

HENRY
GEORGE
SCHOOL
OF
SOCIAL
SCIENCE

The Earth is the Birthright of all People

Dear Friend of the School,

With great pleasure we send to you this special postal cover marking the 100th anniversary of Henry George's great book SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

George's books are part of his great heritage. His insights have guided our work over the years, producing graduates in basic economics and developing programs that stress the need for land reform.

Our passion for social justice has its roots in our understanding of George who is as timely today as when he wrote Social Problems.

People are constantly rediscovering the truth that George made exceptionally clear. The Appalachian Alliance studying poverty and powerlessness came to the conclusion that "land was more than just a single issue; among many, it was basic to all the others, the semi-problem from which all the regions problems flowed."

We are now supporting their efforts for land reform. You can assist these efforts that will allow other groups - peace, environment, New Age, poverty groups to gain these insights.

Your Board of Directors urges you to make a tax deductible contribution for our work. Our gift of that is this special commemorative envelope.

Our thanks and good wishes for the holiday season.

Fred Foldvary
President

Social Problems 1883–1983

"Social Problems" has been called Henry George's "fighting book." Four years had passed since the publication of "Progress and Poverty," and the discussion inspired by that remarkable work had spread George's name and fame on both sides of the Atlantic. Now he was no longer feeling his way; he had found it, along with the strength needed to press his case against the monopolists and aggrandizers who were at work in the economy.

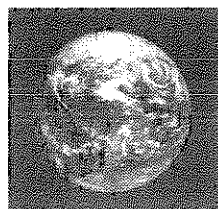
The first thirteen chapters of "Social Problems" appeared originally as articles in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, which had contracted to carry the series. Even before they had run their course the author had stepped on so many toes that the magazine's editorial page turned savagely against him. This action stiffened George's decision to publish the material in book form. To the thirteen articles carried by *Leslie's*, he added eight more and a conclusion. The completed work came off press in the autumn of 1883, and was later translated into other languages, including Dutch, Norwegian, and Spanish.

If "Social Problems" had confined itself to exposing the "malefactors of great wealth," the book might have earned a transient place among the muckraking literature of its day. But George was less concerned with tearing things apart than with pointing the way toward freeing the vast productive forces of labor and technology, thereby insuring a more equitable distribution of wealth.

To achieve these ends, the right to land—the first of our inalienable rights—must be secured for all. He makes no utopian plea for the equal division of land (or the enforced distribution of wealth) but argues rather that land not in use be thrown open to those who wish to use it, while land in use be paid for according to its value as bare land.

No one can read this book without being impressed by George's ability to discern the shapes of things to come; his passion for social justice, and the clarity and intellectual power he demonstrated in the development of his ideas.

In the concluding chapters, the author says: "I ask no one who may read this book to accept my views. I ask him to think for himself." Then, in the same vein he continues: "Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints, and denunciation; by the formation of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas. Until there be correct thought, there cannot be right action; and when there is correct thought, right action will follow."



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