

PAMPHLETS

A French Singletax Pamphlet.

"Le Capital de la France, et le Rôle qu'il Doit Remplir" ("The Capital of France, and Its Proper Function"), by Ernest Mansuy (53, rue de Bagneux, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France), is a handsome, well-printed brochure. Mr. Mansuy is a bookkeeper, and he declares that "there is a fundamental sociological principle, which is well known to bookkeepers, but of which students of political science are completely ignorant." "This principle, of which it is absolutely necessary to take cognizance in the foundation and organization of all normal societies," he says may be thus formulated: "A society, no matter what, cannot exist without a capital fund, that is to say, without a common fund, producing a sufficient revenue, not only to satisfy all social expenses, but to furnish besides a profit to the members of that society." Mr. Mansuy examines societies, voluntary and involuntary, including the nation among the latter. He believes that though politics depraves the spirit and demoralizes the conscience, and the social heart stifles the expression of new truth, still the question of the land will force itself upon society through a world-wide agitation. This question which has received attention during only two centuries, has been completely solved by Henry George. How Mr. George's solution would work out as a matter of bookkeeping, Mr. Mansuy shows with "A National Balance-sheet," with assets on one side, liabilities on the other, and receipts and expenditures below. Chief among the assets appears the productive public domain, valued at 100,000,000,000 francs (\$20,000,000,000). The annual rent of this domain is put at 5,000,000,000 francs (\$1,000,000,000). Arguments follow to show that the Singletax is in reality a suppression of taxes; that the expropriation of the holders of the land would be just and easy; that such a course would be favorable to landed proprietors, who would be forced to utilize the soil logically and legitimately; and that it would only injure speculators and forestallers of locations. The book is simple and readable, and would appear to be excellent propaganda material.

A. T. P.

PERIODICALS

Everybody's.

The answer by H. J. Chase in the October Everybody's, to a breezy criticism of the Singletax which appeared in the August number of the same magazine, while it is as breezy as the criticism and peculiarly interesting as an answer in kind, is nevertheless complete, clear and flawless in its exposition.



Some Panama Indians and Their Land.

"He who made this sand made it for the Cuna—Cuna who live no longer, for those who are here today, and also for the ones to come. So it is not

ours only and we could not sell it." Down on the Isthmus of Panama, eastward from the canal, live the San Blas Cuna Indians, and this was their reply to the high official of the Canal Commission when he wished to buy the sand of Caledonia Bay. A description of this little known region and its native Henry Pittier. The vast areas of forest, rich in people is given in the July Geographic Magazine by cocoa and ivory-nut are the main sources of wealth of these natives, "among whom money is never scarce and poverty an unknown thing." . . . "The land belongs undivided to the community, so that any encroachment is considered as a public damage. Annual crops are seldom produced several years in succession on the same piece of ground, but once this is cleared and tilled it belongs to the individual or family who have done the work, until it returns to the public domain through voluntary abandonment."

A. L. G.



Ret.

The August number of "Ret," the monthly journal of the Singletax cause in Denmark, published under the sound, vigorous and successful editorship of S. Berthelsen, contains half-tone reproductions of two charming photographs of Mr. Joseph Fels and Mrs. Mary Fels. A passage from an accompanying note runs: "Finally the journey concluded with an improvised open air meeting in Ulvedalen in Dyrehaven (Wolvesrally in the Deergarden)* where, besides Mr. Fels, Mrs. Mary Fels for the first time in Denmark, delivered an address on the Struggle for Woman's Emancipation. And the little lady won all her hearers with her intelligent and warm-hearted presentation." This item would seem to be of considerable interest for the Woman Suffragists in the United States.

C. M. KOEDT.



The French Singletax Review.

The discussion in "La Revue de L'Impot Unique" on "The Relation of the Individual and Property to the State" caused so many questions to be addressed to the editor that he returns to the subject in the September issue. A speech delivered by Henry George in Paris in 1889 is reprinted as an answer to the points raised by correspondents. In his resumé of the Singletax argument Henry George rejects the idea of State ownership. We are too much governed as it is and should seek to simplify, rather than extend the functions of the State. Singletaxers are in substantial agreement regarding the dangers of land nationalization, but Mr. Darien raises a contentious point when, emphasizing the *laissez faire* doctrine as stated by Quesnay and George, he insists that there is "no difference between land nationalization and the right of the community to seize, a priori, the entire ground rent." To do so, he argues, would encourage the government, which the wise man justly looks upon with suspicion, to be more wasteful and

*The Dyrehaven is an inclosed, wooded tract of land about 3,000 acres in area, containing thousands of deer. It is a well kept park and the principal pleasure ground of the people of Copenhagen, situated six miles—half an hour's ride—from the city.

despotic. It is time to put an end to the crimes committed in the name of the public welfare. Let land values be socialized, but nothing else. Give individual initiative free play in every possible direction. The intelligent, hard-working, self-denying middle class, which has waited in vain for a movement of genuine reform to be launched by the government, patiently pays the income of the rich and supports the indigent poor. It will be crushed "between the anvil of the parasite and the hammer of the disinherited" if it does not grasp the weapon forged by the Physiocrats. The taxation of land values would soon give it possession of the land now in the hands of speculators, and make it the determining factor in the decision as to the proportion of economic rent to be contributed to the yearly budget. By supporting intelligent expenditure and refusing

to countenance wanton finance it would create a civic sense and (Mr. Darlen believes) earn that part of the rent which it was able to save from the clutches of the State. Space does not permit us to dwell on other interesting contributions to the Review showing the evils that have sprung from a false system of land tenure. "The moral and physical health of a nation varies in strict accordance with the use made of its land."

F. W. GARRISON.



Betsey, an old colored cook, was moaning around the kitchen one day, and her mistress asked her if

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EDWIN S. JEWELL

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