

Hardinge made an appeal for financial aid for the Chicago Single Tax Club. Clayton J. Ewing, president, told of plans for the coming season, while George Strachan as toastmaster told a flock of good Scotch jokes and stories.

At its second dinner of the season, on December 13, the Chicago Single Tax Club had as its guest of honor and principal speaker George H. Duncan of New Hampshire. In an informal but exceedingly practical and encouraging talk, Mr. Duncan told of the progress that Single Tax is making in all parts of the country. He pointed out that the fact that the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Assessors of New Hampshire had asked him to speak before them on the Single Tax was evidence in itself of great advance.

Mr. Duncan said that the gasoline tax was a tax in the right direction in so far as its advocates say, "He who benefits should pay the bill." The Auto Association of California has already come to ask, "But why should the motorist pay the bill for good roads when the land along side the good roads gets the benefit in increased land values?"

The Occupation Tax of Minnesota is an application of the Single Tax in regard to the natural resources such as iron and coal. It has been tested satisfactorily in the State Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. In other states it is known as a Heritage Tax as distinguished from the Severance Tax.

The taking of any value created by special governmental privilege, Mr. Duncan pointed out, is akin to the Single Tax and should be encouraged.

Most important of all, Mr. Duncan said, we must be patient.—We must understand underlying principles and be practical politicians taking advantage of every opportunity. He commended the work of such men as George Strachan and Clayton J. Ewing in their work with the Farm Bureau people. Since we want more and better things all the time it is foolish to talk of reduced taxes; rather, we should talk of taking community created values to pay for those more and better things.

Mr. Henry L. T. Tideman made a valuable contribution to the problem of how to "Talk the Single Tax." He said that a tax should be explained as a payment for public service, that the annual value of the land should be pointed out as the reflector of the value of the public service rendered, and that this annual land-value should be spoken of as the basis of payment for the public services rendered. Mr. Tideman emphasized the absurdity of such "solutions" to our economic problems as birth control, prohibition, consumer's cooperation, and tinkering with the tariff, in lieu of the far reaching effects of land-value taxation.

The programme was opened with a tribute to the character and life work of the late Warren Worth Bailey by John Lawrence Monroe. Hon. Abram D. Gash, noted Chicago attorney, was toastmaster.

BOOK REVIEWS

HISTORY OF SINGLE TAX ENCLAVES

We have received Vol. VI. of the series of Enclaves of Economic Rent, fathered by Fiske Warren, and giving the history of Single Tax colonies, including Fairhope, Arden, Free Acres, Halidon, San Jordi, and Tahanto, the last three named established by Mr. Warren.

This volume contains "How to Destroy the Rum Power," the notable essay by Henry George which appeared in the *Arena* during the editorship of B. O. Flower. Besides this is an Historical Account of the Application of the Single Tax, consisting of extracts from the writings of James Dundas White, Emil O. Jorgensen and Joseph Dana Miller, forming when combined a singularly impressive record of progress.

The volume contains 283 pages which give an accurate survey of pretty nearly everything the reader will want to know about the advance of our movement in legislation and the principles and mode of operation of these Single Tax colonies. It will be sent for 25 cents postpaid by Mr. Warren to any one who applies. This offer includes editions of the volumes dealing with enclavial history and progress for 1921 and 1926, editions for 1920 and 1927, in accordance with the plan of publication, being quoted at a higher figure. Address Fiske Warren, Harvard, Mass.

—J. D. M.

DR. BRUNK GIVES US A NEW BOOK*

Our readers know Dr. Brunk. They know how indefatigably he has investigated the little known facts regarding land ownership in America, and with what effectiveness he has marshalled the often disgraceful revelations affecting the Fathers of the American Revolution. So, knowing his temper and his skill as well as his courage, they will be glad to welcome this new volume from his pen, a forcibly written book instinct with passionate hatred of injustice.

Some of his sentences are arresting, such as "Property in land has been the source of five sixths of our law and nearly all our law suits." "Feudal ownership of fertile or valuable lands has been at the root of all War and War preparation."

Under the heading, "The World a Single Economic Organism" the author tells us of the natural forces of justice, and he exults: "Take courage, brother. Nature is on your side. It is the foe of all the bubbles and frailties of man." And when he musters his array of facts that are to determine the final struggle whether there shall be a Wealth or Labor domination he does it in a way singularly impressive. It is a note of hope he sounds in these 260 pages.

It is nothing less than a new constitution that Dr. Brunk proposes. He has worked on the details with great care, dividing the United States into 12 provinces in place of 48 states, which would admit of the abolition of a multiplicity of laws as well as the laws that conflict. What he says of the Precinct Unit, which he calls the "basis of Mass Government," would take more space for its consideration than can be given to it here.

There is perhaps too great a tendency to provide for too many things, a fault of nearly every writer who has hitherto attempted to create a Utopia. Dr. Brunk, however, does not belong to this school; he would reduce government to the minimum, and whatever is necessary to be done by the community in its corporate capacity he would bring close to the people.

We would not without further consideration reject all the multiplicity of suggestions Dr. Brunk has set down. No blanket verdict is possible with reference to a book such as this. It is something to be studied and argued about—not to be dismissed in a column book review.

*Mass Rule Government by Thomas L. Brunk. Paper cover, 261 pages. Price \$1. Union Advocate Press, Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. Brunk is a thinker. He knows his economics and he has made some important contributions, as we have indicated, to the history of land ownership. When he sets himself to establish a new political commonwealth he is not to be disregarded as attempting too colossal a task.

Nevertheless, it may be permitted us to say that the mistake, it seems to us, is that our author gives to government an importance it does not merit. Laws and constitutions become innocuous as soon as popular tendencies assert themselves strongly; either they are modified or lapse into disuse. And economic conditions act upon political forms, so that their character seems after all of minor consequence.

But it is because of the difficulty of dealing adequately with a work of this kind in the space permitted us that we urge our readers to send to Dr. Brunk, Alton, Ill., or to his publishers, for a copy of the work.

—J. D. M.

THIS MAN ADAMS*

This book is written in the modern "Jazz" style of biography.

Our author labors hard to prove that John Adams survives. The most convincing proof he can give is a letter to John Taylor in which Adams writes, "After all I am not yet dead."

This reviewer prefers the verdict of less biased contemporaries.

Thomas Paine, whose judgment, we submit, is more impartial, in a letter to George Washington dated July 30, 1796, wrote.

"John Adams is one of those men who never contemplated the origin of government, or comprehended anything of first principles. If he had, he might have seen that the right to set up and establish hereditary government never did, and never can, exist in any generation at any time whatever; that it is of the nature of treason; because it is an attempt to take away the rights of all the minors living at that time, and of all succeeding generations. It is of a degree beyond common treason. It is a sin against nature. The equal right of every generation is a right fixed in the nature of things. It belongs to the son when of age, as it belonged to the father before him.

"John Adams would himself deny the right that any former deceased generation could have to decree authoritatively a succession of governors over him, or over his children; and yet he assumes the pretended right, reasonable as it is, of acting it himself. His ignorance is his best excuse."

(See The Life and Works of Thomas Paine, Volume V, Patriot's Edition, page 148.)

And on page 151 Volume X of the same work Paine says:

"John Adams and Timothy Pickering were men whom nothing but the accidents of the times rendered visible on the political horizon. Elevation turned their heads, and public indignation has cast them to the ground. But an inquiry into the conduct and measures of that Administration is nevertheless necessary."

And on page 104 Paine wrote:

"But John Adams is a man of paradoxical heresies, and consequently of a bewildered mind. He wrote a book entitled "A Defense of the American Constitutions" and the principles of it are an attack upon them, but the book is descended to the tomb of forgetfulness, and the best fortune that can attend its author is quietly to follow its fate. John was not born for immortality."

The illustrations in this volume are as apposite as the "Statue of Liberty" in a work of Botany. One shows cotton workers at quitting time, another is that of navy destroyers in action, and a third shows strike breakers quitting under police protection.

Our author devotes pages to the discussions of Selfishness, Power, Selling Merchandise, etc.

Too bad he did not devote his talents to the life of a bigger character, John Quincy Adams, for example.

—BENJ. W. BURGER.

*This Man Adams, by Samuel McCoy. Brentano, New York City.

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE AUTHOR OF "THE ARDENT EIGHTIES"

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your review of "The Ardent Eighties" gave me a few thrilling moments. It gave me a better appreciation of my own modest effort, which I had undertaken, first, in order to relieve my mind of accumulated memories; and, secondly, to do justice to those ardent souls of the '80's who dared to make their dreams a reality, and who paid the usual price for their daring.

I thank you sincerely for your lines.
New York City

GREGORY WEINSTEIN.

URGES INCREASED ACTIVITY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The Georgeists in America are astonishingly *inactive* as compared with those in Great Britain, where the movement is making great headway; land-value taxation being frequently advocated in the House of Commons. There is an active club in every important city there, the members of which are steady letterwriters to the newspapers. A record kept for the past three months shows 70 known contributors of 138 letters and articles in newspapers in 27 towns, an average of ten letters a week.

In New Jersey it is a rare thing to see a letter on the subject in a newspaper, though all newspapers are open to letters from their readers.

To indicate the willingness of editors to print Site-value tax matter I would say that I am frequently asked by editors of prominent papers to write an article for them, which of course I do. Recently after writing one for the Camden *Courier*, which they backed up with an excellent editorial, the editor asked me to write half a dozen more such articles.

The greater the number of writers, the greater will be the apparent strength of public opinion wanting this legislation. Unfortunately, it now seems to be agreed by leading Georgeists that use of the term "Single Tax," against which there is a strong public prejudice, has kept back the movement. It is useless to advocate repeal of any tax unless also advocating shifting to site, or land-value, and stating the reason why.

In addition to letters to newspapers, it is important to interview political leaders and tax officials. Another important class is mayors, finance commissioners and public officials in general.

Newark, N. J.

ALFRED N. CHANDLER.

AGAINST THE NAME SINGLE TAX

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am very pleased over the signs of revolt against the continued use of the term "Single Tax" as applied to the movement which has heretofore gone under that name, particularly as expressed by Mr. J. C. Lincoln at the Chicago Convention.

There is an indirectness—almost a dishonesty—in the advocacy of a tax, even a single tax, at the same time that we aim to abolish all taxes. And Georgeists, of all people, can afford to be both direct and honest. They have nothing to hide and everything to be proud of.

We have two distinct aims in view. One is to have the entire rent of land appropriated to the use of the whole people who have created it. The other, and which is made possible by the first, is to stop the robbery involved in taxing for public use the values produced and belonging to the individual.

So far a short and suitable name has not been found for the first of these two objects. As the two are inseparably connected why not use the words which shortly and perfectly fit the second? One of the things which may be charged against the term now used is that it has nothing startling to a lazy mentality. "What is the good. We can't escape paying taxes anyway, whether many or single; They are going