

"Every city in the land is built upon a treasure like unto that which underlies the Colorado town whose revenues are all derived from royalties from the mines upon which it is built. The progressive needs of the municipality have a ready-made mine of treasure, a mine which needs only to be opened to satisfy the demands of city expansion without cost to the dwellers therein. This revenue renews itself from year to year. . . . Nowhere does the advance in population, in law and order, in comfort, commerce and the opportunities which the city offers, manifest itself so palpably as in the upward movement of land values, the treasure of the city. . . . No act of the owner creates this value. Nothing which he can do will either increase or diminish it. . . . This municipal treasure, this unearned increment, may now be measured. It is colossal. . . . All other wealth is the product of human labor. This value alone is a surplus value. . . . It is this growing fund, this unearned increment, which exists by virtue of the city and could not exist without it, that offers a ready-made source of revenue for municipal purposes."

Guided by his first principle, that more and not less democracy is the need of the city, Mr. Howe dissects all the general phases of city government and produces a book that will not only enlighten the student and assist the conscientious legislator, but which in fact mirrors a changing social order whose forward motion is but just beginning to be felt. What may be expected can hardly be better expressed than in Mr. Howe's concluding words: "With home rule secured, with popular control obtained, with the city free to determine what activities it will undertake, and what shall be its sources of revenue, then the city will be consciously allied to definite ideals, and the new civilization, which is the hope as well as the problem of democracy, will be open to realization."

CONSTRUCTIVE DEMOCRACY.

Constructive Democracy; the Economics of a Square Deal. By William E. Smythe. New York and London. The Macmillans. Price \$1.50. Sold by the Public Publishing Co., Chicago.

A great deal of good-natured enthusiasm, a deluge of interesting facts, and some economic and political wisdom, but not much construction that is really democratic, characterize this book.

The author is a protectionist who thinks protectionism obsolete, and a socialist who thinks socialism unripe. He therefore proposes, while waiting for socialism to perform the feat of making monopoly democratic, to tame monopoly by statutory regulation.

For taming railroad monopoly he advocates the Senator Newland propo-

sition of a consolidation of railroad systems under the direction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which shall regulate the rates thereof and the taxes thereon, the latter to be a percentage of gross receipts in lieu of all other taxation. He advocates this method as a step toward government ownership.

For taming the trusts, he proposes national control of corporations engaged in inter-State commerce; "fixed taxes, preferably on gross receipts; fixed dividends on present valuation; and the retention by society of the increased earnings and values to arise in the future, such increase to be applied to better service, higher wages, lower prices."

The author's protectionism pursues him through his pages, obsolete though he declares it to be. For he would have the United States conquer the markets of the world by underselling, and yet would have us import no foreign goods. Whether he is expecting us to reduce our prices on goods abroad to zero, to take foreign land grants in payment, to run up a fabulous export balance in our trade statistics, or to get our pay as Mr. McKinley said we were getting it, in "pure gold," he does not explain.

His discussion of the "surplus man" is interesting, but his remedy is not very reassuring. "For every surplus man," he says, "there is a surplus place;" and his problem is simply "to find the surplus place." In his search for this he excites hopes of his having something both practical and effective in his mind, when he observes that "while a new man comes into the world every minute, not a single new acre of land will be created in ages." This should suggest the advisability of doing something to free the millions upon millions of acres, in farming regions, mineral regions and cities, now held in the grasp of monopoly. Here there might soon be an abundance of surplus places for surplus men. But no. It never occurs to him to release these forestalled acres. He is so enamored of monopoly that the idea of abolishing it gets no lodgment in his mind. Yet he does appreciate the value of the irrigation policy in delivering "future millions from the yoke of water monopoly." But he does not appreciate it sufficiently to realize that there will be no substantial relief from that monopoly for anybody but desert land owners. It will not permanently increase wages.

THE INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM.

The Industrial Problem. Being the William Levi Bull Lectures for the Year 1905. By Lyman Abbott. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co.

Like rich fruit cake, Lyman Abbott's writings are usually a delight-

ful mess of good things, and his recent lectures on the industrial problem are no exception. They overflow with facts, historical and contemporary, all daintily handled with the lightest of light literary touches. You could read them by the hour without weariness. But not one controlling principle, the same yesterday, to-day and forever, reveals its presence if any is present. There is so little regard for the relationship and influences of natural law, such amazing heterogeneity, that the lectures would be exasperating if the heterogeneity were not kaleidoscopically beautiful.

These lectures were delivered before the Philadelphia Divinity School under an endowment by the Rev. William L. Bull of a Lectureship on Christian Sociology. They are four in number: The Industrial Problem; The Political Solution, Regulation; The Economic Solution, Reorganization; and the Ethical Solution, Regeneration. Although Dr. Abbott disclaims socialism, his philosophy as indicated by these lectures, so far as any consistent philosophy can be inferred, is essentially that of scientific socialism plus an infusion of Christian ethics.

THE LAW OF NON-RESISTANCE.

The Freedom of Life. By Annie Payson Call. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. Price, \$1.25 net; postpaid, \$1.35.

Few there are who have not on one occasion or another felt the clarifying and compelling power of non-resistance; but the law of this wonderful force is hardly recognized by most of us, though we may have observed and experienced its magical effects. That there is such a law, as immutable as

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First National Bank Building, Chicago