

A Sop to Cerberus

THERE is little to exult over in the land plank of the platform adopted at St. Louis by the Committee of 48. Such as it is, it forms a concession extorted by the presence of Single Taxers led by James A. Robinson and others from the platform-makers of that convention. We give it as a matter of record:

"No land (including natural resources) and no patents to be held out of use for speculation to aid monopoly. We favor taxes to force idle land into use."

A Tax on Pedestrians

A TAX on pedestrians could be equitably imposed by graduating it according to size of shoes, the length of legs, or the weight of the individual. Moreover, if he walks on brick sidewalks, make the pedestrian pay more, for he will wear out the brick sidewalk faster than he will wear out the cement walks.

Ohio Site Taxer.

BOOK NOTICES

PAMPHLET BY GEO. L. RECORD

We acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet of some sixty pages by George L. Record, entitled "A Nation of Home Owners, a Fundamental Programme of Political Action." While the little book contains much that is suggestive, it is to be regretted that Mr. Record thinks that as a necessary measure to destroy the monopoly power of the coal trust, the steel trust and the Standard Oil trust, the government must acquire the coal lands, the iron mines and the oil wells and lease them to the trusts and their competitors on equal terms.

Mr. Record has been reputed to be a Single Taxer. It is probably due to his desire to be considered a practical politician, and his wish to follow what he thinks is the "line of least resistance," that he announces his preference for this costly and cumbersome purchasing and leasing system over such application of the taxing power as would secure the same elimination of the power of monopoly, without imposing upon the people the burden of purchase. He says Socialism is not the remedy, and he imagines he is not advocating Socialism. He is mistaken. The taxation of land values is far more practical, and will more readily be accepted by the people than this alternative plan of Mr. Record's, as men will know and discover when those who believe in our principles abandon their disguise and come out in the open.

The work, however, is written with great clarity; and with much of what the writer says we are in cordial agreement. Especially is this true regarding his treatment of the railroad problem, though Single Taxers hold that, while government ownership of railroads may be necessary as a secondary step after land values are secured to the people, such ownership today would be fraught with undesirable consequences and perhaps graver perils.

It is curious that the chief emphasis laid by the writer is on the income and inheritance taxes with which to buy the railroads. The land scheme of Secretary Lane for our returned soldiers, is endorsed, but it is proposed to purchase land nearer their homes than the versatile Secretary of State suggests, and it is advocated that a sum of \$100,000,000 be set aside to be used in every State for the purchase of such lands. This would start the wildest orgy of nation-wide speculation in land that we have seen since the days of the Civil War. These lands are to be under the supervision of the State or Federal Agricultural Department, which is to advise farmers of the nature of the soil and the crops to be planted. Of course, this is not Socialism, for Mr. Record has disavowed this doctrine at the beginning! But under whatever name, the path to which he invites us is not enticing.

J. D. M.

A WORK BY DR. MASPERO CASTRO

In a vigorous little pamphlet* of 30 pages, Dr. Maspero Castro has made an effective and timely contribution to the debate which is now raging over the greater part of the Argentine. It is entitled "Georgism," and forms number 5 in the popular economic series now being issued by a group of Argentine intellectuals. This pamphlet, like others in the series, is exceedingly instructive even to the well-versed student in economics. Far from being a simple exposition of George's philosophy and fiscal plan, made with text in hand, it is a document with a life of its own, with illustrations from the immediate environment and dealing with the palpitating interests of the moment. We recommend this little work to those who desire to become acquainted with the mental outlook and purposes of a numerous and influential section of Argentine opinion. Coming events in the Southern continent may not then take us altogether by surprise. Very few amongst American intellectuals, not to speak of responsible statesmen, had the foresight to anticipate the recent upheaval in Europe. And they are showing today very little perception of the potential forces that are destined to change the whole Western hemisphere.

NEWS, NOTES AND PERSONALS

We are glad to welcome *Taxation*, a sixteen page paper published monthly by James R. Brown, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, with Stoughton Cooley as editor. It will do a useful work in its field in appealing to men and women not yet ready to accept the stronger wine of our gospel.

We are a little surprised at a paragraph which makes condescending reference (in the most approved style of our metropolitan press) to the "caustic critics" of our institutions who come into the country through Ellis Island possessing no property of their own and lacking the ability even to write their own names." We may remind the editors of *Taxation* that those who come into the country the other way enter with similar lack of equipment in the matter of property and education, and under existing economic and social laws find the same difficulty in acquiring either.

THE *San Antonio Light* gives an excellent account of the quarter centenary celebration of the founding of the Single Tax colony of Fairhope, and comments favorably upon its growth and prosperity.

A SPLENDID issue is the Christmas number of the *Union Labor Bulletin*, a magazine of mammoth size and beautiful cover. We congratulate Mr. Lewis and his coadjutors on this specimen of magazine building, so imposing in typographical appearance and general "make-up." A portrait of Samuel Gompers adorns one of the opening pages. "The Problem of Poverty," by Joseph Dana Miller, occupies three pages of the several hundred that comprise this impressive periodical.

OUR old and accomplished friend, Dr. Marion Mills Miller, is engaged in the preparation of an elaborate industrial publication soon to be issued. The collection of material for this work has taken him to Washington and promises to draw him to other cities before his great task is completed.

THE New York Single Tax Party will lose one of its most devoted members in the person of Antonio Bastida who goes to Cuba in February. There he will make his home, and in view of the awakening of Spanish-American sentiment in favor of the Single Tax we may anticipate that he will not lack for opportunity to advance our cause.

A testimonial dinner will be tendered him on February 10 at the Cafe Chevalier, this city, by his old friends in the movement.

HON. PETER WITT spoke at the Euclid Avenue Congregational Church in Cleveland in January, his subject being the Single Tax. Illustrating the absurdities of present methods of taxation, Mr. Witt said:

*"El Georgismo," by Dr. A. Maspero Castro, published at 20 cents, Argentine paper, by "Ediciones Populares Bernardino Rivadavia," Esmeralda 91, Buenos Aires