

opposition to our doctrines to keep the question out of the public eye, one might deduce the fact that they seem to believe that the general public would be interested in our point of view and should therefore not be allowed to know anything about it.

I would like, in concluding, to call attention to the splendid work done by Mr. F. C. Leubuscher as a member of the Committee. His questions were a feature of the hearing. He brought all the ability of an expert lawyer, combined with an understanding of economic doctrines, to bear on this part of the work and it did seem as if nothing but mental laziness or an absolute refusal to understand could prevent anybody from realizing how completely the opposition was either actuated by self-interest or was not in any way hampered by an understanding of what they were talking about. Apart from the pleasure that Mr. Leubuscher's keenness gave his hearers, his cross-questioning in these meetings was as good a bit of work for Single Tax as has been done in New York for a long time. Mr. Leubuscher furthermore drafted the minority report and had a great deal to do with modifying some points in the majority report which might have turned out even less favorable without his persistence.

THE *Rebel*, of Hallettsville, Texas, is a brilliant socialist weekly. It is first of all a Single Tax paper, believing that in striking for the land it will secure the first necessary victory for any further social progress that may be demanded. Mr. Hickey is its editor, and he is a "fighting editor." The issue of July 31 reached a circulation of 10,000 copies. Our readers should subscribe for the *Rebel*.

SACHEM Society of Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio, conducted an oratorical contest among Cleveland high school students. There were eight competitors, and the prize was won by Stanton Adams. His subject was "The Taxation of Land Values," and he is a member of the Cleveland Single Tax Club.

BOOK REVIEWS

A REMARKABLE MAN*

We imagine that few will take up this biography and lay it down unfinished. It is of interest from cover to cover, and it tells the story of a really remarkable man. Characters such as Joseph Fels have their limitations, but these are forgotten in the contemplation of high and overpowering motive and achievement which marked the years of his life.

We learn much of the man from these pages traced by the hand of one who was his devoted companion, and who today carries on the work he was compelled too early to relinquish. In these days of the recognition of the importance of women we may call the writer the Saint Paula of the movement, though it is impossible that she should covet any distinction beyond the appreciation and gratitude of her co-workers. And nothing that she has so far done is quite as useful to the movement as this admirable biography of the dead leader.

She has given a full account of his early career, and we learn of the indefatigable industry that won him his splendid success in business, to which for a number of years he devoted every ounce of that tremendous energy characteristic of the man. It is interesting to note his democratic spirit even before he had imbibed the great gospel of democracy of which in later years he became one of the chief apostles. We see this in the relations of good fellowship he established with his workmen. It was probably these early perceptions of human equality which made him receptive to the creed in which he found his impressions codified. It seems that some men are born Single Taxers; that even in the absence of books or teachers, they will work around to it, some by reason of rare sympathy, others by force of an intellect capable of swift generalization. Both of these qualities Joseph Fels possessed, and it is thus not an accidental circumstance that he became the

*Joseph Fels. *His Life Work*. By Mary Fels. 12 mo., clo. 271 pp. Price \$1. net. B. W. Huebsch, New York.

zealous champion of industrial emancipation.

The process by which he arrived at the conclusions that made him a Single Taxer is interestingly told. These convictions came to him through his efforts to establish farm colonies and vacant land cultivation centers, and we do not feel that Mrs. Fels has devoted too much space to this phase of her husband's activities, since in the telling she is enabled to present a very forcible lesson for the Single Tax. For it was through acquaintance with the difficulties that beset him in his plans for social improvement, after careful inquiry and manifold experiment, after his failure to discover anything permanently availing in charitable agencies, that he was driven to seek the fundamental. He saw that wages were higher in new countries, and that this was only because men could get at the land. He saw with that directness of perception characteristic of him the failure of ameliorative measures such as the Small Holdings Act. He was close, very close, to the real Social Problem at every angle in his effort to help the unemployed, and when he came face to face with the truth he acknowledged it with rare courage, and thenceforth devoted his life and fortune to its service.

There are many interesting chapters in the work. That on Mr. Fels' Political Interests is notable for its intelligent discrimination. The following shrewd comment is arresting: "It is a curious fact that reformers in so many cases keep their ideas in a closed system of principles, thus preventing cooperation in practical political activity."

Should we venture to quote we would not know where to end. Mrs. Fels has done more than write a biography. She has produced an effective volume for propaganda. If the doubter could be induced to read it, though he might be disposed to qualify, he could surely doubt no longer. For if the Single Tax is an error then the life of Joseph Fels has no meaning. More even than that. For then, too, Henry George was a foolish dreamer or a contemptible charlatan, and 'Progress and Poverty' the most curious

example of self-delusion, or the most successful hoax in all the range of speculative thought from the world's beginning.

—J. D. M.

THE SINGLE TAX MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES*

As stated in his preface, the author "Has undertaken to give a complete historical account of the Single Tax Movement in the United States, together with a discussion of the tactics of the Single Taxers, their programme and the present state of the movement, and its influence upon economic thought and upon fiscal and social reform."

The introductory chapter is a survey of some of the more notable anticipations of "Progress and Poverty." Practically, all of these are already quite familiar to most students of the land question. Among the writers briefly mentioned are Spence, Paine, Ogilvie, Dove and Burgess. Copious notes and numerous references, rather than new material or the addition of any important names of the forerunners of Henry George will, I think, constitute the chief value of this chapter.

The succeeding seven chapters cover the history of the movement during the lifetime of Henry George. They are very largely of a biographical character, and perhaps properly so, for, as the author states; "Few movements of any sort bear such a striking relation to the life and work of a single individual, as the Single Tax movement bears to the life and work of Henry George."

In his treatment of the economic life and development of California since 1848, and the economic environment in which George spent his early life, the author gives evidence of much careful research and investigation. Early government reports, local histories, old newspaper files are all grist for his mill, and he has made admirable use of them. There are numerous quota-

*The Single Tax Movement in the United States. By Arthur Nichols Young. Large 12 mo. cloth, 340 pp. Price \$1.58 by mail. Princeton University Press. See adv. in this issue.