

"How does your economic program differ from that of the Communists?" I asked.

"The Communists," he replied, "favor a general nationalization of the land, but the Kuomintang does not wish to go that far. We recognize the abuses of peasant tenantry and propose to remedy the abuses through a compulsory, legal reduction in the rent of land and through Government land-banks, which will lend money to the peasants at a small fraction of the outrageous interest they now pay.

"Sun Yat-sen, as you know, was greatly influenced by your American radical, Henry George, but he was never a Communist. His economic program, *which is ours*, means three things: Henry George's method of assessing land, definite laws against monopoly under private ownership, and Governmental ownership of large public utilities. We propose to realize this program without violence and without confiscation."

As he talked, it was not hard to believe that Wang Ching-wei's power over Chinese audiences is almost hypnotic. His personality is bound to play a large part in the future of the Chinese revolution.

## A Single Tax Colony

UNDER the above title Mr. R. F. Powell gives an interesting account of Fairhope in the August number of the *Review of Reviews*. Mention of this notable article was unavoidably omitted from our Sept.-Oct. issue. The contribution is profusely illustrated. Our readers may profitably consult this article, for Mr. Powell has done his work exceedingly well.

Mr. Powell says: "At Fairhope they teach that the earth is the source of life—the storehouse from which all wealth is drawn; that it is the gift of the Creator to all living beings, and is, therefore, the rightful inheritance of all His children. All men have an equal right to it, without having to buy a piece of it from some fellow creature. The idea is based upon fundamental principles, universally admitted by men of all beliefs, one of which is that "all men have an equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," which means that all men have an equal right to the use of land. Fairhope is simply putting these principles into every-day practice."

## Not Quite Brave Enough

SENATOR NORRIS knows, we shall at least credit him with knowing, that as a means to increase and promote international trade a protective tariff is the biggest hoax ever perpetrated in an enlightened age. He knows further, or should know, that at the bottom of every domestic and international ill lies a faulty system of taxation and that the tariff is only one symptom of the tax malady. He knows that the underlying causes of

war are economic and not political and that the land question, which is only another term for the taxation question, is at the bottom of every first class war the last four hundred years.

He knows that there is a radical, fundamental, far-reaching remedy for all these vital troubles and yet in all his long and useful life he has not had the courage to take the stand his conscience we hope has dictated. Instead he has chosen, like Don Quixote, to fence with imaginary foes and in his declining years to admit that he has been able really to do nothing to stem the relentless march of empire in a land which started under the most favorable democratic auspices. He has even chosen to flirt with government ownership knowing that as a remedy for the evils which he has so often warned his countrymen against, the remedy would be infinitely worse than the disease.

We make this criticism of the life work of George W. Norris more in sorrow than in anger. He has been brave, but not quite brave enough. He has convictions, we feel sure he has sound convictions, on the fundamental issue of taxation, but he has never permitted them to impress him deeply enough to move him to the highest manifestations of courage and disinterested service to his country. His life, we gladly admit, has been an inspiration, but it has fallen short of that quality of inspired devotion to a cause which will inscribe men's names among the immortals. And this criticism which applies to him equally applies to other public leaders like Roosevelt and Wilson and La Follette who doubtless saw the light but refused to be guided by its clear, directing rays.

Coshocton (Ohio) *Tribune*.

NO absolute ownership of land is recognized by our law books, except in the Crown. All lands are supposed to be held immediately or mediately of the Crown, though no rent or service may be payable and no grant from the Crown on record.—Sir F. Pollock, "English Land Laws."

## BOOK REVIEW

THE WORLD OF WILLIAM CLISSOLD

By H. G. WELLS

In "A Note Preceding the Title Page," Wells complains that the Public, the Press and the Reviewers persist in the view that the characters in his novels are taken from real life and that the ideas held by them on social questions, etc., are in fact Well's own opinions. He says that William Clissold is not fashioned after any real person, living or dead, and that his opinions are not the opinions of the author; that William Clissold is a purely fictitious character and that his opinions are those which the author imagines would naturally be the opinions of a man of the heredity, environment and experience attributed to William Clissold.

In form, the book is an autobiography by a "big business" man nearing the end of his days. He outlines his parentage and heredity, his youthful education, takes a very brief survey of the history of the

terrestrial Sphere and the evolution of society from the time the first living cell came into being on the surface of the earth, reviews his glorious, social and industrial experiences, and then sums up his opinions of the world and of the probable trend of social development in the future. He gives his opinions of everything under the sun: religion, sex, industry, finance, politics, war, et al. Despite Wells' protestations to the contrary the reader will inevitably think that Wells is exploiting his own opinions.

These opinions are in all cases interesting, suggestive and stimulating to thought; so far as they involve destructive criticism, most Single Taxers and other radicals will approve them; when he becomes constructive, the case is different.

He seems to contemplate a socialistic organization of society imposed, not by majority rule, nor by government of the proletariat, but imposed, managed and controlled by "Big Business;" and that the impelling motive of "Big Business" will be essentially aesthetic, viz: the pleasure and satisfaction they would get out of seeing social affairs organized and conducted with the same efficiency and elimination of waste which they are inaugurating in their own industries and factories. Such aesthetic impulses are by no means impotent in social affairs; it is conceivable that here and there a Napoleon of Industry may be moved by such impulses—possibly Henry Ford, for instance. But if we contemplate the history of human leadership during some thirty centuries, the conclusion seems inevitable that if hope of further social progress must be based on *general* amenability to such impulses, the prognosis is appalling.

The astonishing thing is that this man, whose creator reviews the most fundamental concepts of life, individual and social, material and spiritual, absolutely fails to advert to the relation of man to the physical universe in which and from which he must live. In view of other ideas put forward, it seems difficult to think that Wells either fears or lacks the capacity to think off the beaten track and bluntly announce his conclusions; nor is it possible to think that he fails to note the land question because it has never come to his attention. No plausible hypothesis suggests itself. Nevertheless, the book is well worth reading as entertainment, or, by the serious student, as a fillip to thought.

—HENRY B. TAWRESEY.

## COMMUNICATIONS

FROM A BRITISH FELLOW WORKER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:—

I want to say what great pleasure I derived from reading the latest issue of LAND AND FREEDOM. Please accept my hearty compliments and congratulations on this excellent production. You have given us a splendid picture of the Henry George Memorial Congress. To read your accounts is almost to be on the spot and to feel uplifted by the proceedings on that occasion.

London, England.

A. W. MADSEN.

THE ASHEFIELD CAMPAIGN IN NEW SOUTH WALES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Under separate cover I am posting you copies of the five leaflets which we issued in connection with the recent Ashfield election in N. S. W. These leaflets were supplied at intervals to every house in the electorate, all by volunteers. We had the best meetings and the best team of speakers. All our motor cars were volunteers. We worked very hard on Polling Day, workers hardly taking time to get refreshments. The general popular opinion appeared to be that I would be elected, and yet when the numbers went up I was hopelessly out of it. The result seems strange, and is regarded as a mystery by a large number of people. It seems strange that so many people

should have been so hopelessly at fault. However, we have to take the result as it is.

Sydney, N. S. W.

A. G. HUIE.

MR. POST APPLIES CERTAIN DISTINCTIONS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

So much confusion of thought has arisen among Single Taxers from our use of the phrase "taxation of land values" (ad valorem land values), that a more precise understanding of the essentials of that convenient but incomplete phrase seems desirable. I suggest the following, not as a substitute, but as an explanatory enlargement: The Single Tax is a name for the proposal of Henry George to abolish, as rapidly as possible, though as gradually as necessary, all kinds of taxation of producers and owners of products, and to substitute therefor increasing taxes upon monopolizers of locations on the land according to the annual value of those locations respectively, and approximately up to their value limit.

This means that whoever would derive public incomes from land values is a Single Taxer; but if he would leave land values to land owners if they exceeded the necessities of government he is, as Henry George declared, "a Single Taxer limited." But between "Single Taxers limited" and "Single Taxers unlimited," Henry George declared that there is no important difference so long as public revenues are derived from land values, whether this does or does not leave a surplus for land monopolizers. When that time comes the two types of Single Taxers can separate, one refusing to take virtually all land values for common use, and the other refusing to leave any considerable proportion of land value to land owners for private use.

Washington, D. C.

LOUIS F. POST.

THINKS THE RESOLUTIONS ERR

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In a resolution adopted by the Henry George Congress the following paragraph stands out: "The greatest problem now confronting American industry and commerce is that of so called over-production. In reality it is under-consumption that threatens a return of the industrial depression that only seven years ago closed down the mills and factories and threw millions of workers out of employment."

This is not in line with the teachings of Henry George. He clearly showed that land speculation, which prevents the normal development of the world's resources, keeps workers unemployed and consequently makes for UNDER-PRODUCTION. This is the cause of business depressions and what is known as "Hard Times."

Allow me to congratulate you upon your part in the congress. With best wishes for yourself and our cause I am, yours sincerely,

Los Angeles, Calif.

THOMAS A. MEYER.

There is no contradiction between the two statements. The Resolutions allude to the fact that depression is threatened by under-consumption and not by any real over-production, and by this statement seek to point out a current fallacy. Henry George, going further, shows that this under-consumption results from depriving workers of normal access to land. Such access would enable them to increase their production and so consume goods produced by others. The Resolutions say that the consuming power of the people should be increased and point the way to do it.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

THE PRINCIPLES THAT WILL SAVE CIVILIZATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Wishing you every success in your earnest efforts to produce a sane and sensible brand of Civilization. The forces tending in the direction of the utter abandonment of all law and order are indeed "Hydra-headed Monsters" and the longer I live and observe life the more I see that the principles of truth and justice as enunciated by "America's Greatest Son, Henry George," are the chief ones that will tend to keep sanity and freedom uppermost in the present maelstrom of deceit,