

In clearer terms Mr. McLean says: "The dictum of God's Fatherhood cannot be disassociated from the brotherhood of man. And this concept of racial fraternalism cannot be realized while inequality of human rights is tolerated in any line of thought or action."

To bring this truth home to laymen and ministers of the gospel who deplore the decline of religious faith as well as all others who blindly grope for an answer to the contradictions presented by the doctrine of a divinely ordained universe of law on one hand and a social and economic system on the other in which everything is involved in cruelty, poverty and disorder, is the message of this work. The message is reinforced by abundant quotations from well known writers and publicists who see these contradictions and who seek, most of them in vain, for an explanation.

We shall not anticipate the pleasure awaiting the reader of this book by lengthy citations. We must content ourself with the following which is a summary, in a way, of the author's purpose in his appeal to religious teachers:

"I refuse to believe that the Church has abdicated its office as the center of moral authority, but I do contend that its power is waning by reason of its failure to cooperate with those reform elements of the community who have made a really scientific diagnosis of our social disease and who propose remedial measures that will bear analysis by even the clergy."

We think this work is bound to do much good and we bespeak for it a wide circulation. Its style is one of directness and simplicity. Mr. McLean is a practised writer and the clearness and lucidity of his English are the result of long experience in the art of putting his thoughts on paper. The reader will find no difficulty in following the arguments.

There is not much that is new to the man or woman who is conversant with our doctrines and their application, but it is not to this class of readers that the work is directed. It is intended for propaganda, and as such seems to us for those to whom it is addressed a singularly effective piece of literature.

The work appropriately concludes with a quotation from James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club:

"Could any injustice be greater than the law that despoils one part of humanity of their rights to the face of the earth and the natural bounties stored under the earth. When society thus degrades and despoils industry, when it thus makes unemployment and brings want to the home, is it any wonder that men are driven to steal, and that women. . . ? So long as we continue this tremendous injustice we may rend heaven with our prayers, we may erect monumental cathedrals, we may spread our missions from Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand, but we cannot have the Kingdom of God."

—J. D. M.

#### LANDMARKS OF A LIFETIME

This is a belated review of a book which appeared many years ago, fourteen to be exact, but which has just been brought to our notice and which should have had more publicity at the time of its publication.

On June 23, 1827, just one hundred years ago, Dorcas Helen Hayden was born in Wyoming. She was later Mrs. Dorcas Helen Ingham, and mother of Lona Ingham Robinson.

Here are her collected poems, some written when she was eleven years of age and others when she was 85, a span of nearly seventy-five years! It is a volume of 276 pages, neatly bound, and printed by Luke North for Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson in 1914.

We like these verses. They are instinct with a gentle philosophy, they are radical in their outlook upon life, and they are rhythmically well turned. Some are of suprising vigor of expression. There is a poem to Augustin Duganne, one of the poets of the middle century who saw the land question more clearly than it was seen by his more highly gifted contemporaries in poetry.

"And there was the cherished name  
Of my girlhood's lyric poet."

she sings, and this poem to one who was among the world's rebels is

instinct with her love for Duganne and the themes that animated his song.

There are some fine verses to Tom L. Johnson which have lines of real distinction. There are verses to Tolstoy on his death which have a rhythmic swing and there is a poem to Henry George. From this last we quote one stanza as typical of the rest:

"For those who have followed his trend,  
Have been to him brother and friend,  
Who faithfully met at the end  
The trust he had left to their keeping,  
Not on one may his mantle fall,  
But solemnly consecrate all;  
As watchmen at midnight they call  
To a land still sodden and sleeping."

There are poems on the Boer War and on our own little war in the Phillipines. Here are eight lines to Cronje when there was talk of exiling him to Saint Helena:

"There are those who deem it a shame  
That loyal Cronje's humble name  
Should stand by his whose olden fame  
Rings through the world's arena.  
Not till we try by truer test  
Than surface thought has ever guessed  
May we decide which honored best  
The prison of Saint Helena."

In this book we move in an atmosphere of quiet culture and make the acquaintance of a fragrant and gentle personality. The poetry in the volume is not great poetry, but it is satisfying verse and will appeal by reason of its sanity, its simple faith in justice, its acceptance of the full gospel of freedom, and its music, which, though in a minor key, is grateful to the ear.

Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson has a few copies of these poems of her mother which she will send for 75 cents, postpaid. Her address is 332 N. Maryland Avenue, Glendale, California.

—J. D. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### GREAT STUFF!

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Let no man think that Los Angeles is not just as funny as any other city that is trying to stand on its head. Municipal life here is just one great big expensive joke after another. A few years ago we said: "Go to, now, let us build us a library." So the boosters boosted and the "owners" of the site shoved up the price until there was hardly enough to buy a few sticks of library furniture. A little later we said: "Again go to, let us build us a Hall of Justice," and the boosters boosted and the voters voted and the "owners" of the site shoved up the price and busted the budget. And a third time we said: "Go to now, let us build us a City Hall" and the boosters boosted and the voters and site "owners" all did their stuff (especially the site owners) inasmuch as our kids and their kids unto the third and fourth generation will pay taxes all their lives to the alleged owners for sites that their great-grand daddies owned already. Great stuff!

Los Angeles, Calif.

A. J. SAMMIS.

### FARMERS AND LAND VALUATIONS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:—

It is true enough that wherever it is proposed to draw more fully by taxation upon the annual rental of lands farmers should be informed how changes may affect their interests, but they are entitled to more sensible, sound and practicable suggestions than those contained in the article "Let the Farmers Themselves Answer," printed in your May-June issue.

It is to me shocking that such an article was written by Professor Harry Gunnison Brown, a teacher of "economics" at a state university,

who has compiled significant paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty" and in other ways showed evidence of being both informed upon and sympathetic with the Henry George philosophy. The publication of this article in LAND AND FREEDOM without editorial reservation or cautionary comment is to me not explicable.

There is nothing novel in the italicized phrases in the article, regarding fertilization and taxable land values. More than thirty years ago Thomas G. Shearman, in "Natural Taxation," wrote that, as a matter of course, no assessments should be made upon such transient cause of value. In that book, it may be noted, the author concludes that bare land selling values of cultivated farms would, under a Single Tax system, be assessable at or nearly at 40 per cent. of the total valuation of such farm properties. Since that book was written there has been an enormous increase in the building and maintaining of the county and state highways, surely increasing farm land values, very probably out of proportion to increase in value of farm land improvements.

Professor Brown does our programme of taking all or an increasingly large part of land rental value for public purposes no service by explaining that the bare land value of a farm should be arrived at, not by estimating market value regardless of improvements, but by first valuing improvements and then subtracting this value from the total value of the property. This method is no more applicable to country than to city land.

The Professor is even less to be commended upon his attempt to show farmers how to calculate or estimate economic rent. In fact his endeavor to point out a relation between economic rent and income is ludicrous. A farmer's income is not dependent upon or necessarily related to economic rent. Economic rent is often a potentiality rather than a reality, and it can be estimated in the simplest and most practical way by market value regardless of profitable or unprofitable use or any use at all. If farmers are to pay in taxation "only their economic rent if and when they receive any," to use the Professor's own language, regardless of the value of their land holding privilege, a most fantastic and unworkable programme is before us.

A word must be said here about Professor Brown's contention that "the economic rent of valuable city land, which is due largely to the development and trade of the surrounding country, should be taken in taxation and used for the benefit of all." This is not so, and there is no agency except the United States government itself which could undertake such a work. Some states have more valuable city lands than others, and some states contain cities bordering upon other states where land values may be affected by the development and trade of the country over the border line. Courts, schools and jails, and, to some extent, roads, may well be financed or partly financed out of the funds of central authorities, gathered more from city than country districts. Nothing further can be expected. Cities need great revenues, and there is no reason why we should talk of taking the rental of city lands and spending them "for the benefit of all."

Long Branch, N. J.

GEORGE WHITE.

#### HARRY WILLOCK TELLS US OF HIS TRIP.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:—

Travelled from New York to California by water via Panama, stopping at ports in Columbia, Panama, Nicaragua, Salvador, and Guatemala, and from California to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Java, Singapore, Manila, Hong Kong, Canton, Shanghai and Japan. Back to United States via Honolulu.

As you might expect I was more interested in observing social and economic conditions than the usual tourists "sights." I only came in contact with Single Tax groups in Los Angeles, New Zealand and Australia as I knew of none in other places. In Los Angeles I renewed acquaintance with Stoughton Cooley, George Briggs and others and met a number of new faces.

In Auckland I met George Fowlds and his son, and in Wellington, Hon. P. J. O'Regan. Wellington, as your readers know, exempts all improvements from taxation, largely through his efforts.

In Sydney A. J. Huie is the active head of the group working there and gives his entire time toward maintaining an office and keeping up a monthly paper and well organized speaking campaigns in city and country. Hon. A. J. Firth, mayor of Strathfield, a 40,000 population Borough of Sydney, is a valued member of the Single Tax group here.

In Melbourne the Single Taxers have excellent headquarters, and they gathered at luncheon to meet me. Dr. Paul G. Dane is president of the organization here, and R. E. Powell is an active member. In Adelaide the group command the active and full time services of E. J. Craigie, whom I unfortunately did not meet as he was out on one of his speaking tours. I was treated very hospitably by the president, A. Chappel, and other members of the group. I also met Sam Lindsay, of Thevanard, South Australia, an unusually vigorous man who gives the work much time, driving through the country in his own vehicle selling goods and holding meetings. He is a forcible speaker, and has spent years at this work.

Notwithstanding all this agitation Australia has much to learn. The American tariff is bad enough, but the momentum of 120,000,000 people in a comparatively new country is for the time being able to overcome the disadvantages and burdens entailed, but the Australian tariff is far worse in a country with only six million people. Unfortunately, Australians think America is great because of her tariff and they therefore think that a still greater tariff will be good for them. Their innumerable labor laws and labor restrictions, together with the tariff conditions, are strangling industry on every front. Practically every foot of land except desert land is in private hands and Australia has nothing to offer its new immigrants.

Exempting improvements from local taxation in Australia does not mean very high taxes on land as the local governments have little to care for beside streets. Sydney with complete exemption of improvements, only pays about 1 per cent. on land while Pittsburgh with 50 per cent. exemption of improvements pays about 4 per cent. on land. Australia's real fight is on the tariff which is 50 per cent. of total Federal taxes, and an income tax which is 20 per cent. of Federal and over 50 per cent. of State taxes.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

HARRY H. WILLOCK.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

OUR valued correspondent, J. O'Donnell Derrick, Scottish correspondent of the *Irish Weekly*, signs many of his communications "Boothagh-Aughagower." That pen name represents two Irish districts where his father and mother were born, (his mother one of the old O'Donnell clan) and both suffered from Irish landlordism. In the Glasgow press he was once asked the meaning of the names. He replied Aughagower is a place in Western Ireland where in St. Patrick's time the people herded goats and a descendant of a native of that district has spent his life in Scotland trying to herd people into thinking aright on social and labor problems, consequently from the standpoint of Henry George.

C. H. BAILDON, of Ludlowville, N. Y., writes: "The May-June number of LAND AND FREEDOM is good all through. Professor Brown's article should have a wide circulation among the farmers. It ought to wake up a few of them."

WE regret to learn of the death of Oliver P. Hyde, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 12. He was 69 years of age and was born in Groton, N. Y., in 1858. He organized a Single Tax Club in Marietta, Ohio, and for a time maintained a lecture bureau from that place. He became a Single Taxer back in the '80's and contributed generously to the cause. On his visits to New York he always called at the Manhattan Single Tax Club. It was during one of his recent visits to New York that he was taken ill and on his return to Tulsa died two weeks later