

## BOOK NOTICES

### HERBERT QUICK'S "THE HAWKEYE."

We have waited long for the "great American novel." This is not it. But here perhaps the ground work is laid for it. If Herbert Quick were the perfect artist, he might have contrived to present the immortal story which still waits the future. For here at least he has assembled all the necessary material.

But despite the glowing expanse of canvas, despite the masterly handling of this material behind the lay figures of the story, we feel that something is lacking.

The great artist in fiction stands in the background. We are always unconscious of his presence. The great story moves with the inevitableness of the coming dawn, the set of suns, the recurrence of the seasons. Herbert Quick, on the contrary, stands before the canvass and is forever directing us to the picture, asking us to observe this, to note that. He is unable otherwise to make us see it. It is not in this way that the great works of fiction are impressed upon us.

Our author is too discursive. This is perhaps only another way of saying what has been said above. But it also remains to be said that while not a great novel "The Hawkeye" is an exceedingly good one. The politics of an Iowa county in the seventies is reproduced with much faithfulness of detail which compels assent. There is a certain deftness in the handling of material incidents that make up the life of the Middle West. There is a quick and intelligent apprehension of the effect of the economic and political environment on the character of these early settlers. This will make it of interest to our readers who know Mr. Quick as a Single Taxer. There is also an appealing picture of womanhood which adds the human interest to a story which moves, if the truth must be told, just a little bit mechanically.

The evils of land speculation and the social effects that follow are strongly pictured. No one but a Single Taxer could have seen what is obvious to a writer of Mr. Quick's knowledge and convictions. We quote from pages 21 and 22, with which we close this quite inadequate description of the work and recommend it emphatically as well worth reading:

"The Non-Resident Owner was a speculator. He was waiting to reap profits from the increase in the value of the lands through the development of society and the growth of population. He was making no improvements, buying no goods in the stores, shouldering none of the burdens of the new society—except the payment of taxes. He was actually excluding people from settlement except at his own terms by holding lands out of use. Why not, then, said Mr. Upright, make him pay for the improvements which would raise the value of his lands so that he would have to pay more taxes and give Mr. Upright more contracts? It was an endless chain; and if it is broken by forcing the Non-Resident Owner to sell his holdings, why, settlers would buy and build houses and make a real community instead of a waste. And as for taxing a man who built a house, on the value of his house, why do that? He was doing a good thing for the community, buying lumber, hiring carpenters, and patronizing the stores. Tax him on his improvements? By no means.

"Iowa had a crude approximation to the Single Tax before Mr. Henry George was born; and if she had perfected it, eliminating the Uprights from the operation, it would have been a wonderful thing for this generation, in which the young working farmers of Monterey County are driven out from Iowa by land values that have in these early nineties gone up to ridiculous heights of from forty to sixty dollars an acre, which young men cannot pay. So they are driven forth, as I have said, to the arid lands of the West and to the towns, and we are becoming right here in this country, a people composed of landlords and tenants, as bad as Ireland—but I fear I am overstepping the historian's proper limitations."

It is a matter of intense gratification to Single Taxers that one of their number should have arrested and held the attention of the reading public by a succession of notable novels that are also to be ranked among the "best sellers."—J. D. M.

### AN ENGLISH WORK ON THE SINGLE TAX

The Single Tax, the Real Social Reform, by R. Colnett Wright, M. A. Oxon., is another admirable exposition of our doctrine treated

in simple fashion, but in excellent style. There is a searching examination of Socialism and the British Labor party programme. A chapter is devoted to the question of Compensation and one to Land-holding in England.

We could fill the REVIEW with instructive paragraphs from the work, but this would be unfair to the author and publisher. We can do better by both to suggest to the readers of the REVIEW that they send for the work, the price of which is 1s 6d. The publishers are C. W. Daniel Company, 3 Tudor street, London, E. C. 4.

### PEACE AND FREEDOM

We are glad to commend a new pamphlet by Harry Willock. All sins may be forgiven save sins against the spirit, the Evangelist tell us, and Mr. Willock never sins against the spirit.

What can be better than this:

"Prudent and far-sighted citizens will tell every man in office that they want all site value taxed out of land, they will only vote for national, state, county and local candidates who stand for and will push this principle, they will vote for all constitutional amendments looking toward this end and they will organize and agitate until land is democratized and democracy really becomes safe for America. The America of our fathers was a country of free land."

We have received a book of essays from John Veiby, of South Bend, Indiana, who is both author and publisher of the work. The discussions deal with the present economic situation and current happenings from the libertarian standpoint, and are thoughtful and interesting. The title of the work is Utopian Essays.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### LIKES THE REVIEW

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I have become so foolishly pessimistic as to the possibility of any real progress in the right direction in a country that is seemingly determined to go wrong that I hope you will regard this renewal of my subscription as especial evidence of my approval of your editorship and belief in the real value of the REVIEW.

Chicago, Ill.

GEORGE C. MADISON.

### LINCOLN ON THE LAND QUESTION

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The particular comradeship of Abraham Lincoln, as his faith is expressed in a recent issue of the REVIEW, is a tower of strength to me and a comforting confirmation of my own convictions.

"Lincoln on the land question" is the Mecca toward which I turn my face to PRAY—for the redemption of the earth to mankind!

Lincoln perceived the whole truth in its beautiful significance and "did not turn to TAXATION" as a method of portraying it.

Handicapped with the duty of dealing with Chattel Slavery at the time he declared his purpose of next assailing industrial enslavement by the "Titled" owners of the land. His early experiences had educated him fitly to comprehend its enormity. Lincoln's great mind was graduated from the splendid schooling of Experience. He early found cause for battle with the "Land Sharks,"

It is not immaterial as our good friend Dana Miller declares, whether we turn to *taxation* as a method of freeing the earth;—It is fundamentally material. Taxation and Tax-gatherers have been justly despised and the most efficient tools of tyranny throughout all human history. To Tax, suggests in the mind a promise of injustice.

The collection of public property for public uses bears upon its face the attribute of Justice; and justice alone is all sufficient for freeing all mankind from enslavement. The public property is sufficient for all public needs. It supplies a Natural, fully justified Revenue.