

Dr. Brunk is a thinker. He knows his economics and he has made some important contributions, as we have indicated, to the history of land ownership. When he sets himself to establish a new political commonwealth he is not to be disregarded as attempting too colossal a task.

Nevertheless, it may be permitted us to say that the mistake, it seems to us, is that our author gives to government an importance it does not merit. Laws and constitutions become innocuous as soon as popular tendencies assert themselves strongly; either they are modified or lapse into disuse. And economic conditions act upon political forms, so that their character seems after all of minor consequence.

But it is because of the difficulty of dealing adequately with a work of this kind in the space permitted us that we urge our readers to send to Dr. Brunk, Alton, Ill., or to his publishers, for a copy of the work.

—J. D. M.

THIS MAN ADAMS*

This book is written in the modern "Jazz" style of biography.

Our author labors hard to prove that John Adams survives. The most convincing proof he can give is a letter to John Taylor in which Adams writes, "After all I am not yet dead."

This reviewer prefers the verdict of less biased contemporaries.

Thomas Paine, whose judgment, we submit, is more impartial, in a letter to George Washington dated July 30, 1796, wrote.

"John Adams is one of those men who never contemplated the origin of government, or comprehended anything of first principles. If he had, he might have seen that the right to set up and establish hereditary government never did, and never can, exist in any generation at any time whatever; that it is of the nature of treason; because it is an attempt to take away the rights of all the minors living at that time, and of all succeeding generations. It is of a degree beyond common treason. It is a sin against nature. The equal right of every generation is a right fixed in the nature of things. It belongs to the son when of age, as it belonged to the father before him.

"John Adams would himself deny the right that any former deceased generation could have to decree authoritatively a succession of governors over him, or over his children; and yet he assumes the pretended right, reasonable as it is, of acting it himself. His ignorance is his best excuse."

(See The Life and Works of Thomas Paine, Volume V, Patriot's Edition, page 148.)

And on page 151 Volume X of the same work Paine says:

"John Adams and Timothy Pickering were men whom nothing but the accidents of the times rendered visible on the political horizon. Elevation turned their heads, and public indignation has cast them to the ground. But an inquiry into the conduct and measures of that Administration is nevertheless necessary."

And on page 104 Paine wrote:

"But John Adams is a man of paradoxical heresies, and consequently of a bewildered mind. He wrote a book entitled "A Defense of the American Constitutions" and the principles of it are an attack upon them, but the book is descended to the tomb of forgetfulness, and the best fortune that can attend its author is quietly to follow its fate. John was not born for immortality."

The illustrations in this volume are as apposite as the "Statue of Liberty" in a work of Botany. One shows cotton workers at quitting time, another is that of navy destroyers in action, and a third shows strike breakers quitting under police protection.

Our author devotes pages to the discussions of Selfishness, Power, Selling Merchandise, etc.

Too bad he did not devote his talents to the life of a bigger character, John Quincy Adams, for example.

—BENJ. W. BURGER.

*This Man Adams, by Samuel McCoy. Brentano, New York City.

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE AUTHOR OF "THE ARDENT EIGHTIES"

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your review of "The Ardent Eighties" gave me a few thrilling moments. It gave me a better appreciation of my own modest effort, which I had undertaken, first, in order to relieve my mind of accumulated memories; and, secondly, to do justice to those ardent souls of the '80's who dared to make their dreams a reality, and who paid the usual price for their daring.

I thank you sincerely for your lines.

New York City

GREGORY WEINSTEIN.

URGES INCREASED ACTIVITY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The Georgeists in America are astonishingly *inactive* as compared with those in Great Britain, where the movement is making great headway; land-value taxation being frequently advocated in the House of Commons. There is an active club in every important city there, the members of which are steady letterwriters to the newspapers. A record kept for the past three months shows 70 known contributors of 138 letters and articles in newspapers in 27 towns, an average of ten letters a week.

In New Jersey it is a rare thing to see a letter on the subject in a newspaper, though all newspapers are open to letters from their readers.

To indicate the willingness of editors to print Site-value tax matter I would say that I am frequently asked by editors of prominent papers to write an article for them, which of course I do. Recently after writing one for the Camden *Courier*, which they backed up with an excellent editorial, the editor asked me to write half a dozen more such articles.

The greater the number of writers, the greater will be the apparent strength of public opinion wanting this legislation. Unfortunately, it now seems to be agreed by leading Georgeists that use of the term "Single Tax," against which there is a strong public prejudice, has kept back the movement. It is useless to advocate repeal of any tax unless also advocating shifting to site, or land-value, and stating the reason why.

In addition to letters to newspapers, it is important to interview political leaders and tax officials. Another important class is mayors, finance commissioners and public officials in general.

Newark, N. J.

ALFRED N. CHANDLER.

AGAINST THE NAME SINGLE TAX

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am very pleased over the signs of revolt against the continued use of the term "Single Tax" as applied to the movement which has heretofore gone under that name, particularly as expressed by Mr. J. C. Lincoln at the Chicago Convention.

There is an indirectness—almost a dishonesty—in the advocacy of a tax, even a single tax, at the same time that we aim to abolish all taxes. And Georgeists, of all people, can afford to be both direct and honest. They have nothing to hide and everything to be proud of.

We have two distinct aims in view. One is to have the entire rent of land appropriated to the use of the whole people who have created it. The other, and which is made possible by the first, is to stop the robbery involved in taxing for public use the values produced and belonging to the individual.

So far a short and suitable name has not been found for the first of these two objects. As the two are inseparably connected why not use the words which shortly and perfectly fit the second? One of the things which may be charged against the term now used is that it has nothing startling to a lazy mentality. "What is the good. We can't escape paying taxes anyway, whether many or single; They are going

to dig so much from us in any case. Let us go to sleep again." But Tax Abolition. Here is something to stir the blood. We want to know, and is there not a string to it? No, there is no string to it, and if you can avoid using land, directly or indirectly, which belongs to the public you will be free from paying either taxes or rent. And now that we have your attention we will show you how.

Sixty-five years ago Abolition won a great and notable victory. If we who are proud to be known as Georgeists will only "lay aside every weight which doth so easily beset us" we will make it easy for the next generation to achieve a more notable victory for black and white men alike.

Hamilton, Ontario

E. S. GILBERT.

ALSO VOICES HIS DISSENT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I wish to join those people who propose that the followers of Henry George leave off using the terms *Tax and Taxation* when they are speaking of *Rent* and the *Collection of Rent* (land rent, economic rent). Experience shows that those terms have always caused, and will always cause a great deal of misunderstanding and repulsion.

What Henry George really proposes is *no tax or taxation at all*.

I am perfectly aware that Henry George himself often used the terms "Single Tax" and "Taxation of Land Values," but, nevertheless, these terms are neither scientific nor suitable to the purpose. On the contrary, I am sure, too, that if Henry George had been able to foresee the horrible taxation plundering which has taken place after the great war, and is still growing worse and worse, he would have shunned every hint of that infamous system as having any resemblance whatever to the just system he proposed.

By the bye, it seems strange that Henry George in the first part of "Progress and Poverty," where his elaborate and precise definitions of economic terms are to be found, never uses the words *Tax and Taxation*, but is always speaking of *Rent* ("land rent," "the term rent in its economic sense" "the law of rent")—and then, later on, speaks of *Tax and Taxation* as signifying the same things. Of course, we Georgeists all know what he really means, but the use of these terms is inconsequent and misleading all the same.

Until some fifteen years ago we also here in Denmark used the wrong terms for the right thing; but since then, having been happy enough to find a good and pregnant term, we completely abandoned the words *Tax and Taxation* as having nothing to do with the ideals of Henry George. The term now current in Denmark is *Grundskyld*, which is something like Ground-due, t.e. the land rent or ground rent which is due to the community, or, in other words, the duty which every landholder is liable to pay to the community for holding his piece of land.

In spite of differences of opinion concerning some other more or less peripheric questions here, we are all united in the use of the term *Grundskyld*, and I dare say it is a good step forward as to clearness in our propaganda.

Finally I venture to admonish Georgeists all over the world. Pray, fellows, leave off using the terms *Tax and Taxation* when you are actually speaking of *Rent* and the *Collecting of Rent*, and try to find an appropriate and adequate name for the thing. The sooner this is accomplished, the better for our common cause.

Faxe Ladenplads, Denmark

P. LARSEN.

CONCERNING CONVENTION PROGRAMMES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The November-December issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM* has an editorial squib to the effect as follows:

"The *Square Deal* of Toronto, Canada, complains that the programme of the late Henry George Congress was too full, and that too little time was allowed for discussion. We think our contemporary is right. But we must learn by experience."

The trouble, dear editor, is that we never do learn by experience. The *Square Deal's* complaint would hold good for almost every con-

vention, conference, congress . . . whatever you want to call them, that we have ever arranged. The programme for each session is so overfull, that, even if speakers keep to their schedule, which they seldom do, there is so little time left that any discussion however valuable, started by a speech, must be cut off by the Chairman with a reference to the passage of time . . . "we must get through our programme."

Now, with the exception of the banquet, and the one evening public meeting which are part of each convention, the discussion is the most valuable part of any session where we are among ourselves, or where our visitors are the intelligent public which wants to find out what it is we advocate. Any set talk at these meetings should, and usually does, concern phases of the movements in different parts of the country, or of the world; and questions, or discussion, following that talk will be of more value than some other talk switching off to some other phase, confusing the mind by a scattering of thought-foci. To ourselves, as to any stranger in our midst, searching honestly for the truth we have to offer, such a session with say just one or at most two talks, if possible somehow connected by locality or subject, and followed by an exhaustive discussion of that particular subject, would be of much greater enlightenment and value than the crowded "ragout" programmes.

And far too little time is left for the sessions on Resolutions, on our attitude towards any important political action or movement of the day.

Each time we sin anew. I can remember, in the days when I helped arrange dinners, conventions, meetings of all kinds, that invariably, when I, or some kindred soul, tried to keep the programme shorter, simpler, more coherent, there was the objection. . . . "You haven't enough on your programme to attract the public." I did not believe in this idea, but had to give in frequently. If one may concede—I do not say that I do but others may—that the objection would hold good in case of a public dinner or public mass meeting, I certainly refuse to accept it for a moment, when it is a case of the morning or afternoon intimate sessions of a convention.

If we could just remember these things when making up the programmes, not editorialize about them afterwards, there would not be so much grumbling among those who do much for the Cause, and go hopefully to each convention in search of intelligent discussion that will be of aid in the individual's problems.

For public meetings. . . no. Personally, the usual rambling discussion by the G. P. bores me as greatly as do the overlong programmes. But in our more intimate sessions let us cut out the hash and the entrees and give one, or at most two solid dishes to chew over!

New Canaan, Conn.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

DURING January James R. Brown confined his lecture work to New York and New Jersey. During February about thirty lectures have been arranged for and will include Carnegie Institute of Technology, University of Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania College of Women and the Susquehanna University.

THE Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Ind., is in need of No. 6, Vol. 27 of *LAND AND FREEDOM*.

JAMES B. ELLERY, of Eric, Pa., contributes a well written letter on the Briand-Kellogg Treaty to the *Erie Dispatch-Herald*.

WE acknowledge with grateful appreciation receipt of the New York Red Book published by J. B. Lyon of Albany, and edited by our old friend James Malcolm. This very useful book, of which Mr. Malcolm has been the editor for many years, contains the very latest information of how the business of ten million people is carried on, and includes bills signed by the governor, bills favored by the governor and defeated