

such investment determines increased production in some direction if diminishing it in another.

In other words, the evil of our present system of land tenure is not, as thoughtless advocates used to declare in the early days of our agitation, that the buying of land, "locks up capital in land"—a teaching which Mr. George felt himself called upon to combat in an article printed as a land labor tract some years ago—but that it locks up land. We cannot all live on land speculation any more than we can all live by playing poker—and for the same reason. Neither game adds anything to wealth. And the more who engage in it the greater the number of non-producers, and the less wealth there is to go round. But the money spent in the purchase of land has no effect at all upon production—it does not involve any subtraction from capital used productively. That the entire system encourages parasitism and brings a great load of evils in its train is true. But Mr. Kohler has not analyzed the problem correctly.

There are other illustrations which seem to us to be gravely imperfect. Thus Mr. Kohler says: "As a matter of fact capital and labor are like the two wings of a bird, or the two legs of a man, and they should have no quarrel whatsoever." Now what is needed was an illustration which should indicate the dissimilarity of labor and capital, but this establishes a likeness which, "as a matter of fact," does not exist. Labor and capital are *not* like the two legs of a man or the two wings of a bird. If so which is the *right* leg? Do we not say that labor produces all wealth? But if the similarity of labor and capital be thought of to the exclusion of their dissimilarity, may we not venture to ask, *What part of wealth does capital produce?* The question answers itself. If a man loses one leg he can at least limp on the other. But if production loses the leg Mr. Kohler calls labor, production cannot even limp.

We have devoted much space to Mr. Kohler's pamphlet. We have done so out of consideration for a work undertaken in the interests of the cause—a work which we think the writer is quite capable of making a very effective little book. Few of

our writers possess a more vigorous style. But there is a right and a wrong way of putting the truths for which we stand. The wrong way may seem at times the more plausible and striking way. But in the long run it is not so.

J. D. M.

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#### THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE.\*

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This is the title of a novel from the pen of J. R. Abarbanell, long identified with the Single Tax movement in this city, where for many years he has made his home. For a long time he edited a story paper which had a phenomenal circulation which brought millions to its owner, but declined with the changing literary fashions among those who effect that class of fiction.

This story is not the great American novel that critics are looking for, nor is it the Uncle Tom's Cabin of the movement for industrial emancipation. But it is a very interesting story, and it is told with the art of a story teller, though somewhat hurriedly, it seems to us, at the close. It is dedicated to the memory of Henry George and one of the principal characters is Dr. McGlynn. It gives pictures of the slums and pictures of high life, and in the portrayal of the latter the author is somewhat more successful, probably because a larger part of the descriptive portion is devoted to those who occupy positions of some social eminence. The hero is said to stand for Phelps Stokes, but with the exception of the priest who is drawn from the portrait of Father McGlynn, there is no other figure that bears a close resemblance to any individual of prominence. Nevertheless, they are fairly recognizable as types. There is a pleasant little love story, a murder trial and a prison scene. There are pictures of society engaged in its occupation of laborious idleness, and there is a political speech at Cooper Union, where the hero gives his reasons why he will not run for Mayor of New York. There is enough action to

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\* *The Heart of the People; A Picture of Life as it is To-day.* By J. R. Abarbanell. 12 mo., cloth, 360 pp. Price \$1.50. C. M. Clark Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

satisfy the most jaded novel reader, and the author has not made the mistake of halting the current of his story to deliver economic homilies. He lets the story tell its own sociological lesson—or rather present its picture of social contrasts. The end is a trifle disappointing, since, though ending not unhappily for the characters most admirable in it it leaves the hero amid the wrecks of his scheme for social regeneration. We suggest—and it may be that Mr. Abarbanell had it in mind—that the last chapter leaves the door open for another volume which shall be a sequel to the first—and round out this economic inquiry with the true economic answer. But whether our author means to do this or not he has at least furnished us with an interesting story which should do much good to the unconverted into whose hands it shall fall.

J. D. M.

THE Second International Conference on State and Local Taxation was held in Toronto on October 6th to 9th of last month. It was a great success. Twenty-five States and five Provinces were represented by delegates, and eighteen universities sent representatives. One of the notable addresses appears in another column of this issue.

COUNT LEO TOLSTOY has written a letter in reply to the greetings of the Single Tax Leaguers of Australia, in which he renews his confession of faith in the teachings of Henry George. He says, "As fifty years ago the time came for the abolition of man's supposed right of property over man, so the time has now come for the abolition of the supposed right of property in land." In the work of the furtherance of this cause, says the great Russian, "I shall be happy to add my efforts to yours."

IN a recent communication to the *Square Deal* Mr. Jos. Fels suggests that all Single Tax associations should keep in touch with one another, exchanging in duplicate such leaflets and pamphlets as they issue, and acquainting one another with schemes for pushing the work. Mr. Fels offers his

help in defraying out-of-pocket expenses, such as postage, etc, for these expenditures.

WE regret that the REVIEW has contained no notice of the death by drowning last Summer of Samuel E. Moffett, a member of the editorial staff of *Collier's Weekly* and an occasional contributor to these columns. Mr. Moffett was a brilliant writer and a staunch Single Taxer.

MR. JOHAN HANSSON, Sikfors, B. J. Sweden, is preparing a history of the Land Values Reform Movement, to include some record of our progress in every part of the world. We shall have more to say regarding this in our next issue. Mr. Hanssen has been to New Zealand where he met Mr. Foulds and all the leading Single Taxers. Last month he spent in Italy.

A VIGOROUS letter to the press from Hon. Robt. Baker condemns the present method of disposing of public lands. Mr. Baker stood in solitary opposition in the Fifty-eighth Congress to this grab bag system and advocated a plan of short term leases with re-appraisals.

MR. W. B. DuBois, Single Taxer, was a democratic candidate for Councilman in the City of Bayonne, N. J. He was defeated, but led the national ticket by 48 votes.

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## NOTICE

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Please send us the names and addresses of all the persons you know who are, or may become interested in the Single Tax, and we will send them literature free of cost.

### SINGLE TAX INFORMATION BUREAU

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