

the State for the scope of its endeavor. It will not in any way interfere with the work of existing organizations, such as the Manhattan Single Tax Club, or the New York State Single Tax League.

The Executive Board of the League will be its Executive Committee, who will do all the work of co-ordinating and relating the efforts of various committees. These committees, into which it is hoped a number of the members will be drawn, will have each its own line of endeavor and will do the actual propaganda work. Chief among these is the Committee of New Voters of which Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett is Chairman. The work of this Committee is already well-known to readers of the REVIEW.

The Officers of the Single Tax Service League are the same who held office the last year in the Women's Henry George League, i. e. Miss Mary B. Ely, President; Mrs. Louise Stretton, Vice-President; Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, Secretary; Mrs. Ann Hinton, Treasurer. Miss Charlotte Schetter, 80 Washington Square East, is Chairman of Membership Committee. There are no dues and the initiation fee is twenty-five cents.

The first concerted action on the part of the new League, has been to start an informal luncheon gathering, meeting every Tuesday from 12.30 to 2 P. M. at the Dutch Oven, 135 MacDougal Street, (off Washington Square South). The price of the luncheon is thirty-five cents and all Single Taxers and friends are heartily welcome.

A special invitation is extended to our comrades from other cities when visiting New York.

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A DINNER of radicals will be held at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, 23d Street and Broadway, on Wednesday evening, February 2. At this dinner Mr. Edwards P. Ingersoll will read a poem, "The Goddess of Liberty in Wall Street," an allegorical satire. There will be speeches from Single Taxers and others.

### A BRITISH STATESMAN ON THE WAR.\*

James M. Beck in his "The Evidence in the Case," which has, in a short time, attained such a remarkable circulation, has presented what is probably the settled judgment of America in placing the moral responsibility for the European war on the Teutonic Allies; "*J'ai Accuse*," published anonymously in Switzerland, quite recently presented to American readers, with passionate vehemence, throws upon the German Chancellor and the war-mad Prussian military ring, the full guilt of "The Crime of the Twentieth Century."

We have had reams of multi-colored State papers, and will have stacks of books written in an endeavor to shift the burden of guilt from the shoulders of one group of belligerents to the other, but these will, in all probability, to the popular mind, tend merely to confirm the dictum that "all men are liars."

To those who would seek causes rather than scapegoats this book will be welcome. The author has the power of analysis and a mastery of his subject, which he uses with telling effect in a terrific indictment of the machinations of secret diplomacy.

The first three chapters take in a rapid survey of the development of European diplomatic intrigue and the establishment of the ante-bellum European balance of power since Napoleonic wars.

The treaties of 1839 and 1870 involving the neutrality of Belgium are analysed and the shifting positions of the powers signatory to those treaties are discussed.

Of Nietzsche the author says—

"The real influence of Nietzsche has not shown itself in any of the actions of the German people up to the present. They in no way appreciate his meaning of war—less, indeed, than an English journalist. I see many soldiers; would I could see many warriors! Uniform—they call what they wear; would it were not uniform what they hide under it!" \* \* \* \* There

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\*How Diplomats Make War, by a British Statesman. 12mo cloth, 376 pp. Price \$1.50. B. W. Huebsch, publishers, N. Y. City.

is nothing even savoring of the individualism of Nietzsche in German life."

Poor Nietzsche! We who read the daily papers have securely enthroned him as the *deus ex machina* of the German "Will to Power."

The author lays upon Great Britain much of the blame for the debauchery of military expenditures in which practically all of Europe indulged since 1905. We are given an edifying account of the Moroccan *imbroglio* which set the world on edge when, in 1911, the German cruiser "Panther" visited Agadir; of the secret agreement made by Britain, France and Spain for the partition of Morocco prior to the signing of the Act of Algeciras.

The writer shows that since 1906 "conversations" took place between the French and British military and naval authorities, and that the British government since that date was, to all practical purposes, pledged by its Foreign Office to give France armed support in the event of war with Germany! And of these pledges Parliament was in complete ignorance, and their existence was repeatedly denied by the Government.

Then in August, 1914, came the storm! The fateful events crowded into the few days before August 1st, 1914, are presented with dramatic force. Of Sir Edward Grey's effort to avert the impending catastrophe the author says: "Strove for Peace! Yes, that was true, and what a striving! Bound hand and foot from the beginning to support France, and working night and day for peace." France was pledged to Russia, Germany to Austria, and once the spark was struck it was inevitable that practically all the great nations of Europe would become involved in the conflagration. This is the author's indictment of secret diplomacy: "Diplomacy destroyed every bridge raised by pacifists in the principal European States, to march the workers into an international corps which would overthrow militarism and bureaucratic rule. Diplomacy in dividing Europe into two hostile camps stimulated militarism in all its branches; in each state it fostered the vast international armament interests; it raised

up a literature of enmity and hatred and threw the fate of Democracy into the hands of military and naval experts."

In concluding the chapter the author deals with "some practical proposals" toward the solution of the problems which must be met after the close of the war. He advocates placing all treaty-making power in the hands of the parliament and depriving the foreign offices of the power to bind the government to secret agreements. He says, \*\*\*\*"but let it not be imagined that these changes will be sufficient to preclude the possibility of war\*\*\*\*. The problems of armament and war are not to be solved by merely making changes as are suggested above; these problems lie deep, away down at the base of the social system\*\*\*\*. It is opportunity that is required for the mass of men—equal opportunity for all, indeed, if the problems of armament and war are to be solved. There is no other way!"

This is, on the whole, the best contribution of permanent value to the literature of the war up to the present time. It sheds a new light on the sinister methods of secret diplomacy as practiced in the chancelleries of Europe;

"Whose game was empires,  
Whose stakes were thrones,  
Whose table earth,  
Whose dice were human bones."

Americans will do well to read this illuminating story of the "Great Game," and profit by it.—A. W.

#### A PAMPHLET BY MR. MORTON.

"Exempting the Churches" is the title of a pamphlet of nearly one hundred pages from the pen of James F. Morton Jr., an expansion of the argument made by the author at a hearing in the Senate Chamber at Albany, N. Y. on June 1, 1915. If there is a phase of the subject that the author has left untouched it has wholly escaped the reviewer. An admirable feature of the pamphlet is its urbanity of treatment.

This work may be had at 25 cents of the Truth Seeker Pub. Co., 62 Vesey Street, N. Y. City.