

price. So, when privately appropriated, rent is not only in prices, but through taxes, forces prices higher and higher.

On the other hand the public taking of the whole rent prevents land monopoly, permits labor and capital to employ themselves on the best locations free of taxes with consequent greater efficiency and lower costs and the rise in rent is offset by increased public services furnished to labor and capital. When rent is collected by the public it equalizes everyone's opportunity to work to the best advantage and makes possible the gradual solution of all humanity's social and economic ills.

Rent can be collected by the community with the same ease and accuracy as it is now collected by individuals and the trustees of our universities.

Rent, in common with other natural phenomena and laws, is beneficent or destructive according to whether it is or is not treated and used in accord with natural law. This principle has long been recognized as to the physical laws and phenomena of gravitation, electricity, chemistry, astronomy, etc.

It is frequently stated that our powers of production of wealth have reached a high state of perfection but that our distribution of wealth is very backward and faulty. The reason is plain. Our machinery, tools, structures and chemical productions are all produced in accord with scientific understanding and obedience to natural physical laws but our distribution of wealth is attempted in utter defiance and ignorance or ignoring of natural economic law.

All the talk about "the maching age," "technological unemployment," "money" or "the money power" being responsible for unemployment and lack of purchasing power is foolish or knavish "bunk".

In my opinion Beckwith is absolutely sound in his economics, is teaching sound Georgeist principles and is doing the best work I know of in forwarding and disseminating the truth. He has done much to simplify and clarify the science of political economy and to show business men and all the industrious and thrifty that it is essential to their best interests and welfare. He has wisely steered clear of opportunist political futilities.

Jorgensen has done excellent work in exposing the teaching of false economics in our schools and colleges and in showing and impressing the importance of rent upon business and the consumer, which means every human being.

I am now convinced that Henry George did incalculable harm to the ready acceptance of his proposal:

1st. By talking land value taxation and Single Tax instead of always insisting on the collection of the whole of rent into the public treasury and abolishing of all taxes.

2nd. By not putting more emphasis on the importance of capital and the validity of interest.

3rd. By accepting the sophistical dictum of Ricardo that rent did not enter into price.

4th. By departing from his true roll of philosopher and scientist and twice being a candidate for mayor of N. Y. City on substantially a socialist-labor platform. Also by support of Bryan in 1896 George implied an economic importance of the money question which George knew could not exist.

5th. By advocating a political step by step method of adoption of his proposal.

John Stuart Mill was right when he said that small economic changes could produce no worth-while economic effect. This has been abundantly proved during the last fifty years by the experience in Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Texas, Vancouver and Pittsburgh.

Chestnut Hill, Mass.

EDMUND J. BURKE.

I HAVE seen nations, like overburdened asses,
kick off their burdens—meaning upper classes.—

LORD BYRON.

BOOK REVIEWS

How to Abolish Poverty, by George L. Record. Published by the Record Memorial Association of Jersey City, N. J. Cloth, 201 pp. Price, \$1.

This volume contains a statement of the economic and political faith of George L. Record. An introduction by Amos Pinchot and a foreword by James G. Blauvelt are affectionate tributes to the late Mr. Record, and on the whole are not undeserved.

There is no doubt that George L. Record performed a distinct and signal service in keeping alive in the state of New Jersey the flame of social reform. That he fell short of full accomplishment of his aim seems to us to have been due to his marked limitations and a certain self-delusion that he was a politician. This weakness was strikingly exhibited at the convention of the Committee of 48 in Chicago where from motives that must forever remain undisclosed he side-stepped the real issue at the very minute that Oscar Geiger, with his flaming courage, had won a magnificent but bewildered convention to our cause. It was a great moment and the truth must be told that George L. Record failed us.

We dislike to dwell upon this. It may have been that Mr. Record saw or thought he saw the futility of a ringing declaration on the land question that might have immortalized this convention. It is not possible to believe even after this lapse of time that George Record was right and Oscar Geiger wrong.

We prefer to dwell upon the real service Mr. Record rendered to the cause. We want to echo the encomiums pronounced by Messrs. Pinchot and Blauvelt. He was at least a strong figure in the politics of his state and people knew what he stood for. It is no exaggeration to say that he made Woodrow Wilson. He could do for others what he could not do for himself, for despite his strange self-delusion he was primarily an agitator and not a politician, and Henry George was the inspiring impulse of his life. The tragedy of his career was that he mistook himself for a political leader, and he failed in political compromise because every fibre in his nature responded to quite different stimuli.

We can endorse in the main the confession of faith he has given us in these posthumous papers. Only in one chapter do we find statements with which we would take issue. That is the chapter in which he tries to justify income and inheritance taxes. He seems to feel that some part of the great fortunes of Ford and Woolworth are unearned and should be taken in taxation. He supports this contention by the following:

"Society by establishing and maintaining at public expense, public roads, courts, police and fire departments, and the penal statutes affecting property rights, by authorizing and supervising the banks and coining money, and by establishing laws governing the medium of exchange, and by providing for the formation of corporations so as to make possible large aggregations of capital, contributed directly to the productions and to the element of permanency of the wealth acquired by the so-called owners."

Mr. Record has weakened his case, for the argument concedes in great measure the validity of taxes upon all forms of wealth, and could be quoted to sustain the reasonableness of any tax on production.

Mr. Record by dwelling upon the legislative rather than the economic argument has missed the point. Granted that the Ford and Woolworth fortunes do include an unearned portion, society gets all it is entitled to when it collects the economic rent. That both Ford and Woolworth profit by conditions in which labor sells its service at a disadvantage; that in subtle ways great aggregations of capital under present conditions render any bargain entered into by labor and capital a one-sided contract, we are to remember that the taking of economic rent by making all natural resources free will be to establish a very different relationship. We need not therefore concern ourselves in futile speculation as to just what part of these great fortunes is unearned. If society takes what it is clearly entitled to, the shares going to employer and employed in the work

REVIEWS

by L. E. Record. Published by the Record Memorial Association, 1000 10th St., N. W., Wash., D. C.

of the economic and political situation in the United States. The author, L. E. Record, is a well-known writer and speaker on these subjects.

Record performed a distinct and valuable service to the cause of the state of New Jersey by the publication of this pamphlet. It is a full and complete statement of his views on the subject of land value taxation.

This pamphlet is a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject. It is well written and contains many interesting facts and figures.

It is a must-read for all those who are interested in the subject of land value taxation.

It may have been that Mr. Record's pamphlet was a ringing declaration of the cause, but it was not a ringing declaration of the cause. It was a ringing declaration of the cause.

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of production will be automatically regulated in accordance with justice under the free play of natural laws, in which it is feared Mr. Record, as indeed is the case with many others, had insufficient faith.

But this part of this very useful work may be disregarded in view of the contribution to sound economic thinking which Mr. Record has left to his followers. His errors are of little importance but it is important that the Record Memorial Association live and flourish to carry on the work so well begun, and that this little volume will serve to perpetuate both the name and service of one who, if not always proof against the acid test, led the fight in the state of New Jersey in the sordid politics of his day as a lone eagle for the abolition of privilege.

It adds to the value of this little volume that the admirable paper by A. W. Madsen of London, *Land Value Taxation in Practice*, is included as an Appendix.

J. D. M.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

"High Taxes and Unemployment in This City," is a pamphlet of 17 pages and cover by William Wallace Munro. The city referred to is Schenectady, N. Y. where Mr. Munro has been well and favorably known for many years for his work in behalf of our principles.

A Foreword by James B. Montgomery says of the author: "He can be referred to as a public spirited man who tries to get his principles applied in practice."

This little work consists of a treatment of our doctrines by the author with citations from Henry George, Thomas G. Shearman, James R. Brown, Lawson Purdy, J. C. Lincoln and others.

We might take exception to the statement that real wages were high at any time succeeding the war, but conditions were so immeasurably better during that period that the statement may be allowed to stand. Analysis, however, will reveal that actual wages were low enough even at this time.

A large part of the discussion on taxation is admirably done and we wish we had room to quote. But our readers can do no better than to send 25 cents to Mr. Munro for a copy of this brochure.

The author designs in so far as may be possible to canvas the city in a campaign for interested adherents, using this little work as a medium of introduction. We think the plan is capable of general application elsewhere, in which case it would be well to incorporate and feature, rather more than is done in this little work, local instances of abuses aimed at. But principles, of course, are the same in every case and in every locality.

There are some typographical errors in the copy before us which will be corrected in future editions.—J. D. M.

"CAPITALISM" DEFENDED

The Case for Capitalism is a pamphlet of 62 pages and cover by L. Stratford Houghton, published by Daniel and Company, of London, England, at the price of one shilling.

This booklet which is more than a pamphlet is for the most part an examination of a work by Fred Henderson entitled "The Case for Socialism," Mr. Houghton sticks close to fundamentals and can be easily understood. There is here and there a certain carelessness of language, but this does not affect the argument, which is sound throughout.

There is an excellent discussion of the misuse of the terms profit, profiteer, and commercialism, and some useful rationalizing concerning spending and saving. There are also some very clarifying remarks on money, and here the author fails to stumble as so many do.

In Chapter V, "The Place of Land in the Production of Wealth," the argument is clinched and the heart of the problem laid bare. Speaking of the effect of land speculation on production Mr. Houghton says in these weighty words: "Serious results are so inevitable that

had this handicap on industry not been offset by the great improvements in inventions and the like, which have made it possible to produce more wealth on the same space of land and in a shorter time and with less effort, we should doubtless have reached a world-wide crisis ere now."

There is a happy phrasing here and there in which the author is an adept. Speaking of those who urge concurrently the theories of overpopulation and overproduction, he asks: "How could there be at one and the same time too many people for the goods and too many goods for the people?"

Very adroitly, the confusions of Mr. Henderson are answered, and always with delightful courtesy.

Mr. Houghton says: "The reform that is here suggested, i.e., the taxation of land values—is tremendously important, for conditions must inevitably get worse all the time until it is carried into effect."

And this statement is a significant and pregnant one: "We must remember, too, that the more we tax production the more we have got to tax it, because the taxes on production cause unemployment and poverty which need further taxes to relieve it."

Well done, Mr. Houghton!—J. D. M.

H. ELLENOFF SCORES AGAIN

Many of our readers are acquainted with H. Ellenoff and the excellent pamphlet from his hand, "A Printer Tells the President."

Here he is with us again in a larger booklet, "How to Create More Jobs than Men," in which in 48 pages, which is a model of condensation, he reviews the facts and arguments which support our philosophy. The price of this very useful pamphlet is 25 cents and Mr. Ellenoff's address is 409 Pearl street, New York City, care of the Beaverbrook Printing Company.

He begins with a striking quotation from Ferrero's "The Greatness and Decline of Rome," under the chapter heading of that book, "The Gracchi and the New Italy."

Mr. Ellenoff appeals to President Roosevelt, pointing out to him that this economic philosophy received thirty votes in the last session of the Pennsylvania legislature and asking him, "Why not put your influence behind this economic philosophy?"

The questions of war, machinery, "capitalism," are discussed at some length, and our author has fortified his contentions throughout with citations from authorities as well as quotations from Henry George, and congressmen Galusha Grow and Cable, the last two from speeches in Congress in the fifties.

Mr. Ellenoff is a comparatively new recruit to the ranks but he is an apt scholar and a thorough Georgeist.

He will place copies of this pamphlet to the number of five hundred in the hands of as many secretaries of trade organizations with whom in his professional capacity he maintains contact. For this work undertaken at his own expense he deserves the thanks of the fraternity.—J. D. M.

NATURE'S BUDGET, BY JAMES DUNDAS WHITE

Published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.

Evidently within the Single Tax groups there has come an increasing demand for a clear and simplified explanation of the land question.

"Nature's Budget" is another such explanation by a well known follower of Henry George. The author gives a most simplified outline of land value taxation or its equivalent, the taking of ground rent in lieu of all taxation.

The early chapters are devoted to a consideration of the technical aspects and his constant effort is to show how the whole incidence of land value taxation by excluding all other taxes, conforms to natural law.

The subtitles will indicate to the layman some interesting phases: Under Economics of Peace he treats of Just Conditions, Good Neighbors, Mutual Interests, Human Relations and Modern War. Under Mile-