

have done good service to the single tax cause in the years past.

The object of the new party is to thwart the designs of the reorganizers and to make the Democratic Party truly democratic. Hill's plans for party harmony came in for special criticism by those who took part in the proceedings.

Judge Samuel Seabury, of the City Court, presided, and there were about two hundred delegates present. Pictures of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John P. Altgeld and Henry George adorned the wall. The Liberty Bell was adopted as the emblem of the party. Charles Frederick Adams was among those who spoke, and Judge Seabury's speech in opening the convention was remarkable for its clear presentation of democratic principles.

EDGAR L. RYDER, NOMINEE FOR  
GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, ON  
THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC  
TICKET.

Edgar L. Ryder, of Westchester, single taxer and nominee for Governor of the Liberal Democracy, comes of the stock of the oldest settlers of New York state. His ancestor, Jacob Ryder, settled in Westchester County before 1690, having emigrated thither from the colony of Massachusetts Bay, or which his grandfather had been one of the earliest settlers. Mr. Ryder's grandmother was Rachael Van Cortlandt, grand-daughter of William Ricketts Van Cortlandt, a Revolutionary patriot. Her uncles were Pierre Van Cortlandt, first Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, and Phillip Van Cortlandt, Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary Army. On the paternal side, his ancestors were Jeffersonian democrats, when it was unpopular to advocate the principles of the great father of democracy.

Mr. Ryder is a graduate of Columbia University, of the class of '82, of which class Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, was also a member. He was twice returned to the Assembly from the Third District of Westchester, in 1893 and 1894, and enjoys the distinction of being the only democrat who ever carried that normally strong republican district twice in succession. He was again nominated in 1901 although absent from the nominating convention and without his knowledge, and although defeated carried his own town against a republican majority of four hundred and ran ahead of his ticket through the district. Mr. Ryder's legislative career was marked by an independence of action which alarmed the machine politicians of his own party. Long before David B. Hill had obtained his unenviable notoriety, Mr. Ryder, in the Assembly and on public platforms, denounced his pretences and showed the intrinsic hollowness of his democracy.

Mr. Ryder's work, however, was not

merely critical. In 1895 he introduced a bill adopting the Initiative and Referendum for New York state, and was successful in having it passed by the lower house. After nine years this measure has had a tardy recognition by being accepted almost unanimously by the voters of the State of Oregon in the election just closed. Many other beneficial measures bore his name, but the reactionary tendencies of his party were too powerful to permit of their enactment. Republican and democrat, friend and foe, alike admit it that his conduct was guided by a single purpose, the welfare of the people.

It will be of interest to single taxers to know the manner in which Mr. Ryder became a convert to our principles. In answer to such inquiry by the REVIEW, Mr. Ryder writes us as follows:

"I became a single taxer in Minneapolis in 1886 and my conversion was brought about by my own foolishness in accepting an opportunity to debate against the George folly. I was positive I could knock out any such fallacies as proposed by that man George. To make his economic demise complete I bought a copy of 'Progress and Poverty,' and gave it a careful study. After taking I was not so sure. I read it again. The debate never came off with me on the anti-George side. I helped to organize the Minneapolis Single Tax Club and became its secretary. I had recently graduated from Columbia College and knew everything in consequence, until I had the conceit knocked out of me by 'Progress and Poverty.' If I had never attempted that debate, or rather a preparation for it, I might have remained a respectable member of society, still thinking I knew all there was to know. I have never lost my enthusiasm for the cause and I have been 'ammering, ammering' ever since. I date my education, not from the time I graduated from Columbia, but from the time I read 'Progress and Poverty.'"

BOOK REVIEWS.

*Economic Tangles* is a neatly bound 12mo., comprising 220 pages. The volume consists of essays divided into chapters, only loosely related, on economic and social topics, and is a collection, for the most part, of Mr. Judson Grenell's contributions to the *Sunday News Tribune*, of Detroit. Following its preface are words of commendation from Hon. Tom L. Johnson, J. B. Howarth, F. F. Ingraham, and others known to our readers.

These essays are written with no pretence to exhaustive thoroughness; they are of the character such as we look for in papers of the better sort whose contributors are allowed large freedom of expression, and from whom we expect sober, serious and thoughtful pronouncements. It should not be forgotten that now as in the past essays have been rescued from newspaper obscurity that have

constituted genuine contributions to literature. The time has gone by when we can afford to sneer at newspaper articles. But it remains, nevertheless, true that articles so written, because of the necessity of appealing to the purely superficial sympathies and intelligence of the general reader, are apt to lack the weighty character, the thoroughness of detail, and carefulness of preparation which we look for, but do not always find, in articles prepared for books.

These essays, however, though written in popular style, are by no means lacking in solid information and generalizations that are the result of much thought. If they make no claim to literary distinction they have a usefulness that is more important, for they are the presentment of principles clearly apprehended and stated with much force and cogency.

As an example of the qualities indicated, and the line of reasoning pursued, we quote this paragraph from the Preface:

"Economics have so close a relation to continuous prosperity that employers and employed are equally interested in comprehending the laws governing the production and distribution of wealth. These are not difficult to understand. Like the figures in the multiplication table there is a certain relation between land, labor, capital and wealth, and once the student learns the value of each of these elements in the world of industry, he is able to grapple with seemingly inextricable problems which might otherwise lead him astray. There are many byways in economics, however, which look at times so broad and substantial, and are trodden by so vast a multitude, that the wisest are apt to be misled into taking the false for the true. Still, when the real value and dependence of each of the factors in trade and commerce are once realized, it is not so very hard to differentiate the thoroughfares that lead to the equitable distribution among wealth producers of their products, from those that tend to concentration and unjust apportionment."

One of the most admirable chapters is that entitled "Makeshifts for Justice." So, too, is the one entitled "Half a Loaf vs. No Bread." From the chapter "Strikes and Injunctions," we venture to quote (page 34):

"What is strange about all this is that the men should be content with so little. They are the producers of all the wealth with which they are surrounded, yet the niggardly bestowal of a fraction of it will quell all tumult and restore peace. Marmontel, in an address in 1757 in favor of the peasants of the north, put into the mouth of an imaginary orator these words:

"The land which saw you born has repudiated you; the laws have excluded you from this common inheritance; you have cleared it, but others possess it; you and the ox yoked to the plow are put on the same level. Nature called you to a share in its domain, but tyranny has pushed you aside

and says: You are not men; live like the beasts, to serve and obey me."

On page 94, from the chapter "Makeshifts for Justice," the following is worthy of quotation:

"Why do young nations, in a new country, advance so rapidly in civilization, in the diffusion of wealth, and in the general prosperity of the masses? Simply because in a new country there is more liberty than monopoly; a chance for everybody to the extent of the ability of each, and a free field for the expansion of trade. But after a time the social structure feels the grip of the octopus, and wealth and poverty begin giant strides—one to ease and luxury without work, the other to want and distress with work. And all this because society has allowed—nay, insisted on—the private control of that which no man produced, which was here before the foot of man ever pressed the earth, and which will remain after the last man has disappeared. The monopoly of the soil, with its wealth of minerals, is at the very foundation of all our industrial ills. It is the first great error of civilization on which all other wrongs are based. Remove this, and most of the others will fall of their own weight."

Mr. Grenell has long been one of the best-known single taxers in Detroit, and has been ready at all times with tongue and pen to aid the good cause. It is therefore a pleasure to be able to accord this book a cordial recommendation. It is published by Mr. Grenell and printed by the Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford Company, of Lansing, Michigan.

Michael Davitt's *History of the Boer War*.\*

"After resigning membership in the British House of Commons, in October, 1899, as a protest against a war which I believed to be the greatest infamy of the nineteenth century, I proceeded a short time afterwards to the Transvaal to see and learn more about the little nation against whose liberty and land this crime had been planned and executed."

Thus begins the few words of preface with which Michael Davitt opens his story of "The Boer Fight for Freedom." It is an interesting and valuable work which Davitt has done, and it will provide an armory for those who feel called upon to defend the Boer cause against the indictments which Conan Doyle, appearing for the other side, has included in a book which has had a wide circulation and of which much is being made by those who believe England's course to have been justified.

But without discussing the points in a controversy not germane to the purposes of this publication, and over which, indeed, our brothers on the other side of the Atlantic are divided, this book will be of interest to all

\*Funk & Wagnalls, New York. Large Octavo, 608 pp. Price, \$2.00, net.