

system in the city. He has perfected the details so that it runs along like clockwork, and he is given practically a free hand in working it out. To him and to the genial mayor of the city, Mr. Robert Lee, we are indebted for the particulars from which the scheme has been outlined above.

Everything is not lovely, however, not even with the Single Tax. When the city takes on growing pains and demands room for expansion, the outlying districts do not want to come into the charmed Single Tax area. Their assessment would be mostly all land values, and they claim that the parts of the city where extensive improvements exist free of taxation would get them the best of the bargain. They demand concessions, and Edmonton had to grant their demands to coax them in. The city agreed that for five years their assessment would be made for school purposes only, and it will be three years yet before the added area pays full taxes.

Strathcona agreed that until the farm lands were sub-divided and sold they would only be assessed at \$10 per acre, equal only to a trifling assessment of \$10 each for a town lot. The subdivisions of farm lands spring up all around the fringe of the corporations, where land is cheap and taxation very light, and residents still have the advantage of contiguity to a center of population. This kind of thing occurs in every city, of course, but the tendency thereto seems to be increased by the Single Tax System.

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"INNOCUOUS INSIGNIFICANCE."

Herbert Quick in the Grand Junction, Colo., Daily News of February 24.

Speaking against direct election of United States Senators, Senator Root argued that bad men sometimes come to the Senate, but that they soon find their level of "innocuous insignificance."—News Item.

"Innocuous Insignificance!" This doom
Falls on the naughty senator, quoth Root—
Then looked with solemn pride about the room—
And met, mid-glance, the gaze of Prophet Smoot!

A shining, bald pate nodded. Gallinger
Looked turgid Penrose fairly in the eye—
Stout champions, both, of Richard Ballinger—
They knew the great Elihu did not lie!

Depew pressed Simon Guggenheim's soft fingers
In mutual sympathy too deep for words.
Penrose remarked, "Root certainly has stingers
For nine-spot senatorial dickey-birds!"

One tear was dropped by Joseph Weldon Bailey
At thought of tainted Solons, lost and lone;
But, cheered by his own virtue, turned he gally
And spoke high things to William Joel Stone.

Aldrich assented, saying nothing oral,
Returning innocent glance to Carter's glance—
The words were musical, poetic, choral—
Great words! "Innocuous Insignificance"!

They tell what every keen observer marks,
That patriots only get preferment there;
That Burtons, Platts, Quays, Hannas, Burrs and
Clarks
Waste all their fragrance on the Senate air.

That if the Senator—ah! more's the pity!—
Be e'en a little bad, the Senate's wont
Is to accord him place on no committee
Save on "Condition of the River Front."

The naughty man may sometimes reach the Senate;
But there his fell career at once stops short:
He's cut by Murray Crane ere he can ken it;
Or slain by Lodge's lethal gaze and snort.

Where is the man of life the least immoral
Who ever in the Senate took his stance—
(Or owed to gold one vote within his corral)—
But found "Innocuous Insignificance?"

Stupendous phrase! It fills the mouth like Homer;
Winds out in sinuous iambs, foot by foot;
Breaks roaring on as rolls the hollow comber;
Lights up—the curious mind of Mr. Root.

BOOKS

CANADIAN INSURGENCY.

The Revolt in Canada Against the New Feudalism.
By Edward Porritt. Published for the Cobden Club by Cassell and Company, London.

This timely book should be welcomed and read by all students of the tariff. The story of what Mr. Porritt calls the Revolt is fully told, so that the reader can easily see its importance. The reader can also see that these Canadian insurgents may perform a real service to themselves and their country, and, by influence and example, to other countries, by being stout and faithful in their Revolt against what Mr. Porritt calls the New Feudalism. "Democracy in Canada," he holds, "could be more untrammelled than democracy in England or in the United States. There is no constitutional barrier to democracy in Canada. There is no House of Lords, and Canada has no such rigid constitution as the United States."

By the "New Feudalism" Mr. Porritt means, of course, the "privileged interests." In fact, he uses this expression in speaking of the unchecked power of extortion which the privileged interests have built up through control of Parliament, of the Government, of party organization and machinery, and of the daily press. It is no new story, only an old story in another setting.

There may be some new developments in the story of this Canadian Revolt, as it moves on to its conclusion. It will be worth our while to watch the progress. Mr. Porritt quotes many refreshing and vigorous words from the insurgents

of the Canadian west, who seem to be in dead earnest.

This revolt of 1910 is, as the writer says, only the beginning of a great struggle, and the struggle must not end with a mere revision of the tariff. To make the Revolt effective and worth while he sees that it will be necessary to wrench loose from the government the grip of the New Feudalism, and to restore representative institutions to the service of democracy. How this is to be done is a problem not only for Canada but for some other regions that might be mentioned.

Mr. Porritt has a way of selecting very apt and happy quotations for his book and chapters. Many of these are so good that the sympathetic reader can not but feel like passing them on. One of these, from a speech delivered at Edinburgh in 1895 by Thomas F. Bayard, is worth quoting at any time, and I give it here, as follows:

In my own country I have witnessed the insatiable growth of that form of state socialism styled protection, which I believe has done more than any other single cause to foster class legislation and create inequality of fortune, to corrupt public life, to banish men of independent mind and character from the public councils, to lower the tone of national representation, blunt public conscience, create false standards in the popular mind, to familiarize it with reliance on state aid and guardianship in private affairs, divorce ethics from politics, and place politics upon the low level of mercenary scramble.

J. H. DILLARD.

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VITAL THEMES.

The Rational Life. By Will J. Erwood. Published by Will J. Erwood Company, Baltimore, Md. Price, \$1.00.

"This volume is an effort to make better the world in which we live today," says the author. The subjects covered are "Love," "Marriage," "Divorce," "The Sex Question," "Social Evils," "The Rational Life," "The Conquest of Self."

It is inevitable that vital topics like these, if sincerely and openly discussed, should reveal the interior depravity of some of our conventional ideas and practices. Mr. Erwood, while disclaiming the imputation of pessimism, does not hesitate to speak with brutal frankness to the prudish mind which needs to be shocked before it can be aroused to think of the evils it has tamely and ignorantly accepted as irremediable. In awakening rational thought upon matters most deeply affecting the welfare of human society, the author of "The Rational Life" is doing the only service that counts for ultimate reform. It is education that must knock the props of ignorance from under the false customs that are perpetuated because their real quality is not thoughtfully analyzed.

A. L. M.

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A grapefruit is a lemon that has had a chance!—Puck.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—The Solution of the Child Labor Problem. By Scott Nearing. Published by Moffat, Yard & Co., New York. 1911. Price, \$1.00 net.

—Socialism. A Critical Analysis. By O. D. Skelton. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston and New York. 1911. Price, \$1.50 net.

—Annual Report of the Director of the Mint. For the Year ended June 30, 1910. Published at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1911.

—Proceedings of the Buffalo Conference for Good City Government and the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the National Municipal League. Held November 14, 15, 16, 17, 1910. Edited by Clinton Rogers Woodruff. Published by the National Municipal League. 1910.

PERIODICALS

The Fortnightly.

If any one wishes to know of the activity of anarchists in the way of publications, he should read the article in the February Fortnightly on Anarchist Propaganda in England. The article, which is signed simply G., has evidently been inspired by the recent outbreak from "the windows of a house in Stepney." As usual on such occasions, writers arise with all manner of dire warnings and solemn advice. England has long been the land of free speech for Europe, and let us hope that she will so continue. Free speech is too precious a possession to be legislated out of life because of occasional instances of evil results which may possibly be laid at its door. The only way to fight free speech is free speech.

J. H. D.

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The Forum.

The Forum for February is an unusually rich number. Archibald Henderson's "Message of Tolstoy" is well worth reading. "Tolstoy," he says, "was the apostle of publicity. Without abating one jot or tittle of the facts, without sparing friend or foe, without respecting persons, even to the Czar himself, Tolstoy flung forth the naked truth." Mr. Henderson thinks that America needs the same sort of publicity—not exposure of more scandals, but more truthful exposure of social conditions. "Danae's Song" is a poem of exceptional beauty, and the article of Richard Le Gallienne on the "Mystery of Fiona Macleod" is one which all will value who have caught even a glimpse of this most interesting "Mystery" in modern literature.

J. H. D.

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The Nation.

The editorial in the Nation (New York) of Feb. 23, on "The Popular Magazine" is worthy of attention. It must be confessed that from several points of view the writings in some of the so-called popular magazines frequently open themselves to criti-