

the Creator gave it, its surface glistening with emerald sheen, assessed as farm land, while \$50,000 is now asked for a tiny acre. Yes, that belongs to the Schenley estate. Down through the "Hill" district of this city, in some of the ghettos is a glimpse of Dante's Inferno. Yes, that belongs to the Schenley estate. What has the prisoner at the bar to say? What has the prisoner done for this city in the name of civic pride? What has the prisoner at the bar given in return for the millions taken from the citizens of Pittsburg to a treasure house beyond the sea?

The saturnalia of graft that had been witnessed by Pittsburgers for twenty-five years was checked to a degree by the withdrawal from activity, because of failing health, of that arch grafter, C. L. Magee, and to whose memory a monument in bronze is soon to be erected that Pittsburgers, lest they forget, may look upon and remember another of the city's "benefactors." The displacing of the once powerful and unscrupulous Magee-Flinn ring by a fusion of disappointed grafters and political hacks with many independent Republicans and Democrats, a movement, which in its inception won a considerable following in the hope of better city government, has resulted in making Pittsburg politically a municipal bedlam. To paraphrase is to but say that

"Shatter and break the political hack as you will,  
The odor of graft will cling to him still,"

and here where the political spoils hunter is found on every hand is it to be wondered that Municipal Purity lies prostrate and the masses of the people take their medicine without a grimace? The Pittsburg Railways Company owned by "The Philadelphia Company," and which has a perpetual lease upon the streets and highways where its tracks are laid, pays the city so insignificant a sum in taxes upon its enormous properties and privileges that it is not worth mentioning. Yet this corporation gets anything it desires through councils, while the holders of homes and other city property are taxed at a millage of 15, not including the two mills of school tax, and can get nothing from their city fathers. While the taxpayers of these two cities have thus been held up and robbed by the land monopolist and who have become so accustomed to being bled that they have seemingly lost the power of resistance, all the patient burden bearing and amazing servility displayed under the thrall of such a colossal game of graft played by the Schenley estate may be understood.

*Le roi est mort. Vive le mort.* Title deeds remain and the heirs of the Schenley estate will but follow in the footsteps of their ancestors in the legalized piracy which moral insanity and greed alone defend. To that band of sincere and thoughtful men in this city, organized for the purpose of teaching the philosophy of the natural order of society, all hail. The very conditions which grow apace and present seemingly insuperable obstacles, those conditions which cause at times the bravest hearted to falter, will ultimately prove to be the very agencies by which the citizens of this morally polluted city will have their eyes opened to the radiant figure of Truth and will gladly greet her handmaids who bear the protecting shields of justice and economic freedom.



## THE MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

(For the Review).

BY GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

In Germany the fight goes on briskly along the line of the assessment of city lots at their actual selling value. The law making this possible was the merit of Prussia's greatest Minister of Finance, Johann von Miquel, who was at heart a good Single Taxer. Eighty Prussian communities, large and small,

have already adopted the method and every month adds new names to the list. The discussion pro and con is at present going on in the two important cities of Halle and Magdeburg, and the municipal government of each has sent a letter of inquiry to such cities as have already adopted this taxation. The leading questions put to the cities are:

1—What increase in revenue in taxation on land and in taxation on buildings, has been noticed over the last year's income from the former method?

2—Has it been found that the new method of taxation brings a relatively higher assessment of the so called better sort of houses, and a lessening of the burden of taxation for the houses of cheap flats?

3—Has there been much trouble in the introduction of the new method; have there been many reclamations and protests, particularly among the class of land owners, etc?

To these questions, sent out by Magdeburg, cities of the size and importance of Cologne, Kiel, Charlottenburg, Düsseldorf, Dortmund Münster and others have sent most satisfactory answers. Charlottenburg, Kiel, Münster, Düsseldorf, Mülheim-am-Rhein report, increase from 35,000 up to 90,000 marks. Dortmund, which did not desire an increase, found itself in a position to notably, decrease the tax rate by turning in a large surplus.

To the second question all without exception return an affirmative answer.

As for the protests in the third question, the cities take that matter very easily. Some report very few protests, others, protests from land speculators which they do not consider worthy of notice, and in no case have the protests, or reclamations been of a nature to induce municipal authorities to doubt in any way the excellence and efficacy of the new method of taxation.

One question in the Halle Enquête. "What reception was given the new method in the circles of land owners?" brought some interesting answers which are most instructive reading particularly for the enemies of the reform.

*Barmen* (a big manufacturing town) answers, "The new assessments are received with willingness.

*Aachen.* No complaints have been made.

*Breslau.* The house of City Representatives (who usually represent moneyed interests) accepted the new method unanimously.

*Charlottenburg* (the big suburb of Berlin). The owners of lots built upon are delighted, as their tax rate is greatly lessened.

*Cologne.* All are satisfied, as lots built upon have been reduced in their rates, up to a reduction of 40 per cent for lots bearing cheap houses.

*Dusseldorf.* The new method has been well received.

Another question sent out by Halle was:—"Have the land owners made any attempt to shift this tax on to the tenants?" When answers are given to this question they are invariably in the negative, as well as to the question whether the new taxation has led to a reduction of the number of gardens in the city.

The progress of any movement in Germany is attended by so much excellent and thorough statistical work that it is of great assistance to those interested elsewhere.

Damaschke's first book, "Municipal Politics," has passed into its fourth edition and has been received with great interest by heads of municipal governments everywhere. "*Land Reform*," the German leader's excellent historical and politic exposition of the Single Tax, has already seen its second enlarged and revised edition, which is also nearly exhausted. The German Land Reform League now numbers 180,000 members, which includes all members of organizations that have joined the parent League as corporate members.

The "Free Seminary for Political Economy" instituted by the League in Berlin, has been found a most valuable means of agitation and propaganda. It

meets every two weeks in some large hall, usually the lecture hall of one of the big High Schools, and Mr. Damaschke, or another of the leaders of the party, gives the main lecture of the evening, following out a regular schedule for the study of economics. The main points of the theme are written on the blackboard, and discussion follows, the whole being planned and carried out on the line of a High School Upper class. The hall is filled to overflowing almost every meeting and scarcely a night that does not add one or two new members to the League.



## HERBERT SPENCER.

### THE STORY OF HIS RECANTATION.

*(For the Review.)*

BY HENRY GEORGE, JR.

During the morning of December 8, 1903, Herbert Spencer died on his little estate at Brighton, England, quietly and without pain, in his eighty-fourth year. As by his previously expressed wish, his body was reduced to ashes; and thus passed the expounder of the Synthetic Philosophy.

Spencer had set himself the most ambitious of all philosophical tasks: that of explaining, by a process of synthesis or building-up, the scheme of the world and all that is therein. He constructed a formula that he called the law of evolution, and which he believed explained the process of development of matter and mind; a process, in the words of William Henry Hudson, ranging from "the unrolling of a planetary system to the sprouting of a wayside flower; and from the genesis of intelligence to the latest variations of social life."

Spencer had in his first book, "Social Statics," more than fifty years ago, predicated a world, created by God, whose name he constantly used, and whose Divine Will, he asserted, constituted the natural order and the essence of social justice. When, later, Spencer began to build up, by what he assumed to be a purely scientific method, a universal philosophy, he declared the idea of God was merely a notion derived by savages from sight of their own shadows; that the origin of things, so far as men could know, was force; that back of that was the Unknowable; that beginning with force, matter and motion, and their integration and dissipation, brought forth all the physical things that we know; that from the mutations of matter and motion came also the developments of the mind; and that thus the process of evolution goes forward, until the reverse process of dissolution resolves things back to their beginning, force; when another cycle of the integration of matter and dissipation of motion begins.

Spencer's Synthetic Philosophy may satisfy those who are willing to follow what they believe to be strictly scientific methods. But to others it is as inconclusive as that philosopher's definition of his root word, evolution: "An integration of matter and a dissipation of motion, during which the matter passes from an indefinite, incoherent, homogeneity to a definite, coherent, heterogeneity, and during which the retained motion undergoes a parallel transformation." What causes the integration of matter and the dissipation of motion? Force. And who or what created force? That is unknowable. Thus it comes that Spencer's Philosophy merely means the expounding of materialism. The world, the solar system, stellar space—what are they? Matter and motion in their myriad mutations, working, working, working.