

The ethical standards of the human race are constantly improving. Many things which were looked upon with approval half a century ago are condemned by society of today. Strenuous efforts have largely put a stop to gambling in, and on, various things, and now speculating and gambling in land, on and from which man has his whole existence, is coming under the ban, as speculating in a necessary of life, and making it more costly and difficult to use, is against public policy.

REVIEWING the recent publications of the Vanguard Press, Ben Ray Redman says in a recent issue of the book review section of the New York *Herald-Tribune*:

"George, Bellamy and Morris were all concerned with the same problem: the amelioration of the lot of man. The one wrote argumentative economics; the other two found expression in Utopias. What George proposed—the abolition of all taxes save that on land—was a simple operation compared to the vast social changes implicit in Bellamy's sweeping vision.

"George, Bellamy and Morris were men of faith and imagination. The more pessimistic of us must believe that their faith is doomed to disappointment, but that should not lessen our enjoyment of their imagination. And if any of them could have made mankind in his own image, as they fashioned their Utopias, then—well, then the history of the future might tell another story."

The Law of Progress

PROGRESS goes on just as society tends towards closer association and greater equality. Civilization is co-operation. Union and liberty are its factors. The great extension of association—not alone in the growth of larger and denser communities, but in the increase of commerce and the manifold exchanges which knit each community together and link them with other though widely separated communities; the growth of international and municipal law; the advances in security of property and of person, in individual liberty, and towards democratic government—advances in short towards the recognition of the equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—it is these that make our modern civilization so much greater, so much higher, than any that has gone before. It is these that have set free the mental power which has rolled back the veil of ignorance which hid all but a small portion of the globe from men's knowledge; which has measured the orbits of the circling spheres and bids us see moving, pulsing life in a drop of water; which has opened to us the ante-chamber of nature's mysteries and read the secrets of a long buried past; which has harnessed in our service physical forces beside which man's efforts are puny; and increased productive power by a thousand great inventions. * * *

To freedom alone is given the spell of power which sum-

mons the genii in whose keeping are the treasures of earth and the viewless forces of the air.

The law of human progress, what is it but the moral law? Just as social adjustments promote justice, just as they acknowledge the equality of right between man and man, just as they insure to each the perfect liberty which is bounded only by the equal liberty of every other, must civilization advance. Just as they fail in this, must advancing civilization come to a halt and recede.

—HENRY GEORGE in "Progress and Poverty".

Local Activity in Pittsburgh

THE Henry George Club of Pittsburgh which conducts weekly luncheons Friday at noon, at Club Room number 1, of the Chamber of Commerce, 7th Avenue and Smithfield, listened to an address on December 10 by Kenneth Lindsay, former member of the British Parliament, his subject being "The Land Problem in Great Britain" On January 21. Hon. Robert Garland, chairman of the Finance Committee of City Council and former President of the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh, spoke on "Pittsburgh's Tax System and Its Advantages."

WHEN two persons desire the same plot of ground, land values arise. If three persons desire it, this value is increased. If scores of thousands cast longing eyes upon it, the value begins to run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars per acre.

An Interesting Letter

The following letter from H. B. Maurer, of Brooklyn to August Heckscher of this city, relative to the latter's proposed plan for housing, is an interesting communication.

"My dear Mr. Heckscher:

I am neither flattered by the promptitude with which you have replied to my letter nor piqued by the information that your letter was 'dictated but not signed' by you, nor by its thinly veiled, but uncalled for, sarcasms.

"Anent the statement 'we are not yet far enough along for the employment of co-operative experts,' I beg leave to say that when you are I shall not be then, as I am not now, interested in any scheme for unloading irksome wealth to ameliorate human ills, especially when it ignores causes; stresses symptoms and leaves the seat of the sore untouched, but serves, however, as an outlet in a fertile field for philanthropy.

"Sharing, as I wrote you, in the conviction expressed in the public prints, that the 'Heckscher Plan' will prove a palliative only, comes now *The Nation*, in its current issue, with an article which leads off thus: 'Henry Ford set sail with the magnificent assurance that he would get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas. Now comes