

tiny the vested interests always succumb; there is no prescriptive right that can withstand the right of a nation to achieve and realize its fullest development, which is the right of the whole as distinguished from the rights of a part."

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AN AMERICAN ANARCHIST.

Josiah Warren, the First American Anarchist. A Sociological Study, by William Baille. Published by Small, Maynard & Co., Boston.

The core of Warren's principle of anarchism, as the author describes it, is that "every one should be free to dispose of his person, his time, his property and his reputation, as he pleases; but always at his own cost." In economics Warren held cost to be the limit of price; and to exemplify this doctrine he opened the "Equity" store in Cincinnati in 1827. The unit of exchange here was the labor hour. All goods being marked at cost price, customers paid this in cash, and gave in addition their notes payable in an equal time of their own labor, for the length of time expended in serving them. There were other features of like character, all exemplifying as fully as possible under the circumstances the principle of service for service. It was a crude and inefficient method of producing the equitable results in exchange which unobstructed competition would produce automatically. Other experiments succeeded this one, some of them being on a much larger scale. There is little trace of them now. But the failure of these experiments proves no more than that Warren's primitive methods were unadaptable to modern conditions. Service for service remains nevertheless the true principle of exchange, and cost is the actual limit of price. When the price of a product exceeds its labor cost, this is because legislative obstructions to exchange operate to enhance labor difficulties. The weakness of Warren's philosophy lay in his attributing monopoly power to money, and in assuming as to land monopoly that it can be abolished by arbitrary regulations of tenure.

PAMPHLETS

Of all conservative publications on the question of public ownership and operation, John H. Gray's pamphlet (Boston), "The Control of Quasi-Public Enterprises," is the best we have seen. Dr. Gray does not advocate municipal ownership, but he is emphatic in declaring that the question is not between "evils of municipal ownership and an ideal situation," and he admits that "attempts at regulation have heretofore proven entirely futile or at least very unsatisfactory." What he insists upon as the absolute condition of public operation instead of public ownership is "complete publicity of the affairs of the privately owned companies." Dr. Gray strikes a true note at the outset in saying: "The growth of wealth, the progress of invention, the consequent growth of our large cities, have changed the whole face of our civilization, and have brought us to realize that, as the mediaeval cities were the nurseries of civilization and liberty in their day, so the life of our own great cities is to furnish the standard by which our whole civilization must be measured."

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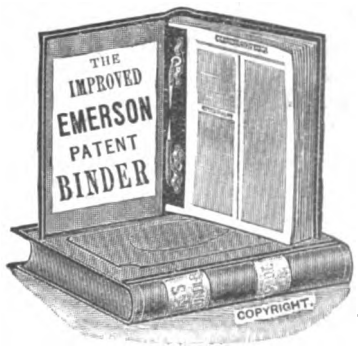
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