

touch with the people as the real source of authority; in short, to give direct and full force to the ballot of every individual elector in Oregon and to eliminate dominance of corporate and corrupt influences in the administration of public affairs. The Oregon laws mark the course that must be pursued before the wrongful use of corporate power can be dethroned, the people restored to power, and lasting reform secured. They insure absolute government by the people.

BOOKS

THE OLD WEST AND THE NEW.

Cavanagh: Forest Ranger. By Hamlin Garland. Published by Harper Bros., New York.

That sterling radical and faithful Single Taxer, Hamlin Garland, has found the inspiration for his latest novel in the timely question of the Conservation fight.

In his new book Mr. Garland gives us a first hand glimpse of the intimate side of this battle for the people's right. His hero is one of the forest rangers appointed by Gifford Pinchot to care for the great heritage of our nation in its splendid forests. This new conqueror of the West meets the last defiant stand of the old reckless lawlessness which characterized the vast cattle ranges and sheep grazing grounds of the limitless Western prairies. This picturesque lawlessness has served often enough, too often perhaps for our proper understanding of right and wrong, for the scene of many a story of adventure, stories so fascinating in their sweep of incident that they blind the reader to the fact that in applauding them he is really condoning brutality and crime.

Not the least of many good points in Mr. Garland's latest book is that he shows so clearly how behind all this colorful recklessness, extolled by writers as "the play of strong human passions," there is nothing but the sordid greed of gain and capitalistic intrigue such as we find in our corrupt politics, and in our dealings with our new found "dependencies." As one of the characters in the novel puts it—

The Old West was picturesque and in a way, manly and fine; . . . certain phases of it were heroic. I hate to see it all pass, but some of us begin to realize that it was not all poetry. The plain truth is my companions for over twenty years were lawless ruffians and the cattle business as we practiced it in those days was founded on selfishness and defended at the mouth of the pistol. We were all pensioners on Uncle Sam and fighting to keep the other fellow off from having a share in his bounty. We didn't want settlement, we didn't want law, we didn't want a State. We wanted free range. We were a lot of pirates from beginning to end and we aren't wholly reformed yet.

Mr. Garland shows how the New West, coming

under the sign of the automobile and the telephone, is bringing largely through the Forest Service the ideal of brotherhood and community interests into this scene of selfishness and lawlessness. Ross Cavanagh dreams of a day when "each of these great ranges will be a national forest and each of these canyons will contain its lake, its reservoir."

Very significant are the words of the indignant forester's assistant:

"The President has fired the Chief, the man that's built up this Forestry Service. The whole works is going to hell, that's what it is. We'll have all the coal thieves, water-power thieves, poachers and free grass pirates piling in on us in mobs. They'll eat up the forest. They'll put some Western man in, somebody they can work."

With his greater outlook of an understanding of basic economic truths, and his ideals of a true brotherhood of man, Mr. Garland has seen the importance of this conflict which those of us who live more to the Eastward do not realize in all its urgency. He has given us a picture of it so intense and vivid that the mere human story built around it, pales into insignificance beside the great theme of the novel. The book should be read by all those who have the true good of our country at heart.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

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OLD CHICAGO.

By Gone Days in Chicago. Recollections of the "Garden City" of the Sixties. By Frederick Francis Cook. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.

This book is rambling and largely reminiscent, and therefore naturally vague. But in spite of its defects, it is full of interest to those who would glimpse the past through the eyes of one who saw and was a part of it.

The supplementing of reminiscence by historical incident gleaned from 1835 to 1880 would seem to mar instead of adorning the work, but those who were alive and observant during the stirring period of 1857-1867 will recall with intense interest the bitterness of the contest waged between the "Copperhead" and the "Black Republican" of that period, and will philosophize over the peculiar shift in the position of the parties. Democrats, who in 1856-1860 were emphatically the Union savers, became in 1861-1865, rebels and traitors. Anti-slavery men who during the former period were Union haters and the victims of mob law, later became the only Union savers and treated their former persecutors to liberal doses of their own medicine.

It will interest the young of today to learn that none of the men of the sixties were quite as bad as their enemies painted them; and, alas! that none were quite as good as their friends believed them. It will interest the thinker to learn that George M. Pullman disavowed any sentiment of philanthropy