

of which Henry George's ideas, on the whole, are rather favorably mentioned, or at least seriously considered.

Just published is: "Facing the Tax Problem," "A Survey of Taxation in the United States and A Program for the Future." It was prepared under the auspices of the Committee on Taxation of the Twentieth Century Fund, Inc., New York; Research Director being Professor Carl Shoup of Columbia University and Assistant Research Directors being Professor Roy Blough, University of Cincinnati, and Professor Mabel Newcomer of Vassar College.

The Single Tax is mentioned on pages 138, 151, 152, 272, 274, 275, 290, 291, 396, 411 and 546. The book contains 606 pages. The following are a few brief extracts from statements made:

On page 138: "If apportionment of direct taxes were not required, the experiment of a modified 'Single Tax' might be tried on a national scale."

On page 151: "The opposition to the Single Tax has been largely based on the grounds of justice and inadequacy of revenue. It has been so effective that the Single Tax in its pure sense is not an issue anywhere in the United States."

On pages 290-291: "At the moment the tax gives no indication of being an important political issue in the United States except possibly in a few states where it is linked with other measures."

On page 396: "The economic possibilities of a distinction between land and improvements under the real estate tax are extremely important. Lighter taxation of improvements, in contrast with lighter taxation of land, apparently promotes production. . . . If the public demands further substantial reductions in the property tax, the question will become acute. Meanwhile, we must suspend judgment because of lack of information on the relative effects."

On page 411: "From the point of view of justice alone, we can see little or no appeal in the Single Tax for the United States at the present time . . . and increment taxation is certainly worth more of a trial than it has been given, but it might be incorporated as part of an excess profit tax. In framing it, care should be given to pay due regard to innocent vested interests."

Published this year by F. S. Crofts & Co., New York, is: "Getting and Earning," 274 pages, by Professor Raymond T. Bye and Ralph H. Blodgett, both of the Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania.

The authors devote an entire chapter to Henry George's philosophy. This chapter is titled, "The Fruit of the Soil," and continues from pages 87 to 121. The following extract gives an indication of how they feel on the subject: "The rent of land is so obviously an unearned income, and it contributes so greatly to the problem of inequality, that some action to deal with it is clearly called for."

"American Political and Social History," 772 pages, by Harold Underwood Faulkner, Professor at Smith College, published by F. S. Crofts & Co., New York, is another new book. Henry George is mentioned on pages 468, 490 and 574. Professor Faulkner makes the following statement that should interest Georgeists: "If any date is to be picked for the start of a strong anti-monopoly movement in this country, it might be 1879, the date of the publication of Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty.'"

At the main branch of the New York City Public Library, circulation division, I noticed on a shelf under "new books," Gilbert M. Tucker's "The Path to Prosperity," reviewed in LAND AND FREEDOM last year. The covers were well worn and the borrowers' card inside showed that quite a goodly number of readers had taken it out to read.

All this may be an economic straw showing the way the wind may blow in the future towards Henry George's philosophy. Behind it may be the reaping of Georgeists' efforts or it may be that those that cannot swallow the collectivist philosophy are beginning to realize that there is nothing else that will really solve, "man's inhumanity to man," except the solution as outlined by Henry George.

—H. ELLENOFF.

"Tammany"

ABOUT sixty years ago when I was a boy of ten I first heard of Tammany Hall, the great Democratic organization of New York City that "Boss Tweed" of that day made famous.

This particular boss was followed, as I remember it, by Boss Croker. Then Boss Murphy and all the rest of them down to and including Boss Curry written about in such lively fashion by Walter Davenport in *Collier's Magazine*.

In the half century and more since I heard about the evil deeds of Tammany, I have witnessed no change. They are all alike both as to charges and net results; the upshot of the whole matter is of course a nullity.

There will be no substantial change, for the good and simple reason that all of the writers are attacking and have confined their attacks to effects only, never to causes.

Davenport's criticism relates to pay-roll stuffing and superfluous office holders. Now what does all this hullabaloo amount to? Just a little less than nothing at all. Have all of the prosecutions of political bosses accomplished anything? The answer is no. Would American political life be improved if every political boss were sent to Leavenworth or Atlanta? Or even if they were electrocuted? Has there been any notable change in the crime situation since Capone went to prison? We are a superficial lot and in economic matters almost wholly illiterate.

Imagine if you can what would happen in New York City if every superfluous politician were eliminated. Would it improve business either wholesale or retail? It would not. Would it increase wages? It would not. On the contrary it would tend to lessen wages by increasing the competition for jobs in industry. Do the newspapers and magazines of this country take issue with these pay-roll grafters because they are parasites? They do not, because in the same issues of the newspapers which ventilate the exploits of Tammany and its parasitic dependents and job holders you can see the doings of the parasitic upper class with their sons and daughters at Biarritz, Miami and Hawaii. The real reason for the opposition to Tammany is subterranean. It is always hidden. Hypocrisy and Cant are the distinctive characteristics of upper class society here and all over the world; they never give their real reasons which are personal and financial. They camouflage their campaign with clever appeals to middle class, church-bred, morality. It is, however, you will notice, if you look closely a personal morality, they never discuss *institutional morality*. That would endanger their grafts. The salaries of these disreputable pay roll brigadiers do not come out of wages, or that portion of wealth which goes to reward useful work. They are paid out of rent, ground rent for the use of the earth. If the pay-rollers were eliminated entirely, it would lessen by millions the costs of city government. That means that taxes would be less and since the selling or sales value of land is the *untaxed value*. If the pay-rollers got less, the landowning grafters would get more. This is the real, not the alleged reason for "opposition to Tammany." Hypocrisy and institutionalized theft are always found in the same place, they are twins.

Tammany helps a great many poor people. The landed class hurts them and it robs them. Tammany gets its votes and holds political power by countless good deeds which shine like stars in a naughty world.

Tammany grafts on the rich and gives a part of its loot to the poor; that is why it is popular. The landed class as such does nothing. Its function is not to create but to absorb. It is the one supreme social vampire.

It can and does capitalize every individual and social virtue against those who possess and exercise such virtues.

It is the only agency in civilized society which can and does with uniform and relentless certainty capitalize everything which separates the present from the past, everything savoring of virtue and good intent, every invention and new process, every increase in fertility, every civic improvement, every cardinal virtue against those who possess these virtues. It is the one and only interest which can fry the multitude in its own fat and make them furnish the fuel.

It is the one supreme and universal interest which opposes any fundamental discussion of our social difficulties. It discusses symptoms only.

This is the interest which in all countries foment war, there are no limits either to its greed, its graft or its ignorance. It was born in the past, it belongs to the past, it is wedded to the past. It is faced towards the past and it has a sodden history. Territory and tariffs are its inevitable quarry. It is a foul thing, it comes from the Kings and has no place in the affairs of a free people. A privileged class are a curse to any country and we have laid the foundations for a privileged class here just as has been done elsewhere and it is by this that we are undone.

What a colossal chasm there is between our pretensions and our practices.

We pretend to freedom and we practice slavery. We laud liberty to the skies and take narrowing industrial opportunities for granted.

We excoriate Tammany and pay tribute every day to the very thing and the only thing which gives Tammany power, revenue and importance. We shout, "Down with the political boss" and then proceed to make the political boss invincible. We are a nation of braggarts and economic lilliputians.—H. H. HARDINGE.

Death of John D. Rockefeller

AS we go to press, comes the news of the death of John D. Rockefeller and we note the laudations in the various papers. Some of the praise, perhaps much of it, is merited, but, in evaluating his life and his earlier years and methods, we recollect the words of Herbert Spencer which we quote: "At what rate per year does a wrong become a right?"

True, at some time, possibly forty years ago, John D. Rockefeller ceased to follow his earlier practices and since then while only taking advantage of the legalized system, has given much away. Will the recording angel recognize a change of heart and will that change atone for the many broken hearts and homes and fortunes of years ago? Does the Creator preside over a bankruptcy court and discharge without full payment, or is he, as author and personification of unchangeable law and justice, the essence and totality of wisdom and love? If a change of heart absolves the perpetrator what has been done in equity for the victims?

IF I go this night where I may over the civilized world, I would find men who would gladly clasp hands with me—if it has been given to me to help forward a great movement—it is through no merit of mine; it is not from my energy; it is not from my learning; it is not from my ability—it is from the simple fact that, seeing a great truth, I swore to follow it.—Speech by Henry George in Sydney, Australia, March, 1890.

OUR readers get four extra pages in this issue, thirty-six pages in place of the usual thirty-two.