

61 acres of surrounding "agricultural" land are assessed at £90, and contribute a few pounds to the rates. During the last 38 years the Education Authority has spent £153,657 on sites for elementary schools. Of this sum £34,000 has been paid to the Duke for 20 acres. Eleven acres which cost £22,000, were derelict, and went unrated. The other nine acres, which cost £12,000, were assessed at from £1 10s. to £2 per acre, and contributed about £5 to the rates. Under a land values tax there would be a different story to tell.

I called on Ald. Sir William Clegg, ex-Lord Mayor and leader of the Liberal Party, who expressed himself as strongly in favor of the rating of land values, so that landowners benefiting from municipal expenditure, like the Duke of Norfolk through the tramways, should pay their fair contribution. The force of Sir William Clegg's argument is revealed in the Abstract of Accounts for the City under the head "Property and Permanent Works and Outlay of a Capital Nature." Total cost or outlay to March 25, 1910, has amounted to £11,941,349. This vast expenditure, over £26 per head of the population, has gone in the main to directly enhance land values.

This, then, is the lesson that Sheffield conveys so that he who runs may read. Within the space of less than a century, and in particular during its last quarter, meadow land and waste fields have been turned into crowded residential areas and factory sites. Industry has marched forward from victory to victory, but the spoils of conquest have been filched from the victors by those who own the city site, and in particular by one leviathan monopolist. The burden of civic endeavor and national obligation grievously penalizes industry and cruelly taxes the struggling worker, whose wretched abode is made subject to it, whilst the ducal tax-collector, with the Strand and the mines also under tribute to him, can hold 20,000 Sussex acres as an appanage to a castle on which he spent £750,000, and a territory in Scotland for the preservation of grouse. It is estimated that of the occupied area of Sheffield the Duke of Norfolk holds 4,000 acres. Put the average value so low as £1,500 per acre, and this gives a total land value of £6,000,000. In 1815 the rental of the Sheffield estates was £18,000. Here we see what a century of progress has done for the Duke of Norfolk.

It is not so much what monopoly takes from the citizens as what it absolutely withholds that makes reality fall so tragically short of possibility. In the City Engineer's Report the following passage occurs: "The area of the city, which is one of the largest in the United Kingdom, is 23,662 acres, and the proportion of land at present undeveloped exceptionally large. Of the total area of the city 5,000 acres may be taken as being densely populated, 2,500 acres sparsely built upon, 11,500 acres as land available for further development,

the remainder being moorland, reservoirs, parks, recreation grounds, precipitous ground, etc., unavailable for building."

When we exclude from the 5,000 acres the business sites, the great areas occupied by the engineering yards, the roadways, and other non-residential areas, the spectacle is presented of all but a few of 454,653 human beings jammed together, skimped of light and air and garden space, whilst around them lies a great territory that the monopolist withholds till his price be obtained. A land values tax would lift the ban.

BOOKS

A STORY OF MODERN POLITICAL LIFE.

The Citadel. A Romance of Unrest. By Samuel Merwin. Price \$1.25, postage 10c. New York, The Century Company.

Congressman John Garwood had surprised himself.

The subconscious self of him that had long been storing up the facts of observation had suddenly broken loose and delivered in the House of Representatives a remarkable speech, the words of which he could not distantly recall. Seated in his office resting his feet on the low steam radiator while he moodily reflected on what he had done, he was startled by the headlines of the *Evening Sun* which his secretary thrust before his eyes: "Garwood assails the Constitution. Astonishing Attack on Fundamental Law," etc., etc. The words did not seem to relate to him, but he read on, without a sense of personal responsibility, the bold speech which followed:

I do not see, Mr. Chairman, why we should hesitate to admit that this pretense of sacred mystery that is today woven about the Constitution is just bold hocus pocus. The Constitution is, of course, an interesting and remarkable document. But to expect us to believe that any document drawn up as a compromise by a body of men representing the property interests of a few sea coast colonies—colonies which existed in political, industrial and social conditions basically different from the conditions obtaining today—to expect us to believe that any such document is to be accepted today as the political, industrial and social law and gospel is to expect us to believe a good deal.

The Congressman's eyes ran on over the contrasts between the problems of 1789 and those that face the present generation, and fastened on the next paragraph:

Mr. Chairman, speaking as an individual, may I not admit that I am tired of thinking and talking nonsense? Is it not nonsense—this perpetual use of our ancient Constitution as a bar to progress and to independent thought, and this perpetual tinkering and

patching about the edges of our real problems, with no one speaking out. . . . We try to work out a system of properly compensating injured working-men, but we are blocked. Why? The Constitution stands in the way. We try to work out a system in the interest of all society, to protect children from the ravaging greed of industry. It proves to be impossible to work it out on any national scale. Every device we suggest is unconstitutional. We try to make our national legislature more directly responsible to the will of the people. We have fought for years to secure a Direct Election Amendment. . . . We have wasted years of effort in the hope of securing an adequate National Income Tax. Up to the present we have failed to get it. It is unconstitutional. In industrial and social legislation, Mr. Chairman, the United States is today a full generation behind Germany, France and England. . . . Our century-old habit of straining every new idea through the old constitutional sieve . . . is one of the reasons for this extraordinary backwardness of thought perhaps. If so we ought to get this marvellous document out and look it over dispassionately and with the peculiarly new problems of modern life in mind. . . . Not to see if these new problems square with the paper drawn up a hundred and twenty years ago but to find out how remotely it squares with present day facts. It is quite conceivable that we may need a new one—or that we might get along better, under modern conditions, with no Constitution at all.

John Garwood might well have drawn a long breath after that, for his kingdom had departed. As a representative of the dominant party he would be compelled to step down and out.

Whether he would have had courage to go forward on the checkered path of reform he had forecast for himself is not quite certain if he had not been instantly reinforced by the sympathy and moral support of a young woman from the Department of Agriculture—a biologist, direct and businesslike, with no consciousness of sex, she informally expressed her pleasure in having heard in the gallery "just the things she had given up hope of hearing anybody say."

And from that time onward Margaret Lansing, without any preconceived idea of woman's place or power, becomes the inspiring co-partner in the life plans of John Garwood, who espouses the cause of the people and releases himself from the thralldom of the capitalist politicians in his home district. Embarking upon an independent campaign for re-election, he unearths the secret schemes for self-aggrandisement at the cost of the working class, and appeals for social justice with an array of facts and arguments that virtually wins his cause, though in the present chaos of forces he, of course, misses his election.

In this "Romance of Unrest," Mr. Merwin makes a vivid showing of the warring political principles of today, with an inspiring push to the foreground of the great moral forces that are destined to become the reigning power in our national life.

Incidentally he deals with the sex problem, which ceases to be a problem when stripped of the artificial restraints with which the perverted human imagination has encumbered it.

A. L. MUZZEY.



A BOOK OF SHORT STORIES.

Whispers About Women. By Leonard Merrick. Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York and London. 1912. Price, \$1.00 net.

New books of short stories, clever and clean, are too welcome for criticism, especially when the collection includes so witty and charming a little character study as "The Bishop's Comedy," and introduces to such delightful Bohemians as Tricotrin and Pitou. The reader recalls Alice Brown and W. J. Locke and brings up with the conclusion that Leonard Merrick writes his own stories. But did he choose the title? One wonders, and is reminded of a very solidly good play recently on our American boards and its lurid posters which attracted only the class of people who would find the play dull, and repelled the very sort whom the play would best please.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—*The Democratic Mistake.* By Arthur George Sedgwick. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1912. Price, \$1.00 net.

—*The Essential Reform: Land Values Taxation in Theory and Practice.* By C. H. Chomley and R. L. Outhwaite. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson, 3 Adam St., Adelphi, London. 1909. Price, one shilling net.

—*The History of the Government of Denver with Special Reference to Its Relations with Public Service Corporations.* By Clyde Lyndon King. Published by the Fisher Book Co., 430 Seventeenth St., Denver, Colo. 1911. Price, \$1.50.

PAMPHLETS

Pamphlets Received.

Report of the Committee on Taxation to the American Bar Association. 1912. Edward O. Brown, Chairman.

Address of the President, S. S. Gregory, to the American Bar Association, August 27, 1912, at Milwaukee, Wis.

A Pamphlet, Containing a Copy of All Measures "Referred to the People by the Legislative Assembly," "Referendum Ordered by Petition of the People," and "Proposed by Initiative Petition," to be submitted to the Legal Voters of the State of Oregon at the Regular General Election, Nov. 5, 1912, together with the Arguments Filed, Favoring and Opposing certain of said Measures. Compiled and Issued by Ben W. Olcott, Secretary of State. 1912. Printed at Salem, Oregon.