

not our cities contain multitudes out of employment or in fear of it, and thereby reduced to that "dependence" which "begets subservience and venality, suffocates the germ of virtue and prepares fit tools for the designs of ambition?" Indeed, are not our people "piled upon one another, . . . as in Europe," and have they not as a consequence "become corrupt, as in Europe?" Have we not one city with a larger population than the thirteen States contained at the time the "Notes on Virginia" were written (1781)? And so abjectly poor is a large part of that city's population that one in every ten who die each year in its principal and richest borough (Manhattan) is buried in Potter's Field at public expense!

Instead of our governments remaining "virtuous for many centuries," corruption like a worm has eaten its way to the core. Political bosses control wards, districts and States, and exert their baleful influence over national councils, as completely as English politicians in Jefferson's day ruled rotten boroughs and swayed the British Parliament. The mass of the people themselves were in the beginning virtuous. But they were reduced to dependence for subsistence, which corrupted them. They found difficulty in getting a living, and sold or became neglectful of those priceless political rights for which the Fathers of the Republic fought so hard and gloriously, and which they established with such great labor.

Jefferson said: "Our governments will remain virtuous . . . as long as . . . there are vacant lands in any part of America." There are vacant lands, thousands upon tens and hundreds of thousands of acres, agricultural lands, grazing lands, timber lands, mineral lands, urban and suburban lands. These lands, if thrown open, would not only engage the multitudes of hands now idle or insufficiently occupied, but would support in comfort and luxury many times the eighty millions of population this nation now embraces. There is no difficulty about finding abundance of valuable vacant land; the difficulty is to find it unappropriated. All the great territory that is available for any use has been appropriated and made private property, although vastly the greater part of it lies idle and is held merely for speculation.

Obviously "the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate natural right." And since by reason of this appropriation and non-use of land large numbers of men are prevented from finding their natural employment, and since "other employment" is not pro-

vided them, does not "the fundamental right to labor the earth" return to them, as Jefferson said it must under such circumstances?

Yet how effect this fundamental right to-day with our complex civilization? Not by dividing up the land and giving to each his share. The simple, easy, just way would be to divide the rent, or rather to take it for common uses, remitting all taxes that now fall upon production and various forms of wealth, and concentrating taxation on the value of land, regardless of improvements. This single tax would tax out the land grabber. It would tax idle lands into use. Millions upon millions of locked-up acres of every kind would be thrown open to the unemployed, there would be compliance with the "fundamental natural right to labor the earth," and our people would once again become, as Jefferson thought they would for centuries remain, virtuous and happy.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

New York, April 18, 1904.

To love is to live;  
To love one's self is to live in hell;  
To love another is to live on earth;  
To love all others is to live in heaven.  
—Unknown.

## BOOKS

HENRY GEORGE.

Hardly more than twenty-five years have passed since Henry George was first heard of outside of his adopted State of California. His "Progress and Poverty," written from 1877 to 1879, which began to attract attention in the early 80's, soon made his name familiar wherever English is read, and time justifies the distinction he then attained. In honor of the twenty-fifth year of that book, Page, Doubleday & Co., have issued an anniversary edition of "Progress and Poverty," and also one of George's life, by his son, who contributes to the former volume a special introduction.

George was influenced to write, by his observation, when on a business visit

to New York, of the manifestations of great poverty in the midst of abounding wealth, and the explanation of this social condition is the theme of his book. He traces poverty, as a social evil, to progress in our powers of wealth production; and he accounts for this paradox by showing that the institution of land ownership, offering as it does limitless opportunities for forestalling land, the one factor on which all production depends, results in the monopoly of land to such an extent that its value tends to increase the difficulties of access to it in greater degree than enhanced productive power makes it available for human needs. Hence the exploitation and consequent impoverishment of laborers in spite of increase in the productive power of labor. To remedy this evil, George proposes that annual land values should be appropriated annually for public use, and taxation on production be abolished. The effect, as he explains, would be to make land monopoly unprofitable, and production profitable, which would maintain a constant demand for labor, in excess of the supply, and thereby secure to all who want to work limitless opportunity, and to all who do work their full share of the total product.

As this result would leave nothing for idlers, George's book has been sternly opposed by special pleaders for the privileges of the leisure class. As it simply seeks conformity to fundamental principles, it is not in favor of empirics. As it appeals to the moral law, most materialists sneer at it. As it leaves no place in the social system for complex governmental mechanism, but looks to the natural law of competition, freed from obstructions, to regulate private business, most socialists see no good in it. But the book more than holds its own, and all over the world its influence upon thought and legislation is evident. Not to know of it, is to risk a display of humiliating ignorance; not to know something of its teachings, is to be at a disadvantage in almost any discussion of civic subjects; not to understand it, is to be at a disadvantage in all economic study.

The life of the author, by his eldest

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son, is a valuable companion volume. No attempt is made, properly enough, to write a critical biography. The book is a simple but inspiring narrative of an interesting life. It tells who Henry George was, and how he came to do the public work he did do. It shows how he thought and how he worked; and it makes easier the reading of "Progress and Poverty," in itself one of the most fascinating books on a serious subject, by investing it with the personality of its author.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

—"Broad-Cast." By Ernest Crosby, author of "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable," "Tolstoy and His Message," etc., etc. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company. To be reviewed.

—"Connections of English Speech. The Correct Usage of Prepositions, Conjunctions, Relative Pronouns and Adverbs Explained and Illustrated." By James C. Fernald, editor of "The Students' Standard Dictionary." "English Synonyms and Antonyms," etc. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company. Price \$1.50 net. A comprehensive, well-indexed and instructive handbook on the subject described in the title.

**PAMPHLETS**

To persons who wish to know what the single tax is, without reading much about it, we commend a little 10-page pamphlet, "An Exposition and Defense of a Single Tax on Land Values," by Dr. J. C. Barnes, 520 E. North st., Indianapolis. This pamphlet would hardly satisfy such persons, for what most of

them really want is to learn without studying, and that is impossible; but Dr. Barnes has succeeded wonderfully well in covering the ground in a brief space, and he presents the subject in a style so fresh that even thorough-going single taxers will read his pamphlet with new zest.

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"The term expressing the opposite of competition is not combination but monopoly." This is the keynote of a well-written article by Joseph Dana Miller in Watson's Magazine for June. Mr. Miller shows once more that the power behind the trust is monopoly, and that all efforts to deal with trusts by regulations and national licensings and so on are merely fiddling. Mr. Watson's editorial

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