

at the beginning the present taxes would be very greatly reduced. And one of the very best ways to do that is, where it is possible, to have the municipality both own and control the plant. Most of us used to be opposed to municipal ownership, and with very good reason, because, we said, "Why, a city doesn't know how to transact business; the council is always elected as a mere matter of politics; the government is corrupt; if it can't make a good contract with anybody, how can it run a plant?" But there is a brighter day dawning even for American municipalities. By a process of gradual evolution the necessary business sagacity to do this thing is becoming more and more the possession of the municipality.

More and more intimate becomes the relation of the city to the individual, for with all the complexities of modern civilization we see that it is not so much the independence of the citizen and of the individual as the interdependence between the individual and the city—the city, the municipality and the State going more and more into men's lives. Whatever we may think of the new nationalism, however we may feel as to the centralization of power in the Federal government, I think we can have but one view of that new municipalism which shall control and make more intimate the relations of the individual with the immediate community in which he lives.

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## BOOKS

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### THE LAND QUESTION.

In the year 1873 there was published in London by Macmillan & Co. a book entitled, "The Land Question," by John Macdonell, containing much information in regard to the land laws of Great Britain, and showing a clear perception of the injustice they legalized. As the volume is now difficult to obtain, and as it shows a remarkable grasp of principles destined a few years later to find supreme expression in "Progress and Poverty," the following extracts may not be without interest to your readers:

"The Land Question—a question which begins to overshadow all other political problems set before the country; one, perhaps, of that rare kind which, with no rhetorical flourish, we may say that states must, in good time and in a wise fashion, solve or decay. A people are what their land system makes them; the soil that they till is stronger than they; and the essence of their history records the changes in the ownership of their land. . . . Few things exhaust men's immense capacity for misery more nearly than a bad land law. . . .

"It having been shown that 'economical rent' is paid for differences in quality and situations of land, created by no man, or that it originates in

circumstances not to be credited to the land-owner, it would naturally have been expected that from Ricardo's principles would have been unanimously and instantly deduced the conclusion that economical rent should not become the subject of private property, that no private individual should be permitted to monopolize 'the original and indestructible properties of the soil,' and what no man had created or earned by labor of his no man should own. It would have been only natural for all who accepted the preceding account of rent to hold that rent which proceeded from common labors of the community should belong to it, that wages were not more fitly the reward of the laborer, or profits the reward of the capitalist, than was rent, as Ricardo understood it, the appanage of the community or state, and that, to quote the popular phrase, 'the land was the property of the people.' . . .

"Since the state, ever needy, is compelled at present to draw its revenue from taxes which are a hardship to all, and a grievous burthen to the poor, it is no paradox to affirm that the maintenance of the state should be provided, as far as may be, out of those funds which Nature herself seems to have appropriated to public purposes, arising as they do out of common or public exertions. . . . That which presses on no man, yet benefits all, is on the face of it a better mode of obtaining a revenue than that which mulcts all, it may be, unequally, and to the grievous injury of some. That which, taking from no man's just earnings, yet provides for the just common wants, is conspicuously superior to a system of which the true principle, according to Mr. Lowe, is that you must pinch every class until it cries out. An offer is made of a mode of raising revenue, which takes from none what they have rightly earned, which need rob no man of what he has rightly bought, and which will replenish the Treasury. No man being mulcted, no man wronged; and are we to reject this offer, and for ever allow so many private interests to gather round this public domain that it shall be useless and perverted? To a like question the answer once made was a decided negative. For a time the revenue of this, as of every other state of Europe, came from rent. But the answer was revoked: the feudal duties incident to property fell into desuetude, and ultimately they were abolished; much of the Crown land was squandered; and for centuries the nation has been reaping the harvest of its errors, each sheaf whereof has been some tax, often vexatious and cruel. . . . We vex the poor with indirect taxes, we squeeze the rich, we ransack heaven and earth to find some new impost palatable or tolerable, and all the time, these hardships going on, neglected or misapplied, there have lain at our feet a multitude of resources ample enough for all just common wants, growing as they grow, and so marked

out that one may say they form Nature's budget. . . . Just as we should seek to replace loans by taxes, so should we seek to substitute for the latter rent drawn from natural monopolies, and it would seem not unreasonable to hope, that as loans have ceased to be the regular resources of all solvent governments, so may taxes. Thus only shall we have the benefits of government without the burthens. . .

"Let those . . . who regard the advent of democracy as inevitable, and who do not desire to see governments ruling by largesses extorted from the wealthy by the proletariat, welcome a revenue system which seems to set natural limits and barriers to the demands of potent and rapacious poverty. . . It may prove well hereafter if the share of the state is defined almost as sharply as the portion of the capitalist or the laborer. . . We see, then, the possibility of government, local and imperial, with out taxation. To no transcendental motives does the project appeal. It demands no miraculous draught of administrative talents or public virtues. It is simple and intelligible. It is nothing but giving the body politic the blood which it has secreted. . . I know how far out of the path we and others have strayed, how hard it is to hark back, and how easy it is to speak in three words that which generations of strong minds will not accomplish. We have been putting hills and seas between us and this principle. Not in our time, perhaps never, will they be wholly cast down and utterly dried up. But I still presume to think that it is good to contemplate a splendid possibility, some dim similitude of which may one day be realized, to the unspeakable benefit of society."

F. W. GARRISON.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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—What Diantha Did. By Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Published by the Charlton Co., New York. 1910. Price, \$1.00.

—A History of the United States and Its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time. By Elroy McKendree Avery. In 16 volumes. Volume VI. Published by The Burrows Brothers Company, Cleveland.

—Land Values Taxation in Practice. A Record of the Progress in Legislation of the Principles of Land Values Taxation. By Max Hirsch. Obtainable at The Single Tax office, 312 Flinders street, Melbourne, Australia.

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## PAMPHLETS

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### How To Choose and Cook Vegetables.

If every housekeeper-cook should be inspired to read Farmers' Bulletin, Number 256, on "The Preparation of Vegetables for the Table" (United States

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.) all talk for a Federal Department of Health might cease and the Meat Trust be transformed into vegetable hash. There are five "delicate and digestible" ways of cooking cabbage and "the general principles underlying vegetable cooking" are a page of revelations. The ignorant cook is actually given some idea of time required for cooking the various vegetables, information which all ordinary cook-books are at pains to conceal. Maria Parloa and Uncle Sam were able collaborators.

A. L. G.



### Pamphlets Received.

Following are among the pamphlets we have received:

Cornell University Librarian's Report (1909-10).

Analytic Summary of the Papers Presented to the Free Trade Congress of 1910 at Antwerp.

The Story of Owned Land. Published by "The Square Deal," Toronto. Price 10 cents.

Report of Council Committee of Chicago on Telephones. December, 1910. City Clerk, Chicago. Free.

"Abundance and Hard Times," by Jas. C. Smith. Published by Kegan Paul, Trench Trubner & Co., London.

"Institute of Municipal and Social Service in Milwaukee," published free by the State University at Madison.

"The New Cycle, or The Message of The New Dispensation," published by Mrs. H. M. Barry, 1277 West 23d St., Los Angeles, for 35 cents.

"The Tariff Board and Its Work." Speech by Henry C. Emery, chairman, at Chicago December 3, 1910. Published by the Government Printing Office, Washington.

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## PERIODICALS

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### "Progress and Poverty" in Spain.

The "Journal des Etrangers," published in Sevilla, Spain, in the Spanish and French languages, announces in its issue of November 30 that it will begin in its January number the publication of "Progress and Poverty" in French, Spanish and English. The "Journal," a copy of which comes from Mr. Antonio Albendin, is a twelve page monthly paper devoted to economic, industrial, commercial and general news.

C. L. L.



### Land Monopoly In Spain.

In the Madrid Herald of December 10, Mr. Antonio Albendin, of San Fernando, Spain, criticizes efforts to colonize foreign lands with Spanish emigrants. He shows that if natural resources were freed to labor, Spain could easily support ten times her present population. No other European country, he proceeds, has such extensive areas of land lying in the natural state, used as game preserves, in which only wild animals are to be found. In the province of Andalucia great tracts of fertile land lie idle, which under the Moorish occupation was under cultivation; and the Province in those remote days contained twice its present population. The Spanish Congress approves a system of indirect taxation on the grounds set forth by William Pitt, that its payment is not realized by those upon whom it