

Mr. Bilgram and all other writers on the subject must be scientific if they hope to reach conclusions of any value.

Therefore the author should have started with the land question instead of leaving it until last. He should have borne in mind that land is the first PRIME factor in the production of ALL wealth. Labor is the second PRIME factor in production. Capital is the third but a secondary factor in production and consists of wealth (not money, for money is merely a yard stick of values, and the common medium of exchange) produced from land by labor and has comparatively little weight compared with the prime importance of land and labor. Money can be ignored in the early stages of the investigation, for while it is of great importance it is as nothing compared with two prime factors of production, land and labor. The author treats of money first and land last whereas he should have reversed the order.

The author should have told that all labor acts directly or indirectly upon land. The banker, and the "successful manufacturer," the sailor and the aviator, all use land every minute that they live, awake or asleep, and the body of each and every one finally goes back to the land whence it came. Ships on the ocean rest on water that rests upon land, and air planes move upon air that rests upon land. Every human activity is performed upon the surface of the earth, i.e. land. Land is the all-important factor in the life of mankind, this last word falling under the term labor. "The ownership of land gives the ownership of men, to a degree, measured by the necessity, real or artificial, for the use of land. Place one hundred men upon an island from which there is no escape and whether you make one of them the absolute owner of the other ninety-nine, or the absolute owner of the soil of the island will make no difference either to him or to them."

Therefore the warning: If a writer on a Politico-Economic subject fails to place land first, labor second, and capital third, you may be sure that the book is of comparatively little value and must be looked upon with suspicion. This is true of Karl Marx and many other writers. Marx wrote, "Wage, Labor and Capital," (Pub. Chas. H. Kerr & Co., Chgo.) and instantly we should note the fact that the title should have been either, "Land, Labor and Capital" or "Rent, Wages and Interest." Then in reading the pamphlet we are justified in our suspicions. Marx was empirical (the opposite of scientific) and arrives at no true conclusions, though he says many things that are certainly true, but are not properly related to the other truths of Political Economy.

C. LEB. GOELLER.

#### B. H. NADAL CULTIVATES THE FAIRIES\*

It is not easy to write for children; if any one thinks it is let him try it. Mr. Nadal has, we think, succeeded. He has not made the mistake of writing below the youthful mind. He has assumed that children will understand some things which to the mature mind require a lot of explanation. He thinks that beneath the surface of fairy life the subtlest lessons in human behavior may be conveyed to the child mind. We should like to try it out on some children of our acquaintance.

Mr. Nadal is an old Single Taxer, a long-time member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, and the author of "Woodmites," recently produced in a New York Theatre. The volume before us is pretty and attractive, and the illustrations, which are very charming, are by R. F. Bunner, of the Salmagundi Club, who is the brother of the late H. C. Bunner, once editor of *Puck*, who is pleasantly remembered by this reviewer. The book makes an attractive Christmas present. (See adv.).—

J. D. M.

#### GREGORY WEINSTEIN RECALLS THE EIGHTIES\*

Mr. Weinstein's reminiscences are of vivid interest. He was part of the events he describes. He knew intimately these leaders of the

\*The Fairy Court, or Judge Weeks and Her Friends. By B. H. Nadal. Illustrated by R. F. Bunner. Cloth, 118 pages. Price \$1.50. The Avondale Press, N. Y. City.

\*The Ardent Eighties. By Gregory Weinstein. Cloth, illustrated. 182 pages; price, \$2.50. The International Press, N. Y. City.

movements of the Eighties, Henry George, Father McGlynn, Josephine Shaw Lowell, James Redpath, and many others. His own life was passed among the stirring events he recounts.

Mr. Weinstein was a child of the Russian pogroms. He describes the slaughter of thousands of Jews in his native Russia, the raids made upon his own home in search for forbidden books, and finally the enthralling vision of America, the land of the free, and the final escape of himself and his family into Germany, and thence to the land of promise through the gates of Castle Garden.

But he was soon to be disillusioned. The land of promise was not all it had been pictured. The green hills and valleys of his old home in Vilna were at least preferable to the dark tenements and filthy streets of New York's lower East Side.

Finally he drifted into the printing trade. He worked for Norman L. Munro among others, (Mr. Munro was then publisher of the *Family Story Paper*, a widely circulated fiction weekly), then at Polhemus' on the corner of Ann and Nassau streets, and later on the *Leader* of which Louis Post was editor, a paper started mainly to help Henry George in his campaign for the mayoralty of New York. He then drifted into reportorial work and finally back again to his old trade of setting type. It is interesting to note that he sought and obtained work on Henry George's *Standard*. William McCabe was foreman of the composing room.

Mr. Weinstein tells interestingly of Shevitch, whose famous debate with Henry George, in which encounter Henry George was not at his best, will be recalled.

The chapter treating of Henry George begins: "In all my recollections of the decade of the Eighties I can hardly recall a man who has left a deeper impress on his generation than Henry George. Even thirty years after his death, his name is revered by many loyal followers and his books are read all over the civilized world."

Mr. Weinstein is not a Single Taxer, but evidently believes that George's remedy will go far toward solving the land and taxation problems while leaving other evils in our "highly complicated industrial life" to be cured by different methods. Evidently Mr. Weinstein, like so many others, does not see the far reaching nature of the proposal which goes a great way toward solving other questions beside the land and taxation questions.

It is a graceful tribute that our author pays to Miss Lillian D. Wald, founder of the Henry Street Settlement, and he links her name with that of Jane Adams, whom he calls "Chicago's greatest woman." Equally to be commended for its fine appreciation and general accuracy—and it would do no harm for certain ill-informed Catholic editors to read it—is Mr. Weinstein's sketch of Father McGlynn.

There are others in this volume to whom we are re-introduced, these devoted souls of the "ardent eighties"—it is a happy title that Mr. Weinstein has selected for his book—Felix Adler, Ernest Howard Crosby, Stanton Coit, Joseph Barondess, and many more. Of these we may say in the language of our author, "They did not live in vain." And not in vain has our author gathered together these memories of his time and the fine spirits with whom he mingled. "Show me the company you keep and I will show you what you are." And it must be a source of gratification to Mr. Weinstein that this was the company he sought. We thank him sincerely for this volume.

J. D. M.

#### BRAND WHITLOCK WRITES A POLITICAL NOVEL\*

If American politics is anything like the thing Brand Whitlock pictures it, then right thinking, right living men will hesitate to adopt it as a profession. And it is like that. Mr. Whitlock strips it of all its garish attractions and presents it as the sordid thing it is.

Do we doubt it? Have we not been through a presidential campaign in which the all too obvious sacrifice of principle and personal conviction on the part of very esteemed and eminent persons in political

\*Big Mat. By Brand Whitlock. Cloth, 284 pages, price, \$2. D. Appleton and Co., N. Y. City.

life has marked its progress? We have witnessed appeals to prejudice and hatreds; we have, in view of the curious comedy performed by people and politicians in a campaign remarkable for its silliness, grown almost to distrust whether government is worth maintaining at such a sacrifice of reason and sanity, and to wonder if the philosophic anarchist may not after all be right in his contention that the game is not worth the candle.

Mr. Whitlock has told the tragedy of it, in a remarkable series of pictures that would lend themselves well to story form for a stage or film play. What politics may do to the human soul, how the very qualities of loyalty and friendship which we so highly esteem, may be bent to the service of political corruption and the destruction of official integrity, is told well and effectively.

Almost every one knows that the picture given is a true one. And most men in increasing numbers seem to accept the entangling alliances of government and political corruption as inevitable. But it is not really so. Most of the temptations that beset politics can be removed. The sources of political corruption are traceable to privilege. Our late minister of Belgium is a believer in the philosophy of Henry George, and knows the answer to the problem that he presents in the guise of fiction. He has not indicated anything fundamental but he has told an effective story well worth reading, and the discerning reader may beneath its fictional covering discover why men who follow politics put their immortal souls in peril.

J. D. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### ALMOST RIGHT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your *Dearborn Independent* article, "Has The Single Tax Made Progress," is good, and I am using it in what work I am doing in Dallas, but there is a fly in the ointment which I wish might be removed. You close your excellent article with a confession (following in the footsteps of our illustrious leader, Henry George) that we do not really believe in our cause. "The time when the entire rental value of land will be taken for public purposes may be a long way off," etc. Page 499, *Progress and Poverty*, Mr. George says:

"Will it at length prevail? Ultimately, yes, But in our times, or in times in which any memory of us remains, who shall say?" Expressions like this indicate, if they do not prove, that we do not believe in our cause. If the absorption of economic rent is legalized theft, why not say so, and why not keep on saying so, instead of conceding that we do not expect our claims to be recognized, and that right now? For more than a half century we have been "studying the Single Tax," as if it required a Ph. D. to understand it, instead of crying "Stop Thief," and demanding insistently, a revision of our laws to the end that he who creates shall have. Too much didactics and too little straight from the shoulder pick handle work at the ballot box. Am I not almost right?

Dallas, Texas.

L. V. LATASTE.

[The Editor of LAND AND FREEDOM may err with Henry George in placing at an uncertain date the time when the entire rental value of land is taken for public purposes. And it may be questionable whether it is wise to hint that the ultimate realization will take some time. But it by no means follows that this is a confession that we do not believe in the cause we are advocating. The cause will ultimately prevail; nothing can stop it, though many things may temporarily arrest its progress. But we cheerfully concede that our Dallas brother may be almost right.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.]

### NO TAXES FOR THE FARMER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

On page 59 of the *Saturday Evening Post* it is said: "The land is both the blessing and the curse of the farmer. The trouble with it is

it's there so everybody can see it, and whatever it can see government wants to tax. But the foolishness of taxing land on its value is that sometimes it is worth its value and sometimes it isn't, depending on the crop. The value of the land is fixed, but the farmer's income is far from steady. The burden of the farmer's taxes at present is not how much he has to pay but that he has to pay when he hasn't got it. The sensible principle would seem to be to tax the farmer on what he really earns, not what he *might* earn."

The author, Mr. O. H. Cheney, has forgotten that those who advocate "taxing the land on its value" seek also to abolish all taxes save those levied upon land values.

He is right when he confesses: "How can you, the farmer, decrease your costs? Your present prices on the things you have to buy for the farm figure about 45 per cent. above pre-war levels. I do not see how this can be expected to decrease to any extent in any short time."

Yet he does see that all the taxes, save the land value tax, make the farmer, surely the majority of the farmers, pay more than they can afford to pay. The burden of indirect taxation is much heavier than that of the taxes paid by the farmer directly. And indirectly taxes which increase the price of goods fall more heavily on the farmer at the margin (that is, he who is using the poorest land) for he has to pay the same prices for what he buys as does the farmer who cultivates the most fertile and valuable land. Only land value taxation will enable governments to abolish present taxes so that prices can be expected to decrease below the pre-war level. Only land value taxation can assure to the farmer who really earns only the wages of his labor that he will not have to pay any tax, and to every prospective farmer that he will never be called upon to pay anything from his real earnings.

Athens, Greece

ING. PAVLOS GIANNELIA.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

CHARLES F. BRUSH, famous in the art of electric lighting, and a Cleveland multimillionaire landowner, is alarmed over future poverty rather than the poverty that can be seen all around us today. He has the Malthusian theory fast in his mind and says that "within one hundred years, if the present increase of population goes on, some of us will starve to death." Bishop Joseph Schrems, of the Catholic diocese, ridicules Brush's ideas. He says of himself that he is the youngest of 16 children and that if the eugenic plan of limiting population had been in vogue, he would have stood a poor chance of surviving. He declares that his life has been a happy one, and he is not sorry to be here. However his argument against Brush does not touch the science of political economy but is based solely on religion.

It is grateful news to Single Taxers throughout the world that John Paul editor of *Land and Liberty*, of London, England, is making steady improvement in health.

*Land and Liberty* highly commends *Spiritual Economics*, by John Emery McLean, of Fairhope, Alabama, published by the Henry George Foundation at Pittsburgh.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the *Commonweal*, of London, in its issue of September 29 reprints from the July-August issue of LAND AND FREEDOM the admirable review of Shaw's book on Socialism by Benjamin W. Burger.

GEORGE ASHER BEECHER is writing admirable contributed editorials for the Warren, Pa., *Evening Times*.

MARK M. DINTENFASS, commenting on a portion of a speech by the late democratic candidate for governor in New Jersey, William L. Dill, printed elsewhere in this issue, says in the *Palisadian* under