



## The BOOK TRAIL

### EXCELLENT—AS FAR AS IT GOES

"The People's Land," by John Harrington. Published by the author at 22 Washington Boulevard, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. 1942. 13 pp. \$0.10.

Next week I am off to a scholarly gathering of linguists who are permitting me to say a word to them. I cannot bring George into the description of the Dictionary of American English Grammar which forms the subject of my word; but I can provide myself with ammunition in the form of tracts to pass out to those who will receive them. And my ammunition for linguists is to be John Harrington's new pamphlet, "The People's Land." The author says that while there may be pamphlets enough on Single Tax in circulation he feels that he has adopted a different approach to the subject, and a different emphasis. Which, indeed, he has.

Mr. Harrington is a lawyer and early Georgist of Oshkosh in my native state of Wisconsin. He writes a smooth letter and composes a persuasive pamphlet. The introduction is as good a piece of natural and enlisting writing as I have read in some time; the rest carries on easily from point to point; and the whole piece is quiet, good-tempered, and conversational. It manages to convey an idea of authority and experience, and altogether it is fine to pass on to linguists.

But were I to attend (perish the thought!) a conference of collectivists, or even of economists, I might not provide myself with this particular piece of literature, which covers very adequately the positive side of the Georgist principles, but neglects what I can only call the negative side. Give a socialist Mr. Harrington's pamphlet, and he will inevitably answer, "Oh, WE are going to do all that this man wants—and MORE!" It is that "and more" which "The People's Land" fails to cover.

The taking of ground rent for the state, as George advocated, is no more important than the not taking of anything else. The abolition of taxes and the retention of private ownership of land are essential points in the establishment of economic democracy. Mr. Harrington mentions the last, but devotes little or no space to the other points. I wish that he had covered the blank fourteenth page of his excellent pamphlet with material of this nature.

Taxed with this objection, Mr. Harrington wrote that his pamphlet is aimed primarily at business men, and said that he does not wish to instruct them in Socialism, however obliquely. To his business men I shall add linguists.

JANET RANKIN AIKEN

### WHY THE ARGENTINES DISLIKE US

"Argentina," The Life Story of A Nation, by John W. White. The Viking Press, New York, N. Y. 1942. 366 pp. \$3.75.

This timely book has meat for the serious student of Latin American affairs and international relations generally.

Mr. White has been for twenty-five years a newspaper correspondent in South America and for the last ten years for the New York Times. In explaining why the Argentines dislike us Mr. White says:

"Today one of the most serious political stumbling blocks on the path to better understanding is the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, which Argentines believe was aimed directly at them. Temporary war-time suspension of the tariff on most products would cause an immediate increase in Argentine's exports to the United States without injuring American farmers and producers. Senate ratification of the Sanitary Convention, signed in 1935, would permit the entry of Argentine meat from regions certified free of hoof-and-mouth disease. Argentines know inspection services have been arranged which would permit this, and they know that we know it."

The book gives a full story of the conflict between President Ramon Castillo of Argentina and the great majority of the citizens of the country, who are liberal-minded and strongly opposed to the Axis. It describes the methods employed by Castillo who, while paying lip service to democratic forms and parliamentary procedure, makes use of the army and the police to carry out the edicts of his centralized government—edicts practically always in the interest of the country's two thousand large land holding families, who control on the average 65,000 acres each.

—LANCASTER M. GREENE

*Now the law of nature which forms the postulate of a true science of political economy is not, as has been erroneously assumed, that men are invariably and universally selfish. As a matter of fact, this is not true. Nor can we abstract from man all but selfish qualities in order to make the "economic man," without getting what is really a monster, not a man.*

*The law of nature, which is really the postulate of a true science of political economy, is that men always seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion, whether those desires are selfish or unselfish, good or bad.*

—HENRY GEORGE