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## FORERUNNERS OF HENRY GEORGE.

(Note) Contents in Two Sections  
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### Section Two

Page VI

### TWENTY-FIVE FORERUNNERS

Listed in order of their birth with mention of their  
Nationality

Covering a period from 1592--1820

Note: The birth dates of three of those mentioned were not  
available but the dates of their writings were obtainable.

Second Note: ALSO ON PAGE VI, FOLLOWING EACH NAME, IS THE PAGE in  
this list ON WHICH THE QUOTATIONS AND SOURCE OF THE SAME ARE GIVEN.

These pages are numbered in Arabic Numerals.

### Chief Authorities Consulted

George R. Geiger's Philosophy of Henry George

National Dictionary of Biography and Georgist Periodicals.

ALSO BOOKLETS  
(Some of the latter are attached.)

LIBRARY COPY

POSTSCRIPT P. 15 M.L.R.

Some notes here on Stuyvesant, Penn, Fenelon, Spinoza, Wyndham, Oglivie,

Cobbett, Cobden, Dove. For Cobbett see particularly Page 6, Oct. 1963  
and Page 6, Dec. 1963. Other notes on Lincoln and Franklin and others  
in school library. (Printed)



## Forerunners of Henry George

### A Partial List of Those Who Caught a Glimpse of the Same Star .

In the last chapter of Progress and Poverty Henry George wrote: "We are surer when we see a star when we know that others also see it."

On Page 162 (last two lines) in his Science of Political Economy, Henry George wrote:

Truth is, in fact, a relation of things, which may be seen independently because it exists independently."

Mabel L. Rees

See Index II  
Page A

Introduction

"Land", wrote George, in "Progress and Poverty" in 1879, "is the basis of all wealth and power", and through the ages many men have perceived more or less clearly, that he was right.

Few, however, have had even a glimmer of the way in which mankind in general could be made equal participants in the bounties thus provided by nature and summed up in the word "LAND".

Fewer still have realized that such a possibility offers the only hope to man of maintaining self-respect, self-support and self-realization of their best talents.

Scarcely anyone (except two) had vision enough to see the vital connection between the attainment of George's proposals and the resulting higher civilization which they would bring about, or failing their adoption, the gradual return to destruction of all of the social gains through the centuries.

Before Civilization

The Primitive Era.

In the days of early man Historians are agreed that land was neither bought nor sold but simply used as needed. When the group or tribe decided to move, whatever the reason, the land was left for new-comers. From the dawn of civilization to the present time, however, the ownership of land has been one of man's supreme objectives. With the gradual formation of cities, states and nations the controlling powers have exerted every effort, not only to retain possession of whatever land was theirs originally, but often to claim and conquer as much more land as they possibly could.

Brief References to Land Rights

B.C. and early A.D.

See Pages marked 3 and 4. For 25 modern leaders of thought and their views and on the land question see Page 5 and subsequent pages. See last page for general summing up.

Scribner  
III

Moses  
1480 W-1500 B C

One of the first great leaders to realize the necessity of making some provision to insure each man's natural right to land and the need of preventing its monopoly by the few was the prophet Moses ~~in the 15th Century~~, about 1500 B.C. For continuing prosperity Moses declared a Year of Jubilee every fifty years for the re-distribution of land. This ruling was in conformity with the injunction in Leviticus chapter 25, verse 23: "The land shall not be sold forever for the land is mine saith the Lord ". Henry George's stirring pamph-  
"Moses";

let clearly shows the wisdom of such an act. Another Biblical reference to land is found in Psalm 115, verse 16: "The earth hath He given to the children of men." Also Eccl. V 5 Chap. 9: Moreover the profit of the earth is for all, -the king himself is served by the Field

MENCIUS

CHINESE - 3rd Century B C

Another ancient leader who recognized the great importance  
Mencius  
played by land in the life of the people was Mencius or Ming-tee

a Chinese statesman and philosopher who lived in the Third Century B.C. In many respects he was a follower of Confucius. He urged the more equitable distribution of land, believed in expanding education and that the good in man's nature responded to the good in his environment.

(Note: For an account of his and other men's lives mentioned in this article consult THE NATIONAL DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY, OBTAINABLE IN THE READING ROOM OF THE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 5th ST AND FIFTH AVENUE.

For more about Mencius and his beliefs regarding land rights see a recent book, "The Ageless Chinese" by Dun J. Li published by Scribner's 1965.)

Roman

The Gracchus Brothers

2nd Century B. C.

PACAN ERA

Turning next to the history of Rome the records show that in the Second Century B.C. the brothers Tiberius, (163-133) and Gaius, (159-121), both realized the people's need for land the dire consequences facing the Empire unless this need was satisfied. Both Tiberius and Gaius had served in the field of battle and been elected tribunes. Climaxing their efforts to secure urgent land rights for Rome's starving population was their tragic death. Still ringing down the centuries, however, is the cry of Tiberius to the poverty-stricken masses, "You are called lords of the earth without possessing a clod to call your own."

A D

Jesus

Hebrew

The Bible St Matthew 8th Chapter 20th Verse

CHRISTIAN ERA

According to the above reference Jesus is quoted as saying:

"Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."

Section V  
V

The Middle Ages  
Mingling of Pagan beliefs, Rise of Feudalism (476-- 1500 )  
and Christian Crusades. or 1492

Won 1st - of Normandy + Robin Hood  
1066

With the fall of Rome in 476 to about the Fifteenth Century there gradually developed the system of feudalism within which all the land was supposed to belong to the reigning king. This system, introduced into England by William the First of Normandy made it necessary for the ~~XXXX~~ nobles to whom the king granted great estates to render military service to their sovereign whenever called upon to do so. In turn, these nobles commanded the services of the knights and barons to whom they extended protection within their castles walls. Below these retainers were the serfs who cultivated the soil and the slaves captured in warfare. Both of these classes were compelled to give labor and part of their production (rent) to their superiors.

### ROBIN HOOD

Thus with thousands of the common people being held in virtual bondage is it any wonder that the legendary Robin Hood preferred to take his chances of survival by "taking to the woods" and, as the story goes, taking from the rich to help the poor. Is not the income tax based on ability to pay to help those in need ?