

bles it had entailed. No wonder Darrow was often impatient with

Miss Gluck, however much or little she sees, has given a fine biography. We know Mitchell the man in whom there were many fine qualities. She tells many anecdotes of him, and her heroisms in stature as her story moves to its sorrowful conclusion. If he had vision, he had character; if he had no true perception of the struggle which he had entered, he had sympathy; if he did not see the true proportions of the problem he had set himself to solve, he was unselfish. We pardon him much.

Miss Gluck is in error in the statement on page 32, and indeed in the title given to the book itself. The period referred to as the "Gilded Age" were not the years described in this volume, but those beginning with the administration of President Grant, and were first so characterized by Mark Twain in a book of that title.

J. D. M.

CONTINUING THE WORK OF PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

Those who were present in 1920 at the Chicago Convention of the Committee of 48 will remember a flashing figure whose voice and presence commanded the respectful attention of audience and Chairman as she walked to the center of the aisle and in a voice rich and resonant pressed for a consideration of the motion before the house.

Others privileged to hear her on post prandial occasions have claimed her the best after-dinner speaker in the movement. The lady referred to is Mrs. Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel.

And now she comes before us with a set of three large octavo volumes, "Mason Locke Weems," an elaborate bibliography that is really more than that, left unfinished by her brother, Paul Leicester Ford, whose career as a novelist was cut short almost before it had begun at a time when he had already given to the world a number of works that had won a very wide circle of discriminating readers and whose fame was increasing with every book he wrote.

These three volumes are limited to 300 copies privately printed and are gems of the typographical art on paper of the finest quality. It is a labor of love on the part of Mrs. Skeel and very touching is the tribute rendered to the brother who gave so many years of his life to reconstruct the somewhat maligned figure of Parson Weems, whom we know better now from these pages. Weems was an engaging personality and the many biographies he wrote—that of Washington especially—are destined to outlive many more pretentious works.

In these beautifully printed and imposing volumes are preserved illustrations, letters and chronology extending through many pages all that the future will care to know of Parson Weems—probably all that can be known. And in it is enshrined the perfect prose of the introductory chapters by Mrs. Skeel to the work begun by her brother setting forth so much of unique interest concerning one of the earliest and most misunderstood characters in American letters.

J. D. M.

REGULATION VERSUS STATE CONTROL*

In this pamphlet James Malcolm compares the two hydro-electric or water power systems: New York's private development under state regulation of rates and service, and Ontario's public development by cooperating municipalities and committees supervised by a non-partisan provincial commission.

Regarding New York's system Mr. Malcolm says:

Without citing specific instances to prove that regulation has fallen far short of fulfilling the hopes of its advocates, it is enough to say that it has given little or no relief to the public so far as the larger utilities are concerned. By many who have studied the question, regulation in New York and nearly every other state has been declared a failure. More important for the present purpose is the outstanding fact that twenty-one years of state regulation of electrical rates have not resulted in substantial decrease either for domestic or industrial consumers; while across the national boundary in Ontario, under a publicly-owned and operated system, the rates are from one-quarter to one-third of those paid in New York state. After all, the service,

the rates, and the soundness of the financial structure constitute the supreme test.

He then turns his attention to Ontario's system and makes a thorough examination of the facts concerning it. He makes it clear that it is essentially different from the public ownership and operation usually visualized by the public mind, being controlled by the units of the federated cities, rural districts and not by a central government.

Then too the cheapness of the electrical power supply has encouraged its greatly increased use per capita. Our author reminds us that the Ontario system ranks among the greatest super-power enterprises in the world.

J. D. M.

A BEWILDERING POTPOURRI*

A large part of the material in this book first appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The mental confusion, obfuscation and downright ignorance which characterize the average American mind is everywhere apparent in this volume.

One could read every page of this book without once learning how wealth is produced. In fact, the author himself does not fully perceive it. Else, how can he justify such balderdash as this:

"No one will deny that land, capital and labor, in all such senses, are sources of wealth. They are not the only sources. It is strange that economists have so seldom regarded ideas as a source of wealth. Yet it is possible to argue that ideas have created all modern wealth." (page 119).

For the benefit of our author let it be said, once and for all, that all wealth comes from one source, and one source only, and that is the Earth on which we live. It is the application of human labor to land, (or the forces of Nature), that gives us food clothing and shelter. Unemployment is nothing but the denial to Labor of access to the Earth.

The big point which our author fails to perceive is that before Labor can have access to the raw forces of Nature it must first pay Land-owners Economic Rent for the privilege of working the Earth.

Only after the landowning class in society, claiming to "own" the bare Earth has been appeased, is there anything left for Labor and Capital to divide between themselves.

Now, the landowner furnishes nothing to Capital or Labor.

He only permits them to exert themselves on the God given forces of Air, Water, Sunshine and Land to do their producing.

The people collectively because of their ignorance and stupidity, permit a small number of themselves to "Own" Land and rent it out to the others. This is the basic wrong, for it enables a limited class in society to acquire wealth without rendering service.

Now, the share this small class is yearly exacting as Rent is constantly growing bigger and bigger. This for the reason that there is a fixed quantity of land in the world while the number of human beings who are born into the world is constantly increasing and each one of these human beings must draw his food, clothing and shelter therefrom.

Unlike the Socialists, our author perceives that the interests of Labor and Capital are not in conflict. Were he to pursue this matter further, he would learn that where Labor suffers low wages or unemployment, true Capital (as distinguished from Land Monopoly) also suffers low interest return and unemployment.

It is because the third factor, namely Land, can draw the lion's share of the product that both Labor and Capital suffer. Of this our author is in utter darkness.

Now, this is inexcusable in an author of Gareth Garrett's experience. For many years he has been writing on American business problems. I submit a few "Gems" from this book!

"Freedom as we know it is a condition of ego. Prosperity is a condition of things. Increase these satisfactions to any degree and there is still that knowledge of incompleteness which torments the spirit.

*The American Omen, by Gareth Garrett. Clo. 249 pp. Price \$2.50. E. P. Dutton & Co., N. Y. City.