

longer wore a uniform himself, and the landscape was painfully civilian."

Of some undesirable members of the community:

"The village ought to be glad that they are going to represent her at the front," said Sam.

"From all I can hear," said the commercial traveller, "I think they are."

"It's strange," he remarked to Cleary, "that tattooing is universal in the navy and comparatively rare in the army. I rather think the habit must have been common to both services, and somehow we have nearly lost it. It's a fine thing. It marks a man with noble symbols, and commits him to an honorable life, indelibly, I may say."

"It's a little like branding a mule," said Cleary.

"Yes," said Sam; "the brand shows who owns the mule, and the tattooing shows a man belongs to his country."

Speaking of the civilization of Cubapinos and the superiority of our own:

"They had a post office before," said Cleary.

"But ours is surely better," said Sam.

"It's better than it was now they've put the new postmaster in jail. They say he bagged \$75,000."

"I hear they're going to establish a permanent court at Whoppington (Washington)," said Cleary, "to determine who wins victories in the future. It's not a bad idea. My own view is that the battle won itself, and I shouldn't be surprised if that was the way with most battles."

"It's perfectly right," said Sam. "When a man's in the right, and of course we always are, if he fights a man of his size, or one bigger than he is, he gives the wrong a chance of winning, and that is clearly immoral. If he takes a weaker man he makes the truth sure of success. And it's just the same way with nations."

"That old fellow with the long beard is Cope, the inventor of the Cope gun. He's a wonder. He was out here in the employ of the Porsslanese government. Most of their artillery was designed by him. What a useful man he has been to his country. First he invented a projectile that could go through any steel plate then known, and all the navies had to build new steel-clad ships on a new principle that he had invented to prevent his projectiles from piercing them. Then what does he do but invent a new projectile that could go through that, and they had to order new guns for it and build new ships to withstand it. He's done that three times. And he's got a rifle now that will penetrate almost anything. If you put two hundred Porsslanese of the the same height in a row it would go through all their heads at five hundred yards. I hope they'll try the experiment before this affair is over."—J. D. M.

### *Socialism vs. Democracy.\**

It is related of the Caliph Omar, who led the conquering hosts of Islam to the capture and sack of Alexandria, that when asked what should be done with the famous library in which the Greek colonists of that city had stored all the most famous literary treasures of ancient knowledge, he replied: "If they are in harmony with the Koran they are useless; if they are antagonistic they are damnable and dangerous; so burn them anyhow." And it is further related by the veracious chronicler that the public baths of the ill-fated city were heated for ten months with these priceless manuscripts. It is to be feared that this attitude of mind was not confined to the Saracens. Our justifiable attitude of reverence to the works of our great master makes many of us wonder what is the use of writing further on a topic on which the last word has already been spoken and to make us pay but scant attention to later pronouncements on the all-important subject. That this point of view is hardly conducive to progress will readily be granted, and our teacher would have been the first to admit it. That Max Hirsch has rendered a great and lasting service to the cause of human freedom by this monumental work is beyond denial. True, we may not see eye to eye with him on some of the lateral issues, such as the question of interest, nevertheless it is well to have his point of view set forth with such clarity, if only for the purpose of having the opposition view expressed equally well.

All individualists have felt more or less strongly that socialism was inimical to liberty, but that it was so completely subversive of ordinary democratic principles did not seem as clear as it does upon a reading of this erudite volume. It may even penetrate the fog which seems ever to rest upon the professorial mind, and so prepare the way for a change in the didactic attitude toward the "economy of the common people," which in so many minds only ranks with astrology and alchemy. Forgetting of whom it was said, "The common people heard him gladly," and doubtless understandingly, they assume that what the masses believe must be wrong.

No more trenchant criticism of the whole baseless fabric of socialism has ever been written; indeed, one cannot help feeling that a strange dignity is lent to that absurd but pathetic emanation of distraught humanity by being made the object of so masterly a vivisection. The full blaze of intellectual sunlight is flashed upon the dark places of socialistic inconsequence, and the whole venture of that economic school is shown to be but "a thing of shreds and patches."

There is a plenty of argument and a paucity of epithet about this book which makes quotation, except at great length, a matter of difficulty.

It may be said in a general way that the

\**Socialism vs. Democracy.* By Max Hirsch. Macmillan, New York and London.

great divisions of the book are the introduction, being a general summary of existing economic conditions, especially with reference to the growth of socialistic ideas.

- I. An analysis of socialism.
- II. Economics.
- III. Ethics.
- IV. The outcome of socialism.
- V. The single tax.

We do not believe that even those who combat Mr. Hirsch's conclusions most bitterly will question his competence to handle his subject. In Part I. he has taken a most catholic view of socialist literature, and seems to have chosen only recognized authorities in putting forward the socialist point of view. In Part II. he covers the questions of value—capital, surplus value, land, rent, interest, wages, and competition.

Under the head of ethics we have a most illuminating exposition of natural rights, law, distribution of property, and individualism. Under Part IV. a consideration of the social, political, industrial, domestic, and ethical consequences of the socialistic program. And in the fifth part a refutation of the objections to the single tax, an explanation of the method of its operation, a consideration of the question of compensation, a demonstration of the sufficiency of the reform, and a concluding chapter in which it is shown that the socialist authorities concede our whole position, although with their customary obtuseness they are unable to see it.

The searching analysis of socialism, concluding in a *reductio ad absurdum*, is timely, and will give pause to many who class themselves as socialists without a full understanding whither that state of mind ultimately leads. The apparent growth of the socialist ideas in America will be found to be in most instances but a belief in the public ownership and operation of fundamental monopolies, and not at all an acceptance of the whole socialist program. It would be a great matter if this book could be placed in the hands of all such men, as it would lead ultimately to a general adoption of the real single tax position.

As an example in the main of calm, dispassionate reasoning, the book is worthy of all praise and the Land Reform Movement is in Australia may well be congratulated on having as its leader a man capable of its production. The purpose of socialists and single taxers alike is the amelioration of the race and like the circumnavigation of the globe it may be attained perhaps by sailing either east or west. We who are embarked on the good ship "Single Tax" might perhaps grant our friends, the enemy, the credit of good intentions, while disputing the logic of every one of their arguments, and surely this has never been more convincingly done than in the book in question.

It may be worth while in passing to comment upon the change in conditions which have come about since Henry George's first

futile efforts to secure a publisher for *Progress and Poverty*. This book appears with the imprint of one of the most conservative publishing houses in the world—a house which we understand makes it a rule never to publish a book without assuming the full commercial responsibility involved in its publication. In an age in which political economy has passed from the professional closet into the arena of public discussion, the book ought to be a success, and single taxers owe it to their cause to leave no effort untried, either associated or individual to make it so. No higher praise can be accorded to it than to state that it is one of the very few books worthy to stand upon the shelf where we keep our master's works for reference and guidance.—J. J. MURPHY.

Edwin Markham's *Lincoln, and Other Poems*.\*

The appearance of a new volume of verse by Edwin Markham may almost be said to signalize another epoch of advance in the world's great humanitarian movement, for already his audience is a large one—an audience, too, such as no poet perhaps, however great the secret of his power to reach so many human hearts, has ever addressed. It is no small boast to say,—and Markham may say it with truth,—“I have taught the love of poetry to hearts who never in all the years of the world have suspected its power; I have awakened the sense of music in them; I have uncurtained its beauty; I have played upon the sleeping harp, and lo! it has awakened an echo in hearts to whom the love of poesy had almost died out.”

Other poets have sung passionately of humanity, its wrongs and its aspirations; Hugo, hurling epithets like stones, Shelley in strains of melodious pain, Burns in cogent utterances which stand like “eternal verities,” but no singer has ever voiced, as Markham has, the wrongs of outraged humanity; none has flung his challenge as boldly in the teeth of custom, none has pictured in such awful blackness the consequences that flow from social injustice, and none has portrayed in such delectable and prophet fashion the coming of that time when Love shall sweep away tyranny and greed, and Labor come to its own.

He is therefore, as he should be, the best beloved poet of our day; he is at the same time, as was to be expected, the most criticised. Curiously enough, such criticisms, or the most of them, are not levelled against the flaws and defects of his art (and these are many), but against the philosophy, or in other words, the truth of his song.

But what these critics fail to see is this: it is the truth of all song that is its poetry; all song that is destined to be lasting, or that commands a wide or earnest audience. It is the truth of the “Man with the Hoe” that gives that greatest single short poem of our generation its rare power; without it the high elevation of its phraseology would seem

\* *Lincoln, and Other Poems*, Doubleday, Page & Co.