

## Food and Rent

PEOPLE familiar with current exactions identified with the business of making both ends meet will be interested to know that it now costs only \$2.50 a week to feed an adult in manner and quantity above reproach. Lest one be skeptical, we hasten to add that the authority for this statement is the home economist for the Chicago United Charities. In September, 1920, she shows that it cost \$4.10 a week, from which date and figure a gradual improvement is noted until now.

For this theoretical quarter-eagle one might not be able to buy all the dietary delicacies a great city like Chicago affords; one might have to forego the pleasure of tipping the waiter three times a day, but we are assured that for this sum a man or woman may live in comfort and respectability.

However, the silver cloud has a dark lining. While cost of food has been declining the cost of rent has been rising. "So no real saving has been effected," declares the expert. The story is spoiled by the last chapter

*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

NEWTON D. BAKER writes to Samuel Gompers: "If I were a worker, I would join a union." Is Newton joking? He IS a worker, and he DOES belong to a union—the closed shop Bar Association.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.

GOVERNOR DONAHEY is not disposed to tax the people for his inauguration. Now if he will do something to stop the practice of taxing them for the privilege of being alive, his administration will be a howling success.

*Cleveland Times.*

## BOOK NOTICES

### UPTON SINCLAIR AGAIN ON THE TRAIL\*

This is a vastly interesting book, which the reader will peruse with unabated interest. There are pictures of men prominent in educational work drawn with cruel and incisive touches, with what accuracy one may sometimes doubt, since these portraits must be made to fit into a frame and bent to a theory which we feel in the main, however, is a correct one.

Education in our colleges and universities, Sinclair declares, is "not a public service but an instrument of special privilege." Allowing for certain obvious exaggerations, Mr. Sinclair buttresses his arguments with facts and incidents which he has been careful to verify and which seem impossible of denial, both in themselves and their implications. Nowhere has our systems of higher education been more startlingly exhibited as the docile handmaiden of plutocracy. It is inevitable that the kind of minds turned out by universities and colleges influenced and directed as they are by the tools of the paralyzing power of money should be, for the most part, the kinds of minds we know them to be, little fitted indeed for anything but the etiquette of the drawing room, the sordid struggle for wealth, and the superficial culture of a materialistic society.

Entering these institutions with the idealism of youth our young men emerge with every such instinct stunted or arrested. The power of privilege lays its deadening hand on the aspirations of youth, and inde-

pendent judgment is stifled by its substitute—acceptance of the economic status quo and a materialism that leaves little or no place for the finer culture of the spirit.

All this Mr. Sinclair has told us in a way that has never been told before. He has amassed a prodigious amount of facts, and he has marshalled them with uncanny effectiveness. He tells them often with a touch of humor that lightens pages never dry or dull, though full of detail.—J. D. M.

\* "The Goose Step," by Upton Sinclair, clo. 12 mo., 488 pp. Price \$2.00. Published by the Author, Pasadena, California.

### A CHARMING BOOK

"Delaware and the Eastern Shore," by Edward Noble Vallandigham, is a beautiful volume of over three hundred pages, with maps and 81 illustrations, gilt top, published by J. B. Lippincott at \$5.00.

The contents are worthy of its setting. Readers of the REVIEW know Mr. Vallandigham, for he has contributed to its pages, and he has been known for many years as a disciple of Henry George. But this will introduce him in a new guise, that of a delightful chronicler of a charming country, whose loveliness he has absorbed, and which he pictures for us in loving and graceful touches. We should like to quote these for their quality, but the REVIEW fills no such office for its readers. It is only appropriate to indicate it as a notable achievement of one who is known to our readers because of his advocacy of land restoration. It is because of this that many will read these charming pages with added enjoyment and felicitation.

The chapter on "Occupations" will be read with interest by Single Taxers. Here the author shows the effect of free opportunities in the development of freemen. He says:

"Throughout the whole colonial period and ever since, the universally rich waters, have been the resource of independent spirits, the means of establishing a minimum wage for able bodied men."

On page 165 there is a mention of William T. Croasdale, who founded *Every Evening* at Wilmington. Mr. Vallandigham speaks of him as "a sort of volcanic eruption of humor and passion." He indicates his Quaker conscience and sanguine courage." He tells of his coming to New York and becoming editor of Henry George's *Standard*. With this eulogy of Croasdale we are quite ready to agree, though to him more perhaps than to Henry George was due the identification of the Single Tax movement with the Democratic Party and the consequent loss to our movement of the high idealism of the cause. But this was a mistake in judgment and in no wise leads us to a less generous estimate of the great abilities of this fine Southern Democrat. He probably influenced Henry George more than any other living man.

We congratulate Mr. Vallandigham on the publication of a work to which many will refer from year to year for pictures of an entrancing country in which there is still so much of the spirit of colonial survival.

—J. D. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

A correspondent from Kansas writes us: I am not clear as to the distinction between "land value" and the "unearned increment." Could you give me something in the REVIEW to clarify this distinction?

All land value as well as all increase in such value is an unearned increment in the sense that it is unearned by the landlord because produced by the presence of population. But the term "unearned increment" is usually applied to the profit reaped by the landowner who, buying land as a certain figure, sells it at a higher price as his land increases in value. Just because the term conveys a false impression, its use, unless with necessary explanation, is, if possible, to be avoided.

### FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE PROBLEM OF WAR AND ITS SOLUTION

We have received an interesting letter from John E. Grant, author of the above named work reviewed in last issue. Mr. Grant lives in Surbiton, England, on the banks of the Thames, with his wife and four