and Wednesday evenings will be devoted to this purpose and a strong speaking program provided to attract a local audience.

The social and entertainment features will not be neglected. The annual banquet on the evening of September 24th is expected to be a very enjoyable occasion and there will be noon-day luncheons on each of the three days, the Congress opening on Monday morning, the 23d, and closing Wednesday evening, the 25th, with the advance guard probably arriving on Sunday, the 22d. A motor bus trip is planned for Tuesday morning, to include many points of interest. This will give an opportunity to view some of the more important public and private improvements recently made in the Steel City. All convention sessions will be held in the William Penn Hotel, the official headquarters.

President George E. Evans, of the Henry George Foundation, cancelled his contemplated trip to Edinburgh in order to give his full support to the committee arranging the Pittsburgh Conference, delegating Charles R. Eckert, of Beaver, Pa., a trustee, to officially represent the Foundation at the International Conference. Secretary Percy R. Williams is now giving his entire attention to convention matters and striving to make the Fiftieth Anniversary Congress a big success. Full information may be obtained by communicating with the Henry George Foundation, Berger Building, Pittsburgh, and reservations and communications should be addressed to the Secretary.

**T**ILL the economic darkness now prevailing in the minds of the general public, and of "Capital" and "Labor," is dispelled by the clear light emanating from the knowledge of Henry George's teachings, rising discontent, strikes by Labour, lock-outs by Capital, social upheavals, threats of Communism and revolution, the dread of coming chaos must prevail. —Melbourne *Progress*.