

have earnestly studied social and economic questions, and have long ago concluded that the slavery of children exists because of the industrial slavery of their parents.

The march of invention has long since made unnecessary a condition so unnatural. That ten millions of people in the United States should be condemned to poverty and millions more to the fear of poverty is a social crime. It exists because we support laws which deny the equal right of all to the use of the earth. We make private property of the great storehouse of nature—the coal fields, mineral deposits, timber lands, the rich plains and fertile valleys, which, manifestly, are for all the children of men. We give to individuals and corporations immense values which belong to the people collectively and then rob industry for the support of government. We grant privileges to respectable grafters who dictate the teachings of our public instructors, so that when Political Economy dares to make clear the simplest of truths which run counter to vested wrongs, it is gagged by those who imagine they profit by this injustice.

If a man who earns his living by catching fish has five out of every six taken from him by force, fraud or cunning, he will be forced to put his children to work when they ought to be at school and is likely to become debased and embruted. Is not this true of labor to day? Even our conservative experts tell us that labor only gets one-sixth of the wealth it produces.

So long as labor and productive capital are robbed by privilege, special laws may keep children out of factories, but the children will then be driven to beg, to steal, or to starve."

DEATH OF PREMIER SEDDON.

The death of Premier Seddon, of New Zealand, is a distinct loss to the progressive movement of that great forward colony. The advances that New Zealand has made are due in no small measure to the liberal open mind of the late premier. Under his leadership nearly 60 municipalities have adopted the land value tax for local revenues, and this approach to the Single Tax has so approved itself in practice that no backward step now seems possible.

He was hospitable to new reforms, and New Zealand has embarked upon other experiments in government which the Premier and the enlightened officials of his administration did not regard themselves as justified in opposing. Some of these may perhaps be abandoned; others will stand the test of time. But this is the value of Democracy, that it must learn by experience, and it is to the honor of Premier Seddon that as the people gave evidence of a desire to test new theories of taxation and administration no stupid conservation of an obstructive government was allowed to interpose.

BOOK REVIEWS.

LEO TOLSTOY.

This is the first volume, to be followed by two others, which recount the life and work of the great Russian, "Compiled by Paul Birukoff and Revised by Leo Tolstoy." This volume deals with his childhood and early manhood. Wherever possible the biographer has allowed Tolstoy to tell his own story—it is thus largely autobiographical, and will remain for long the authoritative repository of the main incidents in the life as well as the intellectual growth of the Russian novelist and prophet—perhaps the greatest moralist of his time, certainly one of the greatest moralists of all time.

There are many books from the perusal of which one may rise wiser; this is one of the few which makes us morally and spiritually better. We are admitted to the intimacy of one whose superiority even in his early manhood to those around him—to the aims and ideas of the civilization in which he moved—is immediately manifest. We become aware of how much that even the world agrees to call greatness is really in essence moral—spiritual, if you will. A symmetrical body of doctrine is not essential to this greatness; doubtless flaws may be found in Tolstoy's philosophy, as in that of Buddha, or Mohammed, or Swedenborg. But we feel that we are in the presence of one whose sense of nearness to the infinite and whose boundless and embracing love for humanity permit him to look pityingly upon all its crimes and sordid follies, and set him apart from his fellows.

It is of value to our movement that this man has recognized the truth we stand for. Maybe he does not apprehend it in its fullness and breadth. This seems to be indicated in the importance he attaches to questions whose solution is really involved in the adoption of our principles. He is too much given, it may be, to attacking forms of privilege when he might apply the axe to the props which give to the whole system of privilege its stability. But the value of his endorsement, his admiration of Henry George, and his brave words against landlordism, have immense weight, nevertheless.

This volume does not bring Tolstoy's life down to the date of its final awakening. We find him still involved in habits of thought and conduct which left him much to regret. He still gambled, and showed on more than one occasion the petulance and violence of his disposition. His quarrel with Tourgenef, which came almost to the verge of a duel, which, in the then temper of Tolstoy, might have resulted fatally to

Leo Tolstoy. His Life and Work. Vol. 1. Childhood and Early Manhood. 8vo. 370 pp. Price \$1.50 net. Charles Scribner Sons, New York.