

\$5.00

In 1879 a newspaperman named Henry George published a book called PROGRESS AND POVERTY. In this work were several strange economic theories. Foremost among them was the concept of the abolishment of all taxes except for a single tax on land use. ^(value) At first the idea was unpopular in a land-prosperous United States, but in Ireland, where Irish political leaders were in revolt against the English agrarian policy, it found immediate favor.

In 1881 the New York *Irish World* sent Henry George to Ireland to report on the progress of the revolt. On this mission there occurred two incidents which made George famous, if not notorious, throughout the British Isles. One of them was his arrest in Ireland as a suspicious character; the other was a three-column review of PROGRESS AND POVERTY in the London *Times* in September, 1882. He was immediately hailed as an agitator for social and economic reform, and soon he was in great demand as a speaker. During the 1880's he was invited back to Great Britain four times to speak in England and Scotland on Radical and Socialist platforms. His land-tax theory became a major plank in the platforms of both the Liberal Party and the Labour Party.

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The first part of the book covers this exciting period when Henry George expounded his ideas in Great Britain. It also shows the British reaction to George; a reaction that was not always favorable. (*The Pall Mall Gazette* was fond of referring to George's "crusade of plunder.")

George's theory achieved its greatest victory when taxation of land values was incorporated in Lloyd George's Budget of 1909. The victory for British land tax advocates, was short lived, for a series of events and emergencies, including World War I, delayed land valuation and imposition of the taxes. The movement suffered blows from which it never recovered, even though a land-valuation measure again became law in 1931, and again was thwarted from enforcement by external forces. The final chapters record this rise and fall of George's land-tax theory.

As a whole, the book demonstrates the tremendous impact Henry George had on British thinking. HENRY GEORGE IN THE BRITISH ISLES shows how George was instrumental in arousing the British to a sense of the social and economic shortcomings of their culture.

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