

We hear much about "efficiency" and "scientific methods." Why not modernize our land-tenure system by overhauling our tax system? Every one admits with Hearst that it is a "bundle of inconsistencies." Henry George in "Progress and Poverty" analyzed all these various kinds of taxation, showing the results of each.

His book "Progress and Poverty" shows what is the real scientific taxation. It has been translated in all the principal languages of Europe and into Japanese and Chinese. In his life he had the labor unions with him, but they soon forgot. So this singular fact remains: that those who would have been benefited most by his teachings put into operation, never, as a class, adopted his great idea. Labor leaders ignored it. But the class who live by interest and profits understand it and they know it will work. They know it is not merely a little fiscal reform. They know it would call back into our public treasuries a fund now lost to us. They know that a fund created by the community collectively is allowed to be sluiced off by private parties as profits in land deals which if it were taxed into the public treasury would pay all our taxes, with never any need of bonds. In short, they know that if we taxed the price all out of land, instead of being a lifetime paying up for a piece as now, we would only pay the annual rental into the public treasury in which all have an equal share.

In the several Single Tax campaigns in California the dollar-trapping class formed a solid phalanx of opposition. Listeners-in on an anti-Single Tax dinner given to one hundred leading club women of Los Angeles in 1918, got the gist of the opposition. In three speeches each throwing a special scare we gleaned the following:

1. If the Single Tax should prevail how could we float our bonds?
 2. With the Single Tax in operation what would we secure mortgages on?
 3. Why if the Single Tax should come to pass nobody would want any land except for use.(!)
- Our friends the enemy have said it for us.

SOMEBODY some day will write a book about the romances of castaway print. John Burns in his youth was drifting in Africa. He found in an out-of-the-way spot beside a jungle river a copy of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." He read it from cover to cover. He never learned how it got in such an unlikely place for an English book to be, but anyhow it fixed his destiny. He was converted to its theories, returned to England, became a leader such as Ramsay Macdonald is today and a great member of Parliament. This was told me by a business associate who was ciceroned through Westminster by the genial Burns himself and heard the tale from his lips.

—The *Ambassador*, published by the Niagara Paper Mills, Lockport, N. Y.

Wealth and Want

PROFESSOR MARSHALL'S REFLECTION AS A YOUNG MAN

"**A**S invention after invention has been made, hope after hope has been formed that poverty and extreme hard work would pass away—but hope after hope has been disappointed. The yarn that in old times it would have taken a man ten years to spin is now spun in a day by the machines which one man can manage, and yet there are people who have no clothing but rags. Each pound of coal that goes into the furnace of a steam engine does as much work as the weary muscles of a man in a day; and yet even in England and in other Western countries there are workers whose physical toil is so hard that they have no strength left for the higher life of man. This state of things must appal every person who thinks; and from time immemorial protests have been raised against a state of society in which such things can be. There are two great questions which we cannot think too much about. The first is, Is it necessary that while there is so much wealth, there should be so much want? The second is, Is there not a great fund of conscientiousness and unselfishness latent in the breasts of men, both rich and poor which could be called out if the problems of life were set before them in the right way, and which would cause misery and poverty rapidly to diminish?"

—Quoted by the *Spectator* in review of A. C. Pigou's recently published "Memorials of Alfred Marshall."

DENMARK has a population of 3,500,000. There are in Denmark nearly 1,200 book shops selling books exclusively. New York City, with 5,000,000 population concentrated, has according to the classified directories, 264 shops where books are sold, but the majority carry books as a side line."

—GRACE ISABEL COLBRON in *Publishers' Weekly*.

Progressive Steps in Japan

FINANCE MINISTER HAMAGUCHI has been outlining the government's taxation programme in a number of public addresses in which he has been declaring the necessity of economy in government and lower taxes upon the people in general.

He proposes doing away with stamp taxes upon drugs and patent medicines, the tax heretofore collected on railway, steam ship and street car tickets, the tax upon shoyu, the sauce used every day by every Japanese, the income tax on small incomes and a lowering of the tax rate upon small land holdings, with a revision of the land assessments that will provide a long-needed equity between the small property owner and the owners of the large feudal estates.

Through these eliminations and revisions downward he estimates a shrinkage of some \$40,000,000 in federal revenue.—Cable Dispatch in Los Angeles (Calif.) *Times*.