

Dr. Brunk is a thinker. He knows his economics and he has made some important contributions, as we have indicated, to the history of land ownership. When he sets himself to establish a new political commonwealth he is not to be disregarded as attempting too colossal a task.

Nevertheless, it may be permitted us to say that the mistake, it seems to us, is that our author gives to government an importance it does not merit. Laws and constitutions become innocuous as soon as popular tendencies assert themselves strongly; either they are modified or lapse into disuse. And economic conditions act upon political forms, so that their character seems after all of minor consequence.

But it is because of the difficulty of dealing adequately with a work of this kind in the space permitted us that we urge our readers to send to Dr. Brunk, Alton, Ill., or to his publishers, for a copy of the work.

—J. D. M.

THIS MAN ADAMS*

This book is written in the modern "Jazz" style of biography.

Our author labors hard to prove that John Adams survives. The most convincing proof he can give is a letter to John Taylor in which Adams writes, "After all I am not yet dead."

This reviewer prefers the verdict of less biased contemporaries.

Thomas Paine, whose judgment, we submit, is more impartial, in a letter to George Washington dated July 30, 1796, wrote.

"John Adams is one of those men who never contemplated the origin of government, or comprehended anything of first principles. If he had, he might have seen that the right to set up and establish hereditary government never did, and never can, exist in any generation at any time whatever; that it is of the nature of treason; because it is an attempt to take away the rights of all the minors living at that time, and of all succeeding generations. It is of a degree beyond common treason. It is a sin against nature. The equal right of every generation is a right fixed in the nature of things. It belongs to the son when of age, as it belonged to the father before him.

"John Adams would himself deny the right that any former deceased generation could have to decree authoritatively a succession of governors over him, or over his children; and yet he assumes the pretended right, treasonable as it is, of acting it himself. His ignorance is his best excuse."

(See *The Life and Works of Thomas Paine*, Volume V, *Patriot's Edition*, page 148.)

And on page 151 Volume X of the same work Paine says:

"John Adams and Timothy Pickering were men whom nothing but the accidents of the times rendered visible on the political horizon. Elevation turned their heads, and public indignation has cast them to the ground. But an inquiry into the conduct and measures of that Administration is nevertheless necessary."

And on page 104 Paine wrote:

"But John Adams is a man of paradoxical heresies, and consequently of a bewildered mind. He wrote a book entitled 'A Defense of the American Constitutions' and the principles of it are an attack upon them, but the book is descended to the tomb of forgetfulness, and the best fortune that can attend its author is quietly to follow its fate. John was not born for immortality."

The illustrations in this volume are as apposite as the "Statue of Liberty" in a work of Botany. One shows cotton workers at quitting time, another is that of navy destroyers in action, and a third shows strike breakers quitting under police protection.

Our author devotes pages to the discussions of Selfishness, Power, Selling Merchandise, etc.

Too bad he did not devote his talents to the life of a bigger character, John Quincy Adams, for example.

—BENJ. W. BURGER.

*This Man Adams, by Samuel McCoy. Brentano, New York City.

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE AUTHOR OF "THE ARDENT EIGHTIES"

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your review of "The Ardent Eighties" gave me a few thrilling moments. It gave me a better appreciation of my own modest effort, which I had undertaken, first, in order to relieve my mind of accumulated memories; and, secondly, to do justice to those ardent souls of the '80's who dared to make their dreams a reality, and who paid the usual price for their daring.

I thank you sincerely for your lines.

New York City

GREGORY WEINSTEIN.

URGES INCREASED ACTIVITY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The Georgeists in America are astonishingly *inactive* as compared with those in Great Britain, where the movement is making great headway; land-value taxation being frequently advocated in the House of Commons. There is an active club in every important city there, the members of which are steady letterwriters to the newspapers. A record kept for the past three months shows 70 known contributors of 138 letters and articles in newspapers in 27 towns, an average of ten letters a week.

In New Jersey it is a rare thing to see a letter on the subject in a newspaper, though all newspapers are open to letters from their readers.

To indicate the willingness of editors to print Site-value tax matter I would say that I am frequently asked by editors of prominent papers to write an article for them, which of course I do. Recently after writing one for the *Camden Courier*, which they backed up with an excellent editorial, the editor asked me to write half a dozen more such articles.

The greater the number of writers, the greater will be the apparent strength of public opinion wanting this legislation. Unfortunately, it now seems to be agreed by leading Georgeists that use of the term "Single Tax," against which there is a strong public prejudice, has kept back the movement. It is useless to advocate repeal of any tax unless also advocating shifting to site, or land-value, and stating the reason why.

In addition to letters to newspapers, it is important to interview political leaders and tax officials. Another important class is mayors, finance commissioners and public officials in general.

Newark, N. J.

ALFRED N. CHANDLER.

AGAINST THE NAME SINGLE TAX

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am very pleased over the signs of revolt against the continued use of the term "Single Tax" as applied to the movement which has heretofore gone under that name, particularly as expressed by Mr. J. C. Lincoln at the Chicago Convention.

There is an indirectness—almost a dishonesty—in the advocacy of a tax, even a single tax, at the same time that we aim to abolish all taxes. And Georgeists, of all people, can afford to be both direct and honest. They have nothing to hide and everything to be proud of.

We have two distinct aims in view. One is to have the entire rent of land appropriated to the use of the whole people who have created it. The other, and which is made possible by the first, is to stop the robbery involved in taxing for public use the values produced and belonging to the individual.

So far a short and suitable name has not been found for the first of these two objects. As the two are inseparably connected why not use the words which shortly and perfectly fit the second? One of the things which may be charged against the term now used is that it has nothing startling to a lazy mentality. "What is the good. We can't escape paying taxes anyway, whether many or single; They are going