

## Henry George and Moses



MOSES as portrayed by Charlton Heston in Cecil B. de Mille's "The Ten Commandments"

**M**ILLIONS OF COPIES of Henry George's famed lecture on Moses were distributed in the United States last year—by Paramount Pictures.

The lecture was specially produced—and very handsomely—as a twenty-page brochure, being used to promote public interest in Paramount's spectacular film *The Ten Commandments*. Our illustration is a reduced reproduction of the frontispiece.

Mr. Cecil B. de Mille in the Foreword writes:

"In doing research for *The Ten Commandments*, we naturally read everything we could lay our hands on about its subject. Inevitably, then, we came upon and studied this lecture on Moses, delivered by Henry George in 1878.

"I confess that my first interest in this lecture stemmed from the fact that Henry George was my father's friend and the inspiration for some of my father's best dramatic work. It was in Henry George's house that I made my first venture into amateur theatricals, when I was about eight years old: my playmates were his children, one of whom later married my brother.

"But—as I might have expected—I soon found, upon reading this lecture, that it has an intrinsic interest and

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*"Leader and servant of men! Lawgiver and benefactor! Toiler toward the promised land seen only by the eye of faith! Type of the high souls who in every age have given to earth its heroes and its martyrs, whose deeds are the precious possessions of the race, whose memories are its sacred heritage! With whom among the founders of empire shall we compare him?"*

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value which go beyond my affectionate personal memories of its author.

"This, I believe, is one of the two finest summaries in our language of the character and achievements of Moses, the other one being Sir Winston Churchill's chapter on Moses in *Amid These Storms*, in which Churchill identifies Moses with 'the most decisive leap-forward ever discernible in the human story.'

"Conditions have changed . . . since Henry George made this application of Mosaic doctrines to the world of 1878—but his estimate of Moses as prophet, lawgiver, and leader of men has an enduring validity and grandeur. The majesty of Henry George's language matches the majesty of his subject.

"For the purpose of this edition, I have lent to Paramount Pictures my personal copy of Henry George's *Moses*, which is ordinarily never far from my hand; and the underlinings reproduced are those which I have made in my own copy, marking the passages which were of greatest value to me in re-creating the intensely dramatic and human story of one of the very greatest men this world has ever known."

When Paramount Pictures were "shooting" the film in California nearly two years ago, they ordered copies of its edition of *Moses* from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York, the American publishers of Henry George's books and related writings. That was done at the instance of Mr. de Mille, who wished the cast to get the "flavour" of the character of Moses. Paramount published its own edition subsequently, sending copies to libraries and elsewhere. Miss Peterson, secretary of the Foundation, learning of this by mere chance, immediately sought to borrow the plates to print further copies, but so heavy had the first printing been that they were completely worn out. Using the offset process, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation has since produced its own edition. This, too, has been exhausted and a further printing is being considered.

*Land & Liberty*