

OUR boasted freedom necessarily involves slavery, so long as we recognize private property in land. Until that is abolished, Declarations of Independence and Acts of Emancipation are in vain. So long as one man can claim the exclusive ownership of the land from which other men must live, slavery will exist, and as material progress goes on, must grow and deepen.

—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

JUST in proportion as the interests of the landholders are conserved, just in that proportion must general interests and general rights be disregarded, and if landholders are to lose nothing of their special privileges, the people at large can gain nothing.

—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

## Our Washington Letter

THE meeting of the Woman's Single Tax Club on December 7 was opened by the vice-president's reading of a message from their president, Mrs. Helene McEvoy, extending her congratulations on the new headquarters and expressing her intention to be with them before the next meeting.

Mrs. Walter N. Campbell was appointed chairman of the taxation committee of the D. C. Federation of Woman's Clubs in place of Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley, who had been compelled to resign on account of ill health.

The good news of Herbert Bigelow's election to the House of Representatives was announced, and deep gratification expressed over the addition of another Single Taxer to our Congressional group.

Mrs. Marie H. Heath read an interesting letter from a former member, Mr. Paul Whitman, and his sister, describing their trips around the island of Hawaii in a trailer which is helping them to solve the question of rent and taxes for the present.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips gave a review of Mrs. Bessie Beach Trueheart's novel, "Brother to the Ox," depicting future conditions in this world if the present trend toward monopoly of land and natural resources continues unchecked. Mrs. Phillips recommended the organization of a letter-writing corp in the club, similar to the one in the Henry George School of Social Science in New York, in which connection Mrs. Campbell mentioned that since his retirement from the Government service, Mr. Campbell had been quietly operating as a sort of one-man letter-writing corps, writing letters to prominent men and women whose statements in the newspapers indicated a willingness to "see the light," and the members agreed in hoping that others might follow his example. It was suggested that Mrs. Eleanor Patterson, author of a current series of articles in the daily press entitled "Dixie's Dead End," describing conditions among the poverty-stricken residents of the South, might perhaps be added to this correspondence list to receive enlightenment on the causes for these conditions.

Mr. Swanton gave a graphic account of a recent lecture on the situation in Spain, showing how the present civil conflict had its roots in the land question just as did the French Revolution.

The first meeting of the New Year was held on January 4, with the vice-president still presiding in the continued and unexplained absence of the president.

During the business meeting it was voted to contribute five dollars to *Land and Liberty* in response to a letter from Mr. Madsen.

Miss Alice I. Siddall, an experienced proofreader for the Government Printing Office, presented a carefully worked out suggestion for amending the Constitution so as to provide for the taxation of

land values, which brought forth an interesting discussion and suggestions.

Mr. George A. Warren, a member of the D. C. Bar Association, gave an informal talk on "The Curse of Tariffs," showing how the countries of the world suffered loss through their inability to obtain needed products from neighboring nations on account of tariff barriers, which tended to bring about international warfare.

The meeting adjourned until February 1.

—GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### PROFESSOR GEORGE GEIGER'S SECOND BOOK

*The Theory of the Land Question*, by George Raymond Geiger. Cloth, 12mo. 237 pp. Price \$2.00. MacMillan Company, New York City.

This work dedicated "To the Memory of my Father," is George Geiger's latest contribution to economic thought. It is a smaller work than the "Philosophy of Henry George," and is addressed like the first to those who have advanced beyond the initial stages of speculation on this important subject. It is for this reason that the language occasionally employed seems now and then to be rather difficult. But he is never cloudy, and indeed for the most part is delightfully clear.

There is a vein of humor that runs through much of the first chapter. The author cannot frankly express his contempt for the current speculations of so-called economists, so he conceals it with a few sly phrases which are a substitution for the withering scorn to which he must be tempted now and then to give expression.

The book is in great part controversial. It must be that since a correct thesis on the land question involves the clearing away of a number of current fallacies. And this makes the work delightful reading, for Professor Geiger is master of the rapier thrust and his dazzling sword-play is full of surprises.

Some of the chapters are not easy reading, for they require hard thinking. But any attempt to understand what may appear difficult will repay the effort.

The discussion of the nature of value, always a terra incognita of economics, is well done. After explaining that man produces commodities because he needs them, he then proceeds to an impressive analysis of a different kind of value, land value, and says:

"It (land value) comes as a by-product of social life. In no significant way can man control such value. Unconsciously and gratuitously does society manufacture a special and supplementary surplus as it grows; this is what so impressed the classical writers as an unearned increment. It functions independently of man's conscious efforts as they are directed, for example, to the production of wealth. Man creates land value not by any deliberate effort, but only as he congregates in communities—this congregation being the result of psychological forces that operate almost automatically." (Page 40.)

Chapter II is a meticulous exposition of the nature of economic rent which he declares is unearned because no service is contributed. He presses this point from many different angles. He makes his demonstration complete. He is very much in earnest here and has little time for the light touches which in the first chapter have a flavor of irony.

Chapter III is entitled *Land and Capital*, and it contains a perfectly delightful wealth of allusion, in which theory and humor are mingled, a combination which make this work, despite its philosophic background, such pleasant reading. We quote from page 58:

"Now, it has long been the custom for writers on capital to preface their own remarks by an extended survey of the thirty-six different meanings the word has had, and then to add a thirty-seventh. . . . These prefaces seem almost as obligatory as the invocations to divinities by epic poets. In the present case, however, the reader will have to give the writer the benefit of the doubt of having gazed at that opaque background of controversies over capital; there will