

By any help that happens to be hired.
 Who among us cared a rip
 What word tumbles from our lip?
 Each does his work, or otherwise he's fired!

When the trolley poles were sunk,
 Came along this sunny Hunk
 And we hired him on the spot to speed the job.
 He had hands as large as feet—
 Bless my soul, how he could eat!
 And they were a famished lot in that mob.
 He would work the hottest day
 In a swift and tireless way—
 For his muscles were as hard as motor steel.
 He was a dozen men in one—
 Others crept but he would run,
 And some demon seemed a-barking at his heel.

It was "Hunk!" "Come here, you Hunk!"
 At the cut on in the bunk,
 He did something for some one of us all day.
 "Bring me water!" "Here, a rail!"
 "Where's my hammer?" "Fetch a nail!"
 And we gave him but a dollar for his pay.
 Up before the lazy crew,
 When the knock-off whistle blew
 He was helping some imposing one of us.
 Yet he never cursed or shirked
 The extra lick of work,
 But he did the thing without a hitch or fuss.

Once the "Old Man" came along
 And he spied Hunk in the throng.
 But he cursed us with an oath that had a burr,
 Because he chanced to see
 That Hunk did the work of three
 While we treated him as if he were a cur.
 But then the Hunk spoke up,
 As he passed the drinking cup—
 "He like de man he workin' 'foreh hare."
 Hunk could do most anything,
 Dig or shovel, dance or sing—
 The harder worked the less he seemed to care.

Finally the wires were strung,
 Tools across our shoulders flung—
 Paid up—and with coin to last a year;
 Then it was with change of heart,
 Ere each one of us would part,
 We proposed to give the Hunk a rousing cheer.
 But he didn't seem to know
 How we came to like him so,
 And with trembling hand he wiped away a tear.
 "You're a foreign Hunk," we said,
 "But the blood in you is red,
 And you're just the kind of man that's wanted
 here."

JOSEPH LEISER.

† † †

If a lawyer's fee looks enormous, and you can't account for it on usual or reasonable grounds, smell of it. If it doesn't smell right that explains. As smells the fee so will smell to the last of his days the lawyer who took it. Nothing but interment in the ground gets smells of that sort out. "Pecunia non olet" is a much overrated maxim. It does smell; yes, down to the third and fourth generation.—Life.

BOOKS

FREDERIC C. HOWE'S NEW BOOK.

Privilege and Democracy in America. By Frederic C. Howe, Ph. D., author of "The City: the Hope of Democracy," "The British City: the Beginnings of Democracy," etc. New York. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1910. Price \$1.50 net.

In his "City the Hope of Democracy" Senator Howe made an inspiring revelation to such of us as had been thinking of the American city as democracy's graveyard, and now in the larger field of national life he reveals, through "Privilege and Democracy in America," economic conditions and their causes which will be even more surprising to readers who have failed as yet to discern the signs of the times.

Although every paragraph of this book holds the reader's attention while it passes his interest along to the next, it is a literary product of the most matter of fact kind. The whole structure is made up of facts, with only the argument necessary to indicate their bearings and only the rhetoric to make them alive. There is nothing dogmatic in the whole book except what no one out of bedlam could think of denying. It is a straightforward narrative of the large facts of American civilization, from the first "lure of the land" to its ultimate climax in universal land monopoly. "Land monopoly," writes the author, "drove the Puritan from England in the seventeenth century, just as land monopoly drove the Catholic from Ireland two centuries later"; and immigration has "continued at an accelerated pace" until "at last the waves of population have broken on the Pacific slope." Not only does this mark "the end of an era," so far as it affects America, but "it brings to an end twenty centuries of westward migration."

Of the land between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River (of most of which the United States was undisputed owner when the Constitution was adopted), of the Louisiana purchase, of the Florida acquisition, and of the Gadsden purchase, a public domain aggregating 3,000,000 square miles, the author writes that "no such opportunity was ever offered to any people." Had this imperial domain been retained as the common possession of the nation, what might not the America of today have been! "Had the government reserved the title, and leased the land under proper protection for improvements in such quantities and as increasing population required, involuntary poverty need never have appeared among us, while homes for unnumbered millions would still be waiting on the prairies to the west of the Mississippi River." There "would be no landlords and no tenants," and "the tenement and

the slum would never have appeared with the disease, poverty and vice, which they inevitably produce." But this vast heritage has been frittered away.

Yet it is not the improvidence of government regarding those lands that this book especially condemns. "So far as future generations are concerned it is a matter of indifference whether these colossal holdings were obtained by fraud or by honest means," for "monopoly is as oppressive in one instance as in the other." The portentous fact to which the book addresses itself is that however these lands may have been acquired by their owners, "the opportunity to make provision for the future has passed from us as a people."

Senator Howe's penetration is deeper than that of most economists. He sees that landlordism is not dead nor dying, as so many economists and socialists rashly conclude, but that in the guise of capitalism it is more vicious and powerful than ever. The oil trust, the steel trust, the coal trust, the railroad combine, in so far as any of them is invincible, is so "not because of the skill, talent or industry of its promoters, not because of the plants, mills or furnaces which it has erected," but because, in the case of the steel trust for instance, of "its control of the iron-ore mines of the Lake Superior region and of Alabama, Tennessee and Colorado, together with the coking coal, gas and limestone quarries of Pennsylvania," aided by "the prohibitive tariff which the iron and steel interests have obtained" to "make its control complete." In other words, the throttling power of the trusts depends incidentally upon systems of taxation that strangle competition in trade, and primarily upon the monopoly of land, which shuts out access to indispensable opportunities for production.

The author's indictment of land monopoly is made perfectly clear by this book, and he proves his case. Nor does he leave any loophole for Mr. Reader Golightly, who is ever ready to criticise

such a book for complaining of conditions without offering remedies. The remedies proposed are as clearly stated and convincingly proved as the prevalence and dangers of the conditions complained of. They involve "the abolition of the protective tariff," a "free and open highway," and "the socialization of the land."

Freedom is the keynote of this book on political economy, notwithstanding that "the political economist as well as the socialist has confounded the evils of the present industrial system with freedom." For, argues the author, though *laissez faire* is credited with the tenement, the sweatshop, and the excesses of capitalism, yet "freedom, even the *laissez faire* of Quesnay, Turgot, Dupont de Nemours, and the brilliant school of thinkers who laid the foundation for the abolition of the feudal system and the oppressive restraints of mercantilism, is a far different thing from the travesty of industrial liberty which has masqueraded for nearly a century under that name."

The book is one that to the friends of Henry Georgeism will be invaluable, and which their adversaries will have to take into account.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Prince Hagen. By Upton Sinclair. Published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago. 1910. Price, cloth \$1.00. Paper, 25 cents.

—History of the Great American Fortunes. By Gustavus Myers. Vol. II, Great Fortunes from Railroads. Published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago. 1910. Price, \$1.50 postpaid.

—Reconstruction in Texas. By Charles William Ramsdell. Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Number 95. Published by Columbia University, Longmans, Green & Co., Agents, New York. 1910.

—Report of the Joint Special Committee on the Taxation Laws of the State of Rhode Island. Pre-

From Our Correspondence.

AMARILLO, TEX., MARCH 24, 1910.

The Public is passport enough. It was this way: Mr. Woodhead, a scholarly singletaxer from Beaumont, was in this city, and phoned me to meet him at the hotel. I agreed to do so, but had no understanding as to how we would know each other, having never met.

So, happening to have a copy of The Public, I carried it against the lapel of my coat, and proceeded to walk through the crowded lobby. About the fifth man I approached held out his hand and said: "That Public is passport enough; it's Mr. Caldwell."

Again: Some months ago I had occasion to write the editor of a prominent magazine, and incidentally informed him that I was a reader of The Public. The reply was: "Your being a reader of The Public greatly strengthens my confidence," etc., etc. Good company helps wonderfully is all I want to say.

J. L. CALDWELL.