

devising specific and rather ingenious reasons for our static position.

I wonder if Nock has not yielded somewhat to the human tendency—more prevalent among highbrow critics, of which he certainly is not one—of finding a goat for an imaginary failure; of assuming no progress in Georgeism and laying it to George; and also to take to the life-boat of current fallacy, from the sinking ship of simple fundamental truth? Is Nock a keen observer of *under-surface* trends, in economics, politics, education and industry? And is this pessimism because the full force of Georgeism has not impacted this author?

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL.

SECOND REVIEW—SAME BOOK

Just why Albert J. Nock saw fit to inflict his "essay" upon Georgeists, and at this time in particular, is more than we can guess. It may be he thinks the followers of Henry George need to be goaded into action or "broadened" into using some improved propaganda. We infer that he has some improvement in mind, as his book is bearishly critical of Henry George and of everything connected with the Georgeist movement.

Yet, in three or four paragraphs scattered through this book, he gives George unstinted praise and in the latter part of the last chapter he seems to realize that he has overdone adverse criticism and, with a flourish akin to death-bed repentance, polishes the essay to a good ending.

As a prerequisite for reading this book one should brush up on Dickens and in particular read David Copperfield. Special attention should be paid to the character known as Murdstone. Dicken's characters are always sharply drawn but here is one, drawn to utter unreality, which Nock sees fit to use as a basis of what he calls Murdstone or Murdstonian philosophy. Moreover, throughout the book he uses this idea to stigmatize persons, places and conditions and this includes Philadelphia in the year 1839 (the year of George's birth) and the George family as typical of society in Philadelphia at that time. The selection of Murdstone for his purpose must have been the result of a search to find the most reprehensible character possible to overdraw his own picture. He is not content to inflict this Murdstonian surrounding upon George at birth but fastens it on him throughout his life. Yet, in his preface, he says: "Here you have a man who is one of the first half-dozen of the world's creative geniuses in social philosophy."

From the "magnificent" heights of this civilization of 1939 Nock surveys the "Murdstonian" of a century earlier and his opprobrium falls on the George family. Why? They were "poor," a very questionable conclusion and at best only an inference, because the family income in dollars and cents was small or would be considered small now. They were regular attendants of the Episcopal Church and the diary of the youthful Henry George even up to his eighteenth year, mentions his attendance at Sunday School. Such depravity! George even went out with the boys and drank beer. That was in the diary also. Either way or any way, with or without the aid of Murdstone, the author with his great ability and facile pen, attempts a case against the George family and Henry George. One thing is certain, he made an exhaustive study of Murdstone.

As far as Henry George is concerned, he has little understanding insight. His criticism of the campaign of '86 and what "George should have known" shows this. Also, George did not go to college, an irreparable omission in 1939, not uncommon a century earlier. Think of what an economist George would have been had he sat under some of the professors! Nor did George choose the right associates, men of standing and reputation (after he had become their equal), preferring men of more modest attainments. In fact, from the author's viewpoint, from his birth George's affairs were not only mismanaged for him but in all he did he seemed to have the faculty of mismanaging for himself. Yet we again quote from John Dewey in the preface, "it would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate

those who from Plato down, rank with Henry George among the world's social philosophers."

But throughout the entire essay the reader cannot fail to be impressed that George had experienced life and knew suffering and privation at first hand. Whatever came, he was true to his ideals and to himself.—C. H. K.

INDIVIDUALISM VS. SOCIALISM

BY D. C. MCTAVISH, Telfordville, Alberta, Canada

(A Booklet of 42 pages. Price 50 cts.)

This is a very well written treatise divided into twenty chapters of one to three pages each. Some idea of the content may be gathered from the chapter heading of which we give the following: "Land the Physical Basis of Civilization" and the "Usehold Tenure". "Ethics of the Slogan—To Each According to his Need and From Each According to His Ability—An Examination." "The Contribution of Atheistic Socialism versus that of Christian Socialism." "True Sovereignty."

We suggest the use of this booklet for constant reference as the writer has covered a wide field in simple, concise and clear style. It is well thought out, requires careful reading and is full of historical data and historical and biblical references. Address communications to the author.

YOU AND AMERICA'S FUTURE

BY ROBERT CLANCY AND WILLIAM NEWCOMB

32 pages. New York. Published by the authors. 25 cents

In the belief that more people will read what they call a "streamlined word-and-picture introduction to Fundamental Economics" two men at the Henry George School have written a booklet called "You and America's Future" *with every paragraph illustrated by a cartoon*. For those people who insist that "Progress and Poverty" is too lengthy for this busy age, these men have presented its *essence* in the hope that those who buy the little book will become more interested by what George has to say in 600 pages, and will then read the Master's book "Progress and Poverty."

We wish we had the room to reproduce one of the pages of this little book, but lacking space we highly recommend it. The important thing about the book is that the ideas are simply and briefly expressed and illustrated. At the Henry George Centenary in New York over six hundred copies were sold. Montreal took a hundred a California area took 150, Chicago, 55, and various other cities used 25 copies.

These books were not bought to be read only by the buyers. They are to be used as gifts or lent or sold to busy people who are "from Missouri", and who like to argue, as the book clinches arguments and saves wear and tear on the throat glands. Mr Harold S. Button, Editor of *The American City*, has written the Epilogue.

"You and America's Future" sells for 25 cents; five for a dollar. Or if you want a quantity—and you do!—send the authors \$4.50 for 25 copies. Write to 30 E. 29th St., N. Y. C.

Correspondence

LET'S HAVE MORE OF THIS SORT OF THING

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have no recollection of having ordered LAND AND FREEDOM, but have been puzzled since issues of same started arriving and wondered if some friend of mine had bought a subscription for me.

The magazine is all right, however, and I enclose herewith my \$2.00 check.

Fairbanks, Alaska.

SHERMAN A. NOYES.