

a recent number of the *New York Journal* on Albert J. Boulton, Single Taxer, and Populist candidate for governor of New York.

George L. Rusby is a candidate for Congress on the People's Democratic ticket for the Seventh Congressional District of New Jersey.

Mr. Barney Cohen, who is president of the Illinois Federation of Labor, has made a report which shows that he is among the few prominent labor leaders who are fully aware of the causes of low wages, strikes and labor troubles. He also knows the remedy, and courageously and clearly states it in his report.

MR. BOLTON HALL'S NEW BOOK.*

Any new work on the Single Tax should come strongly recommended by some inherent qualities of its own. The great argument is practically closed, and the final word has probably been said. There are the ten volumes of the master, Mr. Shearman's "Natural Taxation," two works of Mr. Louis F. Post and a variety of useful pamphlets covering the different phases of the question. To these must now be added Mr. Trowbridge's "Bisocialism." All these are addressed to different orders of mind, and are calculated to meet all conceivable objections. To one who has mastered this library there is little that needs to be added.

But this little work of Mr. Hall's has perhaps its justification. It is possible that it will attract where others of the volumes named will repel. It is told in plain and simple language, is almost conversational in tone, and is entirely without rhetorical flourish or passion. There are some very careful studies of statistical tables, and social conditions are pictured as they are without exaggeration and occasionally with shrewdly humorous observation.

The opening sentence of the introduction smacks a little of affectation when it says, "This book is not an appeal merely to thoughtful people. The great majority of people do not think." Mr. Hall's book is an argument addressed to the thinking faculty. If it were not, it would be of small value. Mr. Hall recognizes this when he says, "Before anything can be done the people must think," (page 65) and again on page 89, when he says, directly addressing the reader, "You are a thinking man or woman. If you were not you would not be reading such a book as this."

We must take very earnest exception to Chapter XIII, and especially to this statement:

"Under present conditions, to reform the large part of our community, a who

because of drink, are more or less incapable of work, would greatly increase the number of laborers and by increasing competition, would reduce wages."

We are aware that numbers of Single Taxers hold this opinion, but it is nevertheless a fallacy. It springs originally from the belief that the advantages arising from whatever cause are swallowed up in increased land values. This, of course, is the tendency. But all such gains are not immediately absorbed. For a long time they are diffused among the masses of the people, and are lost to them in the degree that population increases and the supply of land diminishes. Obviously, this is a law dependent upon the element of time for its operation, and the masses of the people enjoy a measure of such gain until the operation is completed. Some social gains are of such a nature that they require generations for their full absorption by the classes to whom Mr. George was correct in saying all social advantages must *ultimately* go. But ultimately may be a long time.

However plausible Mr. Hall's contention may seem at first blush, a little reflection will show us that it is baseless. As Mr. Hall has said elsewhere, touching upon another matter, "We know it is not so because we have seen it for ourselves."

We receive at our ports some ten thousand emigrants a day, mostly workers, yet the number of the unemployed do not increase ten thousand a day, nor do wages drop at the alarming extent they would if this contention were correct. And the reason is plain.

For though every emigrant brings two hands with him he also brings a mouth to be fed and a body to be clothed. And the intemperate man who should become temperate and work six days a week where he now works only three would develop new wants and new consumptive power along with his increased productive power. These would benefit the community as well as the workers long before the gain could be wholly absorbed. It is a monstrous doctrine which pushed to its final analysis would show wages highest where intemperance is greatest, a doctrine the mere statement of which is its own best refutation.

Curiously enough, Mr. Hall in another part of the work demolishes his own theory, and we leave him to reconcile with what has gone before these two paragraphs with the lines which we *italicize*.

"If to have many people is a bad thing, then it follows that increasing population, whether from home or abroad, should be discouraged or forbidden. To be consistent we should also pass laws limiting the number of children that parents should be allowed to rear, the surplus to be deported, or thrown into the rivers as in India or China.

"But the restrictionists do not pretend to be consistent. They talk of the harm to American workmen caused by the competi-

* Free America, by Bolton Hall, paper, 216 pages. Price 25 cents. L. S. Dickey & Co., 79 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.

tion of foreigners in our labor markets, while, as a matter of fact, each new comer who can find work helps to make markets for surplus American products. If the immigrant is to live he must have food, clothes and shelter. This means that the Americans who grow food, and make clothes and houses, find a customer for what they have to sell."

We regret to find Mr. Hall so badly tripping in his economics. There is so much that is valuable in the work, the most of it has been so well and carefully done, that defects of this sort would with the next edition of the work be remedied. For it is a useful little book and will do good because of its simple and direct appeal, and the perfect clarity of its style. J. D. M.

We have received from the Hammersmark Publishing Company of Chicago, Tolstoi's famous letter on the Russian-Japanese War, bound in neat and attractive pamphlet form of 64 pages, and sold for 10 cents. This is perhaps the most powerful indictment against war yet written. The same publishers also announce the publication of a work on "William Lloyd Garrison, Non-Resistant and Abolitionist," from the pen of Ernest Crosby, which book (16 mo., about 120 pages) will be sent for 50 cents, postpaid.

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