

the ear is broken to the hope. So far as new illumination is forthcoming we confess to a feeling of disappointment.

Nevertheless, the book is not uninteresting. No doubt the story will attract many, and in reading it they will learn that the author advocates a new form of land tenure and that this is really the Single Tax. The arguments are the familiar ones, after all. Only the terminology is new.

J. D. M.

PRIVILEGE VS. DEMOCRACY.

Privilege vs. Democracy (Circular No. 1. of the Committee to Inquire into the Status of Democracy) contains the remarkable article of President Arthur T. Hadley on "The Constitutional Position of Property in America," and an article of which Prof. Hadley's is the text, by Delos F. Wilcox, whose name will be familiar to Single Taxers, on "The Issue Beyond Politics."

President Hadley's article is a revelation to those who have given but scant attention to the fundamental law respecting property. This law proceeds from the Dartmouth Case decision in which it was held that a charter has the force of an irrevocable contract, and the Fourteenth Amendment by which different persons may not be unequally treated, a provision the application of which to railroad and industrial corporation property was not foreseen. President Hadley says: "A corporation, therefore, under the law of the United States, is entitled to the same immunities as any other person; and, since the charter creating it is a contract, whose obligation cannot be impaired by the one-sided act of the legislature, its constitutional position as a property holder is much stronger than anywhere in Europe."

When in 1882 the Southern Pacific Railroad Company conceived itself unfairly taxed in a certain county in California it contended that this attempt to tax the property of a corporation at a different rate from that under which similar property of an individual was taxed was in effect a violation of the Fourteenth

Amendment, and this view the Federal Court upheld.

Single Taxers will be interested in this statement of the legal status of property. It may have wide bearing on the future of our contest. Mr. Wilcox makes this significant comment:

"President Hadley is not a recognized 'radical.' We can only accept with astonishment his analysis of the facts. It would be idle to question so high an authority. We can but wonder whether J. Pierpont Morgan, as he received from President Hadley's hand the highest honorary degree within the gift of an American university at the Yale commencement this year, was aware of the momentous revelations which had been so recently made by the man before him."

REV. Dr. Ellis E. Roberson, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Passaic, N. J. recently preached a sermon on "The Social Anarchy." This sermon, though in general terms, was sound doctrine. The Passaic *Daily News* in an editorial comment on the sermon said:

"Whether or not the George theory will ever be carried out is, of course, problematical. In New Zealand, and, to a lesser extent, in Australia, they have done something along these lines, and just now the United Kingdom is convulsed by the "thin entering wedge of the Single Tax," as Lloyd-George's land tax program is freely characterized. This is a subject which is more than timely. It is being discussed everywhere and the growth of the sentiment in favor of the George plan of fiscal reform has been remarkable. Ten years ago the Single Taxers were denounced as Socialists and infidels. Now many serious men are looking to the Single Tax to ward off Socialism and to save the country from infidelity."

AN admirable letter from Thomas Ferguson of the Manhattan Single Tax Club occupies two columns in the May issue of *The Bricklayer and Mason*. Other letters are promised from the same writer.