

Ramblin' Round

with Joe Martin
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H. C. ...



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EVERY WILMINGTONIAN OLD enough to remember the Single Tax campaign here around the turn of the century—about the only tangible result of which is the picturesque and beautiful village of Arden—will have some interest in the just-issued book "Henry George: Citizen of the World," by Anna George DeMille. Illustrated, 276 pages. Published by University of North Carolina Press. \$3.50.

The author is the daughter of Henry George, Wilmington's own. Dr. Henry George, III, is the grandson of the great economist.

Introducing a review of the book for the *New York Herald Tribune* GERALD W. JOHNSON says:

"'Never,' a wise and weary old editor told me in my youthful days, 'have I known any human being to win an argument with a single taxer.'"

"Mrs. DeMille's biography of her father goes far to explain what he meant. A person whose mind is thoroughly imbued with the doctrines of Henry George is a person rapt. For it is a beautiful body of doctrine—generous, high-minded, lucid and impeccably logical. It has never been confuted by any process of ratiocination, but only by two factors quite irrelevant to the field of logic, to wit, history and humanity. Were the world not what it is, and the people who inhabit it not what they are, there is no apparent reason why the rent of land should not be applied to the provision of whatever public services a race stripped of greed and capacity might require."

Wilmington for a decade was a hot bed of discussion and argument over the Single Tax, for some convinced Single Taxers were thrilled with the hope that Delaware, because of its small size, might be induced to give the theory a real, honest test.

Some members of the duPont family were Single Taxers, notably Bierdeman duPont, father of Coleman, Coleman himself, Francis I. duPont and others. This was natural for their ancestors in France were physiocrats. Of course Frank Stephens and the other founders of Arden were sincere Single Taxers and they hoped that the exposition of Single Tax principles in actual, if limited, application, would demonstrate the wisdom of imposing no taxes except on the economic rent of land.

To those who remember the fierce denunciations of Single Tax by the editors of *Every Evening* and *Evening Journal* while the campaign was on here, one might have thought that Single Taxers were even more vicious than the Communists are considered now. In the course of his review Mr. Johnson says of Mr. George:

"In 1886 he ran for the Mayor of New York and very neatly upset the applecart. In 1897 he ran again, but died suddenly four days before the election.

"It was a career strikingly bare of what is usually regarded as accomplishment and this was seized upon by all George's opponents. The kind of people who consider the statement 'He never met a pay roll' as proof of a man's incompetence had a field day with Henry George, for if knowing how to meet a pay roll is the summation of all knowledge, then he did not qualify. But wise men all over the earth read his book and were interested by its originality and its excellent logic. Characters as divergent as Tolstoy and George Bernard Shaw regarded it as one of the best things that ever came out of America, and the scholarly Duke of Argyll thought it so dangerous that he wrote a long pamphlet denouncing it. George became and has since remained a figure of international importance."