

the money from a tax upon the value of land located around the various projects; second, he would confine land payments to condemnation,—if possible, by a special court or commission; three, his housing,—detached houses,—should be poured concrete, as originally conceived by Thomas A. Edison; this is the only way of making houses "en masse" of first class quality, indestructable, weatherproof, and cheap; this would be "manufacturing" houses, mostly by common labor, and with cheap material; if the President started this, it never would stop.

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The Parent-Teacher Association of the country has grown from less than 200,000 in 1920 to close to 2,000,000 now. There is a job cut out for these parents; their children are being saturated with socialism or communism; this is because American text books do not teach the master science of political economy; so it is quite natural that this middle European doctrine of Karl Marx should have crept in; it is aimed to destroy capital and the profit system, on the theory that it exploits the people; but it is monopoly that exploits the people.

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Yesterday six young men from the sidewalks of Brooklyn, stood before Judge Brancato, and were all sentenced to the chair for one murder of a subway ticket agent that netted them \$245.05; and today they are in Sing Sing sentenced to die June 22; and I submit that as great as is the disgrace of these young men, ours is a greater disgrace, in being willing to murder them in cold blood; and without any such excuse of poverty and of bad early training through poverty, as they had. The system of capital punishment should be destroyed. Then we should start rebuilding the system that makes crime and stealing more attractive and easier than normal life and earning.

FAY CAPPEL, Office Secretary.

BOOK REVIEWS

PROSPERITY A TIMELY BOOK

Cloth bound. Price \$1.50. Christopher Pub. Co., Boston, Mass.

A new and timely book by Henry Ware Allen, Wichita's celebrated contributor to country-wide newspapers, zealous advocate of the philosophies of Henry George, especially George's panacea, the "Single Tax," is just from the press of the Christopher Publishing Co., Boston. I have donated my copy of the book to the Wichita City Library, a practice I have long followed with the books I like best so that others may enjoy them, instead of hoarding them at home.

Mr. Allen gives a vivid, understandable picture of permanent prosperity as an accomplished fact in the year 2000 A.D.; draws the curtain and unfolds the story of its achievement, step by step, movie picture-like, under the Henry George Single Tax system. The story is told through the medium of a grandfather, Justin Waterson, aged eighty-five, a retired Chicago merchant, in conversations with his interested and inquiring grandson, Charles Waterson, aged seventeen.

The book is a sort of an Edward Bellamy "Looking Backward" way of treating the contrast between the depression and aftermaths of the present days with the orderly and happy situation under the established Single Tax system in full sway in the year 2000. The book of Bellamy (1850-1898) contrasted the boom days debacle of 1887-1889 with his idea of a socialistic state in the year 2000. It was published in 1889 in the days of the rise of Populism, and met with a big sale. This book was seized upon by the Socialists and Populists as the gospel of their new credo, and was widely influential in the big vote polled by the radicals of the time. I remember reading it and remember hearing Bellamy speak in Wichita then. "Coin" Harvey's "Coin's Financial School," illustrated by pictures of a young

man teacher, a sort of defed youth, with blackboard figures, teaching the wise and learned and convincing them of the errors in the existing monetary system, was another chimerical evangel in the craze of those Populistic, Bryanistic days.

In Allen's book, grandfather Waterson was a young student of public affairs in 1929-1935 and was able to tell his grandson from personal experience of the greatest of depressions, intensified and prolonged by the legerdemain which Mr. Hoover called the leaping white rabbits; by the bootstrap-lifting, wasteful and ineffectual efforts of the national administration to dam the eternal flowing stream of natural forces. The grandson expresses the greatest amazement, hardly able to believe that there could have been such times in contrast with the happy situation of affairs in Chicago sixty-five years later, all brought about by the political economy philosophies and Single Tax system of Henry George.

Allen's book is the antithesis of the utopias of Plato's Republic, Plutarch's utopian Sparta under the days of Lycurgus, Sir Thomas More's "Utopia," published in 1516, Bacon's "Atlantis," and other noted utopias. More's "Utopia," was an imaginary island under an idealized, impossible social regime, and like all others, totally disregards the realities of human nature in the equation. More (1478-1535) was a member of the British House of Commons, afterwards Chancellor and while in that office he was beheaded as a traitor because he refused to take the oath required by Henry VIII to "renounce all foreign potentates," meaning of course the Pope.

More put the word utopia in the dictionary, coined it from Gr. ou, not, plus topos, a place, meaning no place, no where. The name was not appropriate to the More utopia. It negatived the possible reality of his dream. It might as well have been "Never-never-land." As an antonym Allen's "Prosperity," might have been well named "Antiutopia," also from Gr. anti, oppose, topos, a place—an actuality, a possible some place, somewhere, a State such as he pictures in his book based upon the eternal truths of reality and natural forces, the forces, which, when scientifically met, faced and utilized may be turned into blessings and happiness along the lines of least resistance. The More-Bellamy idea in the face of realities is to buck the young calf idea, the more the rope hurts the more the calf pulls back, and the more it pulls the tighter the noose and the more it hurts, ad infinitum.

In addition to the main purpose of Allen's book, the furthering of an interest in and understanding of Henry George's Single Tax, another fine and timely feature of his book is the prominence he gives to the philosophies of the historically classic writers on political economy, especially of Adam Smith (1723-1790), who published his "Wealth of Nations" in 1776, and to Henry Thomas Buckle (1821-1862), historian, whose "History of Civilization" appeared in 1857. The Buckle history covered eleven centuries of the progress of civilization. Buckle said that the "Wealth of Nations" was the most important book to civilization ever written.

Buckle sought to make of history an exact science, maintaining that the progress of civilization was influenced by climate, soil, food and the character of a people formed by the mutabilities of nature. He maintained that skepticism was the true source of intellectual progress; that the retarding force was credulity; and that the excessive protection and regulatory projects of governments, the nobility, the Church, and other agencies over the people, had dwarfed and retarded the spirit of freedom and civilization. To him, evidences of these processes instead of a mere recital of the glamor of royalty, rulers, politicians, and of wars, were data for an exact science of history.

Adam Smith was a delusion debunker. One of his debunking instances was, his denial of the classic claim that the way to enrich a nation was at the expense of other nations by means of the "favorable balance of trade," the belief in which originated early in the 16th century. The "favorable balance" was the excess in cash received for exports above the cash paid for imports. The process was encouraged on exports by bounties, and discouraged on imports by protective tariffs. Smith said the process worked just the opposite

way from that intended; that it was the excess in value of imports above the value of exports which was the true criterion of the gain. And that centuries-old belief seems still to persist to the present day.

Allen's style is in the class of clarity, simplicity and charm of a Henry David Thoreau, a Ralph Waldo Emerson, a Herbert Spencer, an Adam Smith, a Buckle and a Henry George, who each had a natural aptitude for comprehension of universal truths, and a natural genius for picturing them, irresistibly to the imaginations of others; and each in a class of realists whose passion for truth knew no delusionary limitations, either in conception of truths or in clarity of expression.

Allen's book is an index to the Smith, Buckle, George line of classical thought on political economy, uninfluenced by political expediency, and his book should prove a stimulant to the revival of the reading of this class of important literature. It has inspired me to a re-reading of George's "Progress and Poverty," his "Protection or Free Trade," and his crowning achievement, the Single Tax. And since reading Allen's book I have read Buckle, and am now reading Adam Smith. Never read either before. I have always been a believer in the merits of Henry George's idea of free trade and in his Single Tax system.

And so I regard Henry Ware Allen's "Prosperity" as a timely book in these days of political atavism and reversion to the insanity of historical millstones in the orderly progress of American civilization.

DEAN GORDON.

BOLTON HALL SAYS OF THE BOOK:

Henry Ware Allen's book, "Prosperity," is interesting. He has done a service in making something that is easy reading and yet contains the corpus of the Henry George theory and especially in putting into common form the best of Ernest Crosby's "Earth for All" calendar. The make-up of the book is itself attractive.

We want to add our word of appreciation in welcoming Henry Ware Allen's book which is published by the Christopher Publishing Company of Boston. It can be had at \$1.50. Letters of commendation are pouring in, which we shall print in some future issue.

The book will be reviewed by Victor Murdock for his paper, the *Wichita Eagle*. Mr. Murdock was in Congress with Henry George, Jr. and the latter presented him with a complete set of his father's works.—J. D. M.

POEMS BY FRANK STEPHENS

A volume that Single Taxers and all idealists will cherish is "Some Songs" by Frank Stephens published by the Arden Press, at Arden, Delaware, the Single Tax colony of which Mr. Stephens was one of the founders.

It is neatly bound and in its 135 pages are tributes to the author from M. E. Crocker, Grace Isabel Colbron, Harold Sudell, Oswald Garrison Villard, Scott Nearing, Bolton Hall, Samuel Danziger, Harry Weinberger, and others whose names are not so familiar to our readers.

There are many poems gathered together here, not all equally good in execution, but strong, vibrant, and instinct with a hopeful humanity.

In "Some Lighter Songs and Jingles," he exhibits a real sense of humor, and a lightness of touch in marked contrast to the seriousness that has gone before.

One of the astonishing things about Frank Stephens was the multiplicity of his gifts. He was artist, sculptor, actor, architect, artisan, poet and orator.

He had the gift to sway an audience with the magic of his speech. His mind was saturated with the best in literature, his references were singularly apposite and his choice of words felicitous.

Of Stephens it might be said as Heine, with proud humility, said of himself, "I was a brave soldier in the war for human freedom."

We should like to cite some of these poems for special mention.

One, "Little Clothilde," deserves immortality and it is difficult to read it without tears.

The book can be had of the Arden Press for \$1.50 postpaid.

J. D. M.

A BOOK FROM THE CHAPLAIN OF THE OHIO SENATE

"American Patriotic Devotions," is the title of a book of 432 pages by Rev. E. Stacy Matheny. It is published by the Association Press of 347 Madison Avenue, New York City.

It seems rather churlish to dismiss with a few words of commendation a book so extraordinarily full of interesting historical information and so animated by the spirit of freedom and fine religious and racial toleration.

The early history of the colonies is told and the struggle for freedom of thought and worship reviewed in detail. Some interesting and little known facts are given regarding religious and racial discrimination and these reveal a wide range of reading. Scattered through the work are a number of prayers which because of the fine spirit that informs them are far from unwelcome intrusions.

Quotations in support of the fundamental laws it teaches are culled from the Bible, the Saint James and Douay version, the Talmud and even Mary Baker Eddy. All are made to contribute some vital thought to its pages. Red Jacket is given three pages for a quite startling appeal for religious unity. This great Indian tells his audience that they have been teaching religion to the white race and he promises with subtle irony to await its effects and whether it will make them less disposed to cheat the Indians!

We find many little known facts. Here is the remarkable speech of the Reverend Chas. C. Pise who was, on motion of Henry Clay, elected chaplain of the U. S. Senate in 1832. He was a Roman Catholic and the press urged in opposition to the appointment that he was a subject of the Pope. His speech is well worth reading but is too long to quote.

Tom Paine is also quoted and there are short biographical sketches of all the presidents. Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn is quoted somewhat at length and four pages are given to Henry George.

Mr. Matheny is with us, a convert of J. H. Kauffman of Columbus, O. A man with his cultural background and fine human sympathy could not remain unresponsive to the inexorable appeal which George makes to men of such character.

Writing to the editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM* in a deeply religious vein Mr. Matheny says:

"The divine purpose of Henry George, I feel, can and must be carried out if we are to survive as a nation dedicated to Liberty, Freedom and Equality of Opportunity. The basic principles of his teaching put in practice would be a mighty factor in answering the prayer, Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We welcome Mr. Matheny to the fold. J. D. M.

A GREAT HENRY GEORGE PRIMER

It is a signal service that the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation has rendered in the publication from the original of the late J. W. Bengough's "Up-to-date Primer of Political Economy," in words of one syllable, with pictures. It consists of 75 pages in stiff covers and can be had for 25 cents.

How did he do it? For it is all here, the whole philosophy of Henry George in one syllable words, the answers to objections that occur, the fundamental basis of the proposal, the arguments that support it.

Who was J. W. Bengough? Miss Antoinette Kaufmann in the Introduction contributes an attractive sketch of his life and achievements.

We who knew him are glad to welcome the publication of what is as remarkable a contribution to our literature as has been made in the whole history of the movement. It is deserving of the widest circulation.—J. D. M.