

A COLLEGE professor of political economy has written a book about our food supply, but does not mention land. He is as funny as the Cleveland "realtor" who during a fierce agitation over the housing shortage, urged the City Hall to build 10,000 dwellings, "as Ford builds autos," and never said where he would put 'em.

BOOK NOTICES

GEORGE D. HERRON'S LATEST BOOK.*

The author of this book was one of the most prominent of those who were behind the diplomatic scenes in Europe during the World War. A former Socialist, he recognized what few men of his economic beliefs were able to sense—the menace that a German victory held for the world. He was a determined and eloquent crusader in his advocacy of America's participation on the side of the Allies. He worked for a Wilson peace both before and after the Armistice.

With the conclusion of the Versailles Treaty and the repudiation of the contractual conditions laid down by Wilson, under which Germany had been persuaded to forego further conflict, Mr. Herron, now in great part disillusioned, turns the weapon of his denunciation toward France, and in many eloquent chapters vents his wrath upon those who took part at the Council table, both for their desertion of the cause for which the young men of the Allied nations took up arms, and the betrayal of the German people by the diplomats in repudiating the terms the German armies had been induced to sign.

He does not exonerate Wilson, though his condemnation is wisely tempered, and he gives high praise for what Wilson tried to do. The study of Wilson is a valuable analysis of his aims and motives, and, as we see it today, his comparative failure. On the whole the estimate is a just and fair one. It will be weighed against the harsher criticism that has emanated from so many quarters, and will probably aid greatly in our final estimate of Woodrow Wilson.

The style of the book fairly throbs and pulsates with emotion. I know of few works on the war and its aftermath in which the soul of the writer is laid so visibly bare. Mr. Herron is an idealist, and as such, weighed in the scales of a calculating and materialistic time, his conclusions will seem often impractical. For example, he estimates the German character in harsh terms, he is aware of its peculiar psychology, yet he asks of the French a standard of conduct possessed by no nation of the earth and hardly by the seraphim themselves.

Yet it would be a mistake to suppose that his idealism is not shot through with some very practical suggestions and some very exact information of what actually transpired at and around the peace table. He knew the forces at work as few observers at the time could have known them, for his opportunities were many and intimate.

Above all, it is impossible to read the book and not be conscious of a mental and spiritual tonic from which we rise refreshed in mind and soul. From what Mr. Herron feels is what many of us feel in our best moments when the stirring of the Great Aspiration moves in us. This Mr. Herron does for us and it was worth doing.

It is a pity that the author has not sensed the essential heart of the struggle for national supremacy. He is, or was a Socialist, so all he sees is what we may call the troop of attendant motives which trail along with the supreme and deeper motive. This he fails to emphasize even if he does see it. He sees the battling and scheming nations, the tricks and conspiracies of their financial and capitalist masters, and he assumes that this is all. What he does not see is the Land Question beneath it all, the masses of the disinherited moved as pawns across the chessboard, helpless because deprived of the right to land, without which man is not a freeman but a serf and the easy dupe of imperial ambitions.

—J. D. M.

*The Defeat in Victory. By George D. Herron. Clo. 12 mo., 202 pp. Price \$2. net. Christopher Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

A WORK BY DUNDAS WHITE

A useful and well-filled book of over 200 pages is *Land Value Policy*, by J. Dundas White, issued by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values at 11 Tothill street, London, England, and published for 2s 6d.

Mr. Dundas White is one of the leading Single Taxers of Great Britain. His scholarly and exact treatment of economic questions linked with our basic reform has made him a distinguished spokesman for these principles.

In this work there is an interesting chapter in which the author details the evolution of the Single Tax doctrine from the French physiocrats, Thomas Spence, Ogilvie, Thomas Paine, James Mill, Patrick Edward Dove, and Sir John MacDonell, finally culminating in Henry George. The last chapter is entitled "Notable Sayings" and these from well known poets, statesmen, writers and economists.

An idea of the book may be gained from the following passage from the Introduction. We have not room to quote more fully from this very informing little volume which should be in every Single Tax library.

"Justice requires that all the people should have equal rights to the land which nature has provided. The rights to land are of a comprehensive character, for they include the rights to the light that shines on it, to the wind that blows over it, to the rain that falls on it, to the springs that rise in it, to the streams that flow upon it, to the water power, to the natural growths, to the use of its surface, in a variety of ways, to the stone, the clay, the coal, the minerals, and other materials which it contains, and to all else that pertains to the land and passes with a grant to it. These gifts of nature which are in no wise due to the agency of man, ought not to be the subjects of private property, but ought to be treated as the common property of the people, from generation to generation continuously."

This is a statement of our doctrine which, were we always to bear it in mind, would keep us from doing the things that violate it in principle or deny it by minimizing it.

—J. D. M.

AN IMPORTANT WORK FROM THE FEDERAL TAX LEAGUE

Another volume to be included as an almost indispensable addition to the Single Taxer's library is the Report of the National Tax Relief Convention held in Chicago last Autumn. It is much more than a "report," for to it is added Two Hundred Answers to Pertinent Questions, Illustrations, Cartoons, selected articles from many sources, diagrams and tables. It is issued by the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League whose headquarters is at 1346 Altgeld Street, Chicago, for \$2. a copy in paper, and it contains over 350 pages.

Mr. Otto Cullman is president of the Federal Tax League, and is represented in this Report by an address delivered at the convention. In this the purpose of the League is set forth. Then follow addresses of Warren S. Blauvelt, of the Indiana Coke and Gas Company, of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Hon. J. H. Kauffman, Hon. Edward Nordman, Hon. Edward Polak, Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, William H. Holly and many others, all names familiar to Single Taxers.

There are selected articles on Taxation, which include Henry George's *Canons of Taxation*, and articles by Thomas G. Shearman, John Z. White, John S. Codman, and Emil O. Jorgensen.

In other parts of the book there appear Jones Itemized Rent Bill, by Joseph Dana Miller, and liberal extracts from the same writer's article from the *Dearborn Independent*, "Has the Single Tax Made Progress?"

Messrs. Cullman and Jorgensen, on whom the principal work devolved of collating and preparing this material, are to be congratulated in providing a valuable arsenal of information on taxation in relation to business.

It must be remembered that no further aim was contemplated than the presentation of the fiscal side of this reform. We have no disposition to minimize the usefulness of such presentation. What the