

as leader of the great freight handlers' strike. It was to meet August 17, 1887, at Syracuse.*

When the Syracuse convention assembled, it elected me as temporary chairman. This was after a sharp contest, which proved to be the first skirmish in a battle that culminated in what Socialists regard as their expulsion from the United Labor Party. The larger outcome of the battle was the continuous political campaigns which, begun in 1887 by the Socialist Labor Party under the name for that one occasion of the Progressive Labor Party, and continued, at first by the Socialist Labor Party alone, but thereafter by that party and the Socialist Party independently of and in hostility to each other, have marked the rise and progress of party Socialism in American politics. This convention battle was fought out during my chairmanship, and I shall tell the story of it in next week's issue of *The Public*.

*See "The Standard" of July 23 and 30, 1887, and other issues of that year.

BOOKS

THE PROFITLESS TASK OF THE LANDLESS MAN.

Taxation of Land Values in American Cities. The Next Step in Exterminating Poverty. By Benjamin C. Marsh, author of "An Introduction to City Planning." Formerly special agent of the Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charity; Secretary of the Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, the New York City Commission on Congestion of Population, and the New York State Commission on Distribution of Population. Published by the Author, 320 Broadway, New York City.

This is one of the many publications that have spontaneously sprung up in support of Henry George's crusade, now that it has crossed the border from the academic and agitational into the practical field. "To the uncounted millions of workers," writes the author in his dedication, "in the only unpaid occupation in American cities—those who toil from birth till death at their profitless task of creating land values for landowners."

It appears to be his principal object to make housing reformers see the relation between the land question and housing reform. In pursuance of this task he explains the moral sanctions for heavier taxation of land values, and, while meeting the objections to their heavier taxation, deals concretely with the evils of taxing buildings and the social benefits of taxing land values heavily. Eight methods for land value taxation in cities are specifically explained. Assessing buildings lower than lands, imposing a lower rate on buildings and personalty than on land, exempting buildings entirely, exempting buildings which con-

form to a high standard, assessing all public improvements upon benefited lands, excess condemnation of land, taxation of unearned increment of land value, municipal ownership of land.

It is interesting to note that the tax rate on full land values necessary to meet present budgets would be \$3.52 in the \$100 for New York, \$4.88 for Chicago, \$4.11 for Boston, \$2.56 for Kansas City, \$5.55 for Washington, \$2.56 for Omaha, \$1.07 for Los Angeles, and \$4.87 for Milwaukee. This pamphlet is the richest in detail on the subject as a matter of immediate practical interest, that has come to our attention.

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HINTS FOR GARDENERS.

How to Make Home and City Beautiful. By H. D. Hemenway. Published by the author, Northampton, Mass., 1911.

For young and ignorant gardeners Mr. Hemenway has written a hundred pages of exactly what they wish to know. A plan for a vegetable and a flower garden with tables showing when and how to plant, lists of bushes and vines for the doorway, plants good for window-boxes, and sprays bad for pests—all are made more attractive by scores of good pictures.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

PAMPHLETS

"The Modern Physiocrats."

"Los Fisiocratas Modernas" (The Modern Physiocrats) is a collection of articles in pamphlet form on economic subjects written by Mr. Antonio Alben-din, of Ronda, Spain. These articles have all been published in the Spanish papers, especially in the Madrid Herald. Mr. Alben-din possesses the faculty of explaining his subject in a way easily understood, and he is ever alert to make clear the relation of any question of public welfare that is being agitated—such as strikes, the increase of crime, the raising of revenues, the poverty of the masses,—to land value taxation. The "Modern Physiocrats" should be a valuable booklet for propaganda purposes among Spanish-speaking peoples. It is published by the Imprenta Rondena, Ronda, Spain.

C. L. LOGAN.

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"We once had a night clerk who was an Englishman," said a hotel manager. "You know the call lists, the sheets on which are recorded the hours at which guests wish to be awakened in the morning, are made out in rows of 7 a. m., 7:30, 8 and so on. Well, one night a lot of people had left calls for 7:30, when a man came up to the Englishman and said he wanted to be awakened at that hour. The clerk looked down the list and found that all the lines under 7:30 had been filled. He said to the visitor:

"Really, I am very sorry, sir, but we haven't an-