

for the carrying out of this improvement, and the petitions are accompanied by *offers from the property owners to cover the expense for the improvements by a tax on land values*. Another interesting question is brought up by a writer on protection versus free trade. He shows that under present taxation systems, the great industrial activity which would result from a free trade policy would, after all, only benefit the land monopoly, the same as do, ultimately, all other improvements, and all progress under our present absurd tax policy.

That the Danish Single Taxers follow our actions in this country with interest is evidenced by the fact that Tom L. Johnson's re-election is referred to. It may be that the full importance of this re-election is not as yet fully apparent, or, at least, not fully appreciated; but it *may* carry with it important consequences for the Single Tax movement all over the world.

ERIK OBERG.

* A PLAIN, UNVARNISHED TALE.

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Single Tax conference here in November last will recall a middle aged, strong faced man known to but few of those in attendance who delivered an earnest plea to table a resolution committing the body to a definite declaration in favor of free trade. Announcing himself as a convinced free trader he nevertheless asked that the conference refrain—as he expressed it—from shutting the door against protectionists who might be induced by our arguments to join with us in freeing the land. Twice he obtained the floor, and in spite of universal dissent held the attention of the assemblage while he pled with the conference to exclude any reference to the tariff. As most of our readers know—and as was inevitable in a Single Tax gathering—his views met with no support. But the presence of a

* The Disinherited—Observations in Travel, by George Wallace, 12 mo. cloth, 215 pp. J. S. Ogilvie Co. N. Y. City.

new and strong figure in our movement was recognized. The member's name was George Wallace.

Before us is a volume of sketches from his pen, "Observations in Travel." A hasty glance at these might delude the reader into imagining that they are nothing more than ordinary newspaper sketches of the amateur itinerant who writes home to his country newspaper for the delectation of admiring relatives. A further glance at the form of these letters and their almost clerkly precision and simplicity might even confirm this impression. But a closer examination will reveal that this simplicity is the very perfection of purpose. Mr. Wallace says on page 117: "My aim in writing was to use simple language and make the observations and suggestions so clear in expression that those who might care to read them could not fail to understand."

The underlying thought of this book of some two hundred pages is familiar to us. But we must remember that they are still new and strange to the vast majority of the men and women of our time.

We have space for but one quotation from the book:

"It does not help the common people or relieve their distress to change a monarchy into a republic and forbid the granting of titles of nobility, if the abuses connected with the old aristocracy are still encouraged and continued. If the descendants of the nobility are permitted to monopolize the land as their fathers did, which monopoly causes most of the poverty in any country, it matters but little whether the government be monarchical or republican in name. It is special privilege—the denial of equal opportunity to all—which makes poverty and distress so common among the people."

This book should be useful. We may take occasion to make further quotations from time to time.

J. D. M.

THE latest fad of gilded youths is the carrying of ballroom pedometers so that they can inform their partners how great a distance they have covered in each dance.