

all the women say that I spoil the bed-clothes. So now I furnish my own sheets and pillow cases. I use up a quart bottle of olive oil every week. It doesn't show on my clothes because I rub it off so hard with cotton rags every morning."

"It's very interesting," said the inwardly amused school teacher. "And certainly every fellow ought to live in the way that suits him, always providing that it doesn't upset any one else."

"Well," the old man replied, "my way would just about put all the doctors out of commission. But people can't yet see it. Once I wrote some leaflets about how to live, and had them printed. Then I gave them away for a long time. But I couldn't hear of any one else going in linen, nor sleeping in the wind and rain, nor rubbing in olive oil, so I quit on the leaflets. But I like to have a man ask me about these things."

"Of course every one who thinks he has hold of a good idea wants to see it spread," the young school teacher remarked. "That's the way I feel myself about several things. Now, I like your notion about sleeping outdoors in all kinds of weather. Very few persons do that as yet, but I think others will learn how. I can't say anything about the rest of your scheme of life, but it seems to suit you to a dot. But why not write another leaflet on just the outdoor idea, and wait awhile about your other points? One thing at a time."

"Perhaps that might be a good way," said the old man.

"Now here's the address of a printer in this city—a fine fellow who likes to sleep outdoors. He'll print your leaflet, I think, at cost, and will distribute some. But don't give them away. Sell five for five cents. Here's a silver dollar of our daddies that I earned pretending to teach school away up in Humboldt, and here's my address. Send me a hundred of your leaflets."

The old man fairly beamed upon him.

"I wish my wife were alive," he said. "I haven't had so helpful a word since she died and she would have known what to say to you. She used to look over my leaflets before I printed them."

"There!" said the school teacher. "I ought to have thought of that. I'll see that printer and you let him help you straighten out what you write. If I lived here I would rather do it myself. I expect he will want you to say that it's good outdoor sleeping if you put up a waterproof canvas in rainy weather."

"I thought so at first," the old man answered with a laugh. "But I found that one can sleep warm in a big storm, and get no harm from a sopping wet blanket. Only rub down good and hard in the morning!"

They shook hands and parted. The school teacher went off, thinking how many, many sorts of plans, hopes, schemes and ideals are walking abroad all over the earth, seizing upon the minds of men and shaping them in fire-heats, on anvils.

"May all the kindlier spirits that ride on the wings of the wind," he thought, "grant that at least one truly great and inspiring Reform some time sits at my fireside, puts on my armor, goes out to war unseen at my side, as Pallas Athene went with her chosen. Let me not spend my devotion on clothes and grub, on oils and unguents, nor on any little and lonesome problem of life. For the great world of people needs so much, and still has so far to climb into the full sunshine!"

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.

BOOKS

WAGES AND LAND.

Arbetslönerna och Jorden (Wages and Land). A Collection of Facts from Various Lands and Times. By Johan Hansson. Published by Svenska Andelsförlaget, Stockholm, Sweden, 1911.

The well-known leader of the land value taxation movement in Sweden has by this little book of a hundred pages added another valuable contribution to the economic literature of his country, and one feels the same regret in reading it as one does with the others of his books—the regret that it does not appear in English, so as to reach a wider circle of readers. In this particular case the feeling of regret is all the more keen, as a very considerable part of the book deals with past and present conditions in England, showing the close relationship between land and wages. The book is written in a popular and interesting style, and may well be said to be a miniature history of land conditions in England, in particular, although also Germany, America, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, Alaska and Sweden are dealt with in specific chapters.

The author takes us back as far as the thirteenth century in England. He shows us how, contrary to common conceptions, the wages of labor have not constantly increased through the ages. The golden age of labor in England was the fifteenth century. The purchasing power of average wages in England, referred to the common standard of the price of bread, was in the year 1500 twice that in 1550, and more than four times that in 1803, and six times that in 1812. Abundance of free land and high wages—total monopolization of land and starvation wages—have gone hand in hand.

A most interesting part of the book is that which refers to the causes of the rise of wages in England during the past century. While many other causes, of course, have been contributory, the fact that millions of acres of free or cheap land became available to the toiling masses of Europe during the past century, has been the primary cause of the victories of labor in its struggle for a living wage. These millions of acres were

across the sea, but not inaccessible, and America's cheaper soil has, indeed, been the irresistible economic force that has elevated the conditions of labor in Europe, and especially in England, where the free trade policy has permitted the people to take full advantage of the improvements due to an increase in wages.

The recent origin of the idea of absolute private ownership in land is well illustrated by a quotation from an edict by Gustavus Vasa (king of Sweden, 1521-1560) in which it is stated that "all such lands as unused are, belong to God, the king and the State of Sweden." While this king is still hailed the liberator of Sweden because of his military exploits, his excellent economic doctrine, which would liberate the people in the highest sense of the word, has been forgotten.

Johan Hanssen has done a great service to his country by placing all these facts relating to wages and land before the mass of the people, in an intelligent, concise and readable form. Economic reformers have a tendency to "run to statistics" when they handle subjects of this kind. This book is a fortunate exception.

ERIK OBERG.



LAND, OR LAND VALUES?

Jorden eller Jordvardet? (Land, or Land Values?) Experiences from many Countries. By Johan Hansson. Published by Svenska Andelsförlaget, Stockholm, Sweden, 1911.

In a book of over 200 pages, the author has furnished a very complete review of the progress of land value taxation all over the world, the methods employed, and the results achieved. The book is the revised and enlarged edition of an appeal addressed to the members of the Swedish Riksdag (parliament). It contains a mass of information, giving details of the system of taxation in every country state or city where any kind of land value taxation is in force. Methods for ascertaining site values are dealt with, notably the system used in New York City.

The efforts of Johan Hansson to enlighten the leading men in political life, of the real significance of land value taxation, and of the steps taken elsewhere, have not been without results. Previous to the last election (September, 1911) he sent a circular letter to all the candidates for the Riksdag. The letter contained five questions pertaining to land value taxation and free trade legislation. About 280 answers were received, of which 85 were in full harmony with the aims of the land reformers, and 150 answered in the affirmative on the question whether they were in favor of absolute free trade. How many candidates for Congress do we have at one of our elections that are as enlightened as that?

Only 38 clear "no" answers were received; one

of these was from a clergyman running for office, who wrote his "no" in letters one inch high.

It is fortunate that so thorough economic information is being made available in a small country like Sweden, as it seems more likely that early results will reward the reformers' efforts there than elsewhere. The great nations have so many problems to deal with that the attention is diverted from those which, while most important, are not apparently so to the mass of the voters.

ERIK OBERG.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—**Love and Ethics.** By Ellen Key. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York. 1912. Price, 50 cents net.

—**Daily Bread.** By Wilfrid Wilson Gibson. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.25 net.

—**Socialism and the Ethics of Jesus.** By Henry C. Vedder. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.50 net.

—**What Tolstoy Taught.** Edited by Bolton Hall. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York. 1911. Price, \$1.50; postage, 10 cents.

—**The Story of America Sketched in Sonnets.** By Henry Frank. Published by Sherman, French & Co., Boston. 1912. Price, \$1.35 net.

—**Readings on Parties and Elections in the United States.** By Chester Lloyd Jones. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price \$1.60 net.

—**Documents on the State-Wide Initiative, Referendum and Recall.** By Charles A. Beard and Birl E. Shultz. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$2.00 net.

—**New York Charities Directory.** An Authoritative, Classified and Descriptive Directory of the Social, Civic and Religious Resources of the City of New York, including the Boroughs of Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond. Compiled by Lina D. Miller. Twenty-first edition. Published by the Charity Organization Society, 105 E. 22nd St., New York City. 1912.

PAMPHLETS

The Food Value of Corn.

"Corn is one of the most important cereal foods from the standpoint of palatability, nutritive value and digestibility." When cooked thoroughly as any grain food should be, the elements of cornmeal are almost wholly assimilated, especially since modern milling removes the hull before grinding. Its tissue-building properties (protein content) are too low in proportion to its energy-producing qualities (fat and starch content) to make corn, eaten alone, a well-balanced food. But the current notions that it is indigestible, or "too heating" for summer time, seem not borne out by science. The other food-products of Indian maize, its structure and history, are