

a capital debt that the income from the national mining estate would be unduly burdened, and excessive royalties would have to be charged on the mines actually worked in order to pay interest on the assessed value of minerals which were not yet being worked." Five years are to be allowed for owners in this category "to make by way of anticipation a claim for compensation, to become effective in the event of the minerals being taken over." Failure to lodge a claim within the period is to lose the right. An interesting feature here is the acceptance of the "owner's valuation." "All such claimants should be required to assess the value of their own minerals."

"The third category of minerals—those whose existence is unsuspected—is on a different footing. All such minerals are to be deemed to be the State's as from the passing of the Act, without compensation." This has the true ring; and we should like to move the reference back of the report, with instructions to the Committee to show cause why the just and simple method they here propose should not be applied all round. We think they would find it difficult to reconcile the proposals to purchase the coal with the statement they make on page 8, where we read that "*Providence has placed coal* in some of the most beautiful parts of Britain." Surely the compensation is due to "Providence" and not to the few who are confiscating the coal today?

What exactly the Committee had in mind when penning the following we are quite at a loss to imagine. "Without capital there would be neither mines, *coal*, nor employment." Is Providence a capitalist?

The Liberal record in regard to the Land Question is one long story of broken pledges. The present move is but one more attempt on the part of a particularly "slick" politician to fool enough of the people to secure his own ends. We do not think he will succeed, but it is pathetic to see how readily some sincere Henry George men, simply because he uses certain phrases but which are meaningless on his lips, rush in to be fooled some more. The old proverb which runs "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird" would appear to be open to exceptions.

J. W. GRAHAM PEACE.

"THERE should be no slums, vice, crime, or poverty," exclaimed Rev. Hough Houston, of the M. E. Church at Hampshire and Superior roads, Cleveland Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. He added; "The cry of the weary world is not for charity, but for a chance." Now, what do you suppose he means?

REV. FRANK H. NELSON, assistant rector of Christ Church Cincinnati, Ohio, calls organized charity work "a form of practical Christianity." He is mistaken: it is a form of conventional christianity. Its devotees use it to keep the destitute quiet and to shut off inquiry into the big cause of poverty.

BOOK NOTICE

WHAT LA FOLLETTE'S STATE IS DOING

This is the title of a book by our old friend, Chester C. Platt. It appears on the eve of a campaign in which La Follette has at last thrown his hat in the ring, as he has threatened to do for a long time, so long indeed that people had begun to regard it as a mere bluff.

Some of the material in this book has already been covered by Frederick C. Howe, in his "Wisconsin, an Experiment in Democracy." Mr. Platt's book reviews the reforms adopted in Wisconsin, part-time schools, a university supported almost wholly by state funds raised by taxation and popularly controlled, farmer-labor representation on all educational boards, limitation of hours of labor for women to fifty hours a week, increases in workmen's compensation, legislative power of recall, a fifty per cent. exemption on homestead improvements, and many other legislative enactments, some of questionable value, some to be recommended under present conditions, and all labelled "progressive."

It would be hard to discover anything very fundamental in the long list of "achievements." Some of them have had their uses under a topsy-turvy economic system. Nearly all are purely socialistic, and nearly all are of the pale pink brand of socialism. One thing, however, is to be said. In Wisconsin more than in any other state public attention is directed to human and civic betterment. There does exist a passion for improvement in social conditions that is very wide-spread and constitutes a really hopeful sign. We need not despair of it. The cooperative movement, for example, has made great strides in the state.

Mr. Platt reminds us that the Republican party with its mission to abolish slavery was born in Wisconsin. That state was the first also to adopt woman suffrage.

There is an interesting sketch of Dr. Charles McCarthy, founder of the Legislative Reference Library, and author of "The Wisconsin Idea," who died in 1921.

Names familiar to Single Taxers occur in the work and among them are John Harrington and Edward Nordman. There are sketches of many prominent in Wisconsin politics, John J. Blaine, George F. Cummings, Zona Gale and many others.

Under the heading, Taxing Unearned Incomes, Mr. Platt devotes a chapter to economic rent and the desirability of looking to it as a source of revenue. And Mr. Nordman is quoted at length on this phase of the subject.

The author confesses that little real progress has been made in public ownership, that being considered as desirable in itself. And it is instructive to note that Wisconsin has not yet succeeded in establishing Initiative and Referendum, though other states, which your Wisconsin man would regard as backward, have had the I and R for many years. Mr. Platt thinks this slow progress of "reform" is due to the absence of leaders in the past, and regards Mr. Geo. F. Cummings as the man of the hour.

One thing Wisconsin may pride itself upon with reason. That is its university. Few institutions of learning in the country can boast of anything like the same academic freedom that characterizes its directors and its faculty. This is not a small thing. It is worth all the palliative legislative measures, which are reviewed and which no one better than Mr. Platt knows how to estimate at their true value.

The work is published by the *Batavia Times Press*, at Batavia, N. Y. and the price is \$2.

J. D. M.

CORRESPONDENCE

THINKS THE PARTY NAME TOO LONG.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I think it most unfortunate that our friends have chosen such a long name for the new party. "Commonwealth," which is the economic