

THE A. B. C. OF TAXATION.

Mr. Fillebrown's A. B. C. of Taxation, advertised in the back pages of this issue of the REVIEW, continues to interest the world of economic thought. In the May-June issue of the REVIEW this book was reviewed at length and its value to our cause set forth. In other quarters the book is still receiving hospitable notice. In the *Economic Bulletin* published quarterly by the American Economic Association, Prof. Carl C. Plehn reviews the work in kindly spirit, and says of the style of these essays that "while different, it is in its way as brilliant as that of Progress and Poverty."

In the *Ecclesiastical Review*, for Sept., Rev. John A. Ryan of the St. Paul, Minn. Seminary, makes it the subject of a thoughtful article. This magazine is one of the foremost Catholic organs, and we therefore quote the following for the edification of some of our Catholic friends (note other page for reply to the *Catholic Columbian-Record*):

"The last named division of Mr. Fillebrown's book comprises the Italian text and an English translation of the document in which Dr. McGlynn placed before Monsignor Satolli his views on the Single Tax and the private ownership of land. It will be remembered that this statement was accepted by four professors of the Catholic University as containing nothing contrary to Catholic doctrine, and that this decision was at least *implicitly* approved by Satolli when he reinstated the author of the document. Whatever may be said of the degree of *explicit* approval given by the Apostolic Delegate, the significant and decisive aspect of his action is that he must have been satisfied in his own mind and conscience as to the soundness of the professors' judgment."

A two column article in review of Mr. Fillebrown's work in the *Middleton Guardian*, England, has this to say: "Until some one does for this country what Mr. Fillebrown has done in this book it would be well for social reformers to make this book as widely known as possible on this side of the water."

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DESTRUCTION OF THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION AS PROVIDING FOR KINGS AND LORDS PREDICTED A HALF CENTURY AGO.

How can the division of the advantages of the natural earth be effected?

By the division of its annual value or rent; that is, by making the rent of the soil the common property of the nation. That is (as taxation is the common property of the state), by taking the whole of taxes out of the rent of the soil, and thereby abolishing all other kinds of taxation whatever. And thus all industry would be absolutely emancipated from every burden, and every man would reap such natural rewards as his skill, industry, or enterprise rendered legitimately his, according to the law of free competition. This we maintain is the only theory that will satisfy the requirements of the problem of natural property.

But what is man's final termination with regard to the other great substantive of politics, property?

Here we approach a subject that, in the course of a few years (in all probability), will be the great element of strife and contention. Here is the rock on which England's famous constitution of King, Lords and Commons will suffer its final shipwreck. Such an assertion is, of course, at present a mere opinion; but if the scheme we have advanced be in the main correct, then we do not hesitate to affirm, that if we continue that scheme into the future, we may see that THE QUESTION OF LANDED PROPERTY WILL BE THE CAUSE OF A STUPENDOUS STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE ARISTOCRACY AND THE LABOR-OCRACY OF BRITAIN, AND THAT ITS FINAL SETTLEMENT WILL ENTAIL THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CONSTITUTION. And the question lies in narrow bounds, all that is required being an answer to a question virtually the following:—"Is the population to be starved, pauperized and extirpated, or is the aristocracy to be destroyed?" For ourselves, we have not the slightest hesitation in predicting the final result.—Patrick Edward Dove, 1850.