
BOOKS

THE SOCIALISM OF EDMOND KELLY

Twentieth Century Socialism. What it is Not; What it is; How it may Come. By Edmond Kelly, M. A., F. G. S., Late Lecturer on Municipal Government at Columbia University in the City of New York; author of "Government or Human Evolution," etc., etc. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., New York, London, Bombay and Calcutta. Price \$1.75 net.

In his introduction to this posthumous work by one of the distinguished members of the old New York law firm of Coudert Brothers (p. 532), and long their representative at Paris, Professor Giddings of Columbia University describes the author as a man with whom "it was a necessity of his nature to think clearly and coherently," and as having had "a trained legal mind."

Both characterizations are confirmed by the book. The thinking is clear, and it is coherent; and its clearness and coherency is that of the trained legal mind which tends to classify along lines of mere legal distinction. An example of this professional instinct for the artificial discriminations of counting room and law book, one which many of our readers will readily appreciate, may be found at page 123 of the book under consideration. It will be observed that the author here puts land into a category by itself, as "a gift of Nature or God," and water power in another category along with factories! This is precisely the kind of superficial economic thinking, however clear and coherent, which is characteristic of the trained legal mind. Although dealing with natural and not municipal law, such minds, from sheer force of habit, make economic analyses according to the conventional laws of property rights with which their training has familiarized them; whereas economic inquiry demands analysis in accordance with the natural laws of wealth production.

That the able and conscientious author made no mere slip of the pen when he classified water power with factories instead of land, is evident from the fact that he has also put railroads, telegraphs, telephones, tramways, gas, etc., wholly in the same category, though it is evident that the more valuable element in all this kind of property is land monopoly and not produced wealth. Even as to factories, the author similarly overlooks the fact that on the whole the advantage of their owners is greater in the land monopoly—factory sites or railway terminal sites on which they are dependent, or both—than in the buildings and machinery. And although he calls railroads, etc., "natural monopolies" he misses, lawyer like, the fact that "natural monopolies" are such because they rest upon some kind

of land grant—building site; water power; exclusive right of way on or over or under the country side; and the sites of terminals for shipment and delivery.

Mr. Kelly's manuscript was written under the burden of his consciousness of impending death, and he survived the completion of the first draft only two weeks, leaving to the competent hands of Mrs. Florence Kelley and his son the work of editorial revision. An introduction by Rufus W. Weeks, the Christian-socialist, which is supplementary to Prof. Giddings's, makes a concise statement of the socialist movement, a movement which is not the Socialist party, however indicative of and necessary to the movement that party may be, "any more than the cresting billow is the torrent." The movement is described as vastly broader and deeper than any manifestation of it—than any of the "hundred theories appearing here and there," the "thousand organizations springing up," the "million acts of individuals everywhere," inspired by the new born "sense that one cannot himself be healthy or happy unless the race is happy and healthy."

The specifications Mr. Kelly has formulated for the realization of this ideal, call for limitation of the scope of competition. He has described the means with a close approach to architectural particularity.

Notwithstanding the evolutionary spirit of the book, it is doubtful if it will command the approval of most socialists. Yet it would harm none of them to consider it. As to worshippers of things as they are, this message from a man whose working life was closely identified with the interests of their class, can have only a wholesome effect if they read it in the spirit in which it was written.

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SOCIAL WELFARE.

Governmental Action for Social Welfare. By Jeremiah W. Jenks, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Economics and Politics, Cornell University, New York; The Macmillan Company. 1910. Price, \$1.00 net.

A reproduction of the Kennedy Lectures for 1907-08 in the School of Philanthropy of New York. In undertone rather torystic. Superficial in substance, though not because the author is himself superficial, for he is not, but because his subject and audience demand it and his diplomatic training and experience make it instinctive with him. As a monitor for character building, to which however it makes no claim, the book could be dispensed with without loss; but as a guide to practical accomplishment it can be highly recommended. Even less superficial reformers than those of the type the book is especially addressed to, would find a study of it promotive of their efficiency.