

It must not be understood that the present reviewer condemns this book in its entirety. Indeed there is much that is valuable in it to those who will skim through it. There are many delicious touches of which the following is an example from page 191, where speaking of a work by Cardinal Polignac he says:

"I used to own a fine copy, but old Prof. Peters of the University of Virginia, made off with it thirty years ago, and refused to give it back—as fine a piece of broad-daylight, open-air stealing as anyone ever saw. He died a year or so afterwards, and I never recovered the book. May the devil bless him."

And this is even better:

"Today I learned ex-President Hibben of Princeton is dead. He may now be where he can talk over things with his cousin Paxton Hibben, but I have my doubts especially if he sees him coming. I think the first question Paxton would ask him is whether he climbed over the pearly gates or burrowed under them."

There are some wise words on the policies of the Roosevelt administration and its acts. And there is an enthusiastic mention of Prof. George Raymond Geiger's "Philosophy of Henry George:" "The book on Henry George that I have been asking for these many years is at last published by MacMillan." But he spoils it by adding, "The truth is that no one takes any interest in George's philosophy or can be got to take any." We venture to submit to our readers the question whether that has been their experience. No one can convince others of a truth unless he has confidence in it himself. He cannot find out whether others are receptive to any degree unless he himself carries to them his own conviction of the truth he is trying to impart.

J. D. M.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Here is a new printing, with a newly prepared index, of "Social Problems" by Henry George. It is published by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 9—11 Park Place, New York City, at one dollar. It is accurately described as "the best introduction to Mr. George's economic and social teaching."

This collection of essays was originally written for *Leslie's Weekly* in 1882 and 1883 under the title "Problems of the Times." Subsequently they were collected and published under the title "Social Problems."

They read today as if written for today, prophetic in their insight, simple and clear in their explanations. A few of the titles show how startlingly these problems of nearly fifty years ago assume their place as discussions of present day difficulties, with their real and fundamental solutions. Note a few of the titles, Political Dangers, Public Debt, Functions of Government, Over-production, etc.

There are minds sufficiently familiar with economic reasoning to grasp the essentials of "Progress and Poverty." But we fancy that the average mind might well begin with "Social Problems." It is easy reading, interesting as a novel, and throws a flood of light upon those questions which are as vital now as in the years when they were written.

The following should arouse the curiosity in the minds of those not familiar with his teaching to examine one of the great works of Henry George:

"So true it is that poverty does not come from the inability to produce more wealth, that from every side we hear that power to produce an excess of the ability to find a market; that the constant fear seems to be not that too little, but that too much will be produced. Is not a large part of our machinery constantly idle? Are there not, even at what we call good times, an immense number of unemployed men who would gladly be at work producing wealth, if they could only get the opportunity? Do we not, even now, hear from every side of embarrassment from the very excess of productive power, and of combinations to reduce production? This seeming glut of production runs through all branches of industry, and is evident all over the civilized world."

ADDRESSED TO MOTHERS*

A book has recently been published by Dorrance & Co. of Philadelphia, that should be of interest to Single Taxers. It is the work of John O'Kelly Smith and is entitled "Freedom for Women."

While the main object of the book is to convince the reader that mothers should be pensioned, the greater part of it is dedicated to explaining how adequate funds for this compensation may be collected, i. e., by installing the economic system known as the Single Tax.

Many believers in that sane and civilized programme may feel that when it is adopted there will not be the necessity for singling out one group as particularly in need of compensation. Rare indeed are the fathers who would not provide for their wives and children, if they were capable of so doing. Under an order where workers will get what they really earn, where the cost of living will be far below what it is now, where it will be no difficult thing to save against a rainy day, there may not be the need for the State to provide particularly for mothers.

But under present conditions, a pension to relieve the young mother from being forced to earn her living, as now she is so often compelled to do and frequently at the expense of her health; to finance her so that she can remain home with the baby or babies who need her unremitting care; a pension that would spare the old mother, perhaps no longer capable of working even for herself, the agony of knowing that she is a financial burden on her children, a dependence that is often degrading—such a pension under today's maladjustment of society, would be a step toward civilization.

This cry for freedom for mothers one might expect to come from a woman instead of from an old bachelor and Mr. Smith's understanding of the subject and appeal for help is therefor particularly commendable.

In a letter he writes:

"In 1900 I went on the road as a traveling shoe salesman. I have followed this work continuously since—twenty years in Iowa and Missouri, then twelve years in the extreme Southwest and the last two years in Florida. In the fall of 1912, while in a little town in Iowa, the idea that the state should provide a certain income for mothers came to my mind and lodged there. Wretchedly prepared for writing I went to Wallace Rice of Chicago for literary assistance. I was constantly trying to figure out a method whereby the state could provide an income for mothers. One day Wallace inquired if I had ever read "Progress and Poverty." I had not, but at once bought a copy. And that was the commencement of my serious reading and research.

I soon concluded to join my idea to Single Tax and write a little book."

Mr. Smith shows a knowledge of the ethical side of the Georgan creed as well as the fiscal. He makes a capable fight for the adoption of the Single Tax and his book might well be used for propaganda in strongholds of feminism and among crusaders for civic welfare, where possibly a more scientifically built plea might seem too dry or erudite.

Certainly all imbued with a longing to better present conditions will be glad for this voice raised in protest and supplication.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE.

*Freedom for Mothers, by John O'Kelly Smith, 212 Pages, Cloth. Price \$1.75. Dorrance and Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

Correspondence

ANSWERS HIS OWN QUESTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the March-April copy, handed me by a friend, I find on page 59, in reply to John C. Rose the following: "Under the Single Tax there would be no mortgages on land. Mortgages would be against buildings and improvements only."

I have long been a student of the Single Tax and am convinced that the purpose in the mind of Henry George was to establish communism in the ownership of land (a purpose with which I am in full accord). However on page 403 of the fourth edition of "Progress and Poverty," I find the following, second paragraph: . . . "Let the individuals who now hold it (the land) still retain possession of what they are pleased to call *their* land. . . . Let them continue to buy and sell, and bequeath and devise it. . . ."

Now it occurs to me that your statement above does not square with