

Single Tax After 50 Years

IT is a glowing tribute to the permanence of an idea that after 50 years the publication of this book should be celebrated by a gathering of 600 Single Taxers, representing 23 different countries, in the Scottish capital some 6,000 miles from the spot where the doctrine of single taxation first had its birth.

The impression made by Henry George upon the consciousness of mankind is a striking illustration of the power of thought, backed by a good purpose. He never stopped urging acceptance of his doctrine upon men of the most widely separated nationalities, and of every class of society. Nor was he in any sense a man of one idea, but he gave as liberally of his strength and his ability to the interest of good government and human liberty as he did to the agitation of the Single Tax. When, in the latter days of the nineteenth century, New York City seemed confronted with a peculiar menace of evil government, Henry George was drafted to lead the forces in opposition to Tammany. Warned that it might mean the sacrifice of his life, he nevertheless undertook the task. The warning was but too well founded, and like a soldier on the battlefield he gave his life to his cause. That his followers are animated to so great an extent by a like devotion to the economic panacea which he preached shows impressively the enduring power of a devoted and self-sacrificing ideal.

—*Christian Science Monitor.*

BOOK REVIEWS

A NOTABLE WORK BY JACKSON H. RALSTON*

It is no small recommendation that our movement can boast among its teachers such names of eminence in the field of education as John Dewey and Professor Roman, and such distinguished scholars in the realm of international law as Jackson H. Ralston.

The work before us is a supremely scholarly and thoughtful book. It is not too much to say that it is destined to constitute for many years to come an effective instrument of peace for the student, and that it provides him with a perfect arsenal of fact, argument and persuasion. The contentions of Admiral Mahan, whose work is so frequently cited by advocates of the status quo in naval circles, are met and answered, as are those of many others.

Some years ago Mr. Ralston published a work entitled, "The Law and Procedure of International Tribunals." The present work is designed to cover ground not fully considered in the work that preceded it.

And the tone is hopeful, as is the marshaling of facts. Reviewing the many steps toward international conciliation ending with the Kellogg-Briand Treaty, the author says:

"Truly it is almost impossible for any nation to resort to war—euphemistically called a method of self-help or of self-redress—without incurring the condemnation of the whole body of civilized public opinion."

One of the most interesting and valuable chapters is that in which the question of natural law is discussed, with quotations from authorities. Laws that have a higher sanction in human or divine reason are contrasted with those that spring merely from custom or convenience.

It would require more space than we can give to it here to review this great work adequately. Apparently little has been overlooked in these four hundred and odd pages. The literature of the subject has been extensively drawn upon. We have the conclusions of thinkers eminent in their field almost from the time that settlement of disputes by arbitration began to be considered. Except in the cases of a few isolated individuals, whose ideas on the subject were vague and uncertain, but little real progress had been made up to 1880.

It is interesting to note some of the great figures whom Mr. Ralston cites as among the early advocates of arbitration, Dante, Erasmus, Cruce, Fenelon, Abbe de Saint Pierre, Rousseau, Immanuel Kant and others. Treatment of the proposals and speculations of these thinkers is necessarily brief.

A chapter of great interest distinguished by much research is that treating of Ancient Arbitration; arbitrations in the Middle Ages are also reviewed, and a fuller treatment is accorded to more modern cases in which disputants have agreed to arbitrate.

There is an interesting and very full sketch of the Permanent Court of International Justice, its procedure, and short accounts of the cases decided by the Tribunal.

There is a very full index and a useful bibliography.

The thought may occur to the reader, why, with all these attempts at arbitration many wars, including the World War, have reddened the earth. The answer of course is that while arbitration is useful it does not and cannot touch the real source of the trouble. Even with a well set-up machinery for world government there is no assurance of its permanence and stability where more powerful forces are at work. These forces are chiefly if not wholly economic. And the words quoted from Cavour by Mr. Ralston are significant in this connection. Said the great Italian statesman:

"Every political problem involves an economic problem, and every economic problem a moral problem. If the assertion is too broad as applied to the government of a nation, it is not as applied to international relations."

J. D. M.

A SINGULARLY THOUGHTFUL WORK*

Professor Roman is no mere dry-as-dust scholar. He discusses vividly the problems before him. He marshals his facts in a way that is revealing and illuminative. He is able to interest you.

To write of education one must himself be an educator—that is, in the examination of all these systems and theories and methods of practical routine he must be guided, not alone by experience, but by some fundamental convictions as to what education really is. What is mind and what is it meant for? What kind of education best develops the cultural capabilities? What system of tuition best nourishes the growth of understanding, independence of judgment, and the attainment of man's full mental and spiritual stature?

The democratic ideal of education is the only one that appeals to Prof. Roman. With unerring judgment he puts his finger on the tendencies that violate this ideal. In one sentence he epitomizes it:

"It seems well nigh impossible to give the people anything. How often they throw away, by sheer lack of appreciation, gifts that are lavished upon them! The most that can be done is to create an environment whereby they may grow into deeper responsibility and capacity in the exercise of new privileges."—p. 18.

Here is a recognition of both the weakness of men and women and the only conditions in which intellectual growth is possible.

He tells us also:

"A system of education which represents an effort to make possible an unrestricted growth of the talents of all the people without regard to fortune or station, does not yet obtain in any country—not even in the United States.—p. 10.

The study of the system of education in England gives Prof. Roman his opportunity to indicate where the defects in that system spring

*International Arbitration From Athens to Locarno. By Jackson H. Ralston. Cloth, 8vo. 417 pp. Price \$5. Stanford University Press, Stanford University, California.

*The New Education in Europe. By Frederick William Roman. Clo. 12mo. 438 pp. Price \$4.40. E. P. Dutton & Co., London and New York.