

"compensation would take place in the business world as it does in the physical and the people would act in harmony and there would be neither panics, wars nor rumors of war." Mr. Miller gives no clear-cut definition of what he means by interest, but he evidently regards all interest as a premium for the use of money, making no allowance for the theory of economic interest that it is related to wealth wholly apart from money. A circular quoted in the book, purporting to have emanated in 1893 from "the bankers' association," contains a request to national bankers to create a money stringency. The genuineness of this circular has been so frequently and circumstantially denied that its further use without proof of authenticity is not quite justified.

"Natural Taxation" (New York: Doubleday & McClure) is the appropriate and suggestive title of a little book by Thomas G. Shearman, which has become familiar, since the appearance of the first edition, to students of fiscal questions. The idea that there is a system of taxation that may properly be termed natural, rests upon the theory that government is a natural agent of society, and like all natural agents must have food. Consequently, says Mr. Shearman, "Just as certainly as the existence of the body implies a science of food, the existence of human society implies a science of taxation." In search of this science he first explores the subject of taxation as it has been generally understood and applied, rejecting in turn as unscientific and unjust, all indirect taxation—"crooked," as he calls it,—personal property taxation, and the taxation of landed improvements. But coming to the taxation of land values, he approves that as just, automatic and natural. Mr. Shearman's book is invaluable not only as an adjunct of Henry George's works but also as an original contribution to economic literature, especially with reference to public finance.

"The Lust of Empire" is the title given by the Tucker Publishing Co. (Park Row Building, New York), to Senator Hoar's great speech on the Philippine question, which it issues as a 25-cent number in the Bacon Library series of selections from the current periodical literature of the world. This is a speech which all intelligent citizens will wish to read during the summer, and we know of no better publication in which to find it.

An article by Frederick Verinder originally published in the British cooperative

wholesale societies' "Annual" for 1900, on the subject of "A Just Basis of Taxation," has been reprinted (London: English Land Restoration League), in pamphlet form. Mr. Verinder commends what in this country is known as the single tax especially to the favor of cooperative societies. His pamphlet is well fed with facts and figures illustrative of fiscal matters in England.

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