

But if we admit that this monopolization of land is wrong, what are we going to do about it? Divide up the land and give each his share? Have the Government take over the land and rent it out? No; the one is impossible; the other needless. The simple easy way to do—the way made feasible by our present governmental machinery—is to tax the value of land, what the political economists call “economic rent,” into the public treasury.

That would tax away all the advantage of speculation. Indeed, it would fine whoever held valuable land out of use. It would make him use it or give it up to someone who would use it. The actual quantity of land would not be greater, but the quantity made available to users would be much increased. The price of land would go down. The demand for labor in every direction would increase. Competition among laborers would lessen, wages would rise, and the hours of work would shorten. It would wipe out the trade union, for who would give up his freedom to join a union when all that he desired—plenty of employment, high wages and short hours—could be had without it?

And since the great revenue from land values would more than meet the present needs of Government—and increase with the natural rise of land values—all the taxes now bearing so heavily on labor and its fruits could be remitted.

Such a proposal means nothing new. We tax land values to-day, but only lightly. Increase that tax, and abolish all other taxes and their machinery, including that colossal humbug, the tariff. Leave land titles as they are, undisturbed. Let any call himself land owner who might please to do so, and let him buy, sell, or bequeath. But compel the owner, through taxation, to pay the annual value into the public coffer.

That would recognize the principle of equal rights in land. It would observe the divine mandate of equality of access to Nature's storehouse, and would to great degree free labor of its present encumbrances.

But to make labor entirely without let or hindrance, we should also have to abolish the private toll-gate system we uphold along our avenues of exchange. The public itself would have to own and operate all the functions of its public highways, because to give such functions into private hands would grant to such individuals a power over others.

And thus by opening Nature's bounties to all men equally, by cheapening land which all men must use, by lifting from industry the huge burden of taxation, by removing from politics the power to grant franchises to individuals which now corrupts it, by cutting off the source of great fortunes and leaving in the hands of the masses that large part of their labor's fruits taken from them—by doing these things, and what I have pro-

posed *would* do them, we would solve the great social problems that now confront and confound us. Superabundant riches and involuntary poverty would both disappear. Insanity, self-killing, divorces and race-suicide would be reduced to a minimum. Public morals would improve, politics purify and our nation become more nearly what was intended by the Fathers—a nation of equals.

Nor would this take away from private initiative, from individual incentive. On the contrary, it would give opportunities to the individual, give greater chance for the play of his bent and the development of his latent powers. It would change him from “brother to the ox” to the “roof and crown of things.” It would liberate mind and spirit in millions now groveling in the lower animal levels. It would bring a civilization such as only the pure in heart have seen. It would bring the reign of the natural order—the divine law.

To preach and strive for this is the civic mission of the Church—not for peace, peace, where there is no peace; not for charity, but for justice—the justice of natural law. If the Church shall do this, she will be as a city on a hill and become the light of the world. But if she fail of this mission, then for her will flame out upon the wall the words: “Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.”

BOOKS

PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM.

Socialists at Work. By Robert Hunter, author of “Poverty,” etc. Published by the MacMillan Company, New York. Price 1.50 net.

The socialist movement would appeal much more strongly to what we may roughly describe as American modes of thought, if its emphasis were usually placed where Mr. Hunter would place it.

He endeavors, and perhaps with more success upon the whole than he himself supposes, to avoid the dangers incident to personifying economic interests which cross class lines, but which socialists are prone to consider as coinciding with class lines. Nor does he find it necessary, in order to avoid this error, to depart from socialist authorities. He is able to quote Liebknecht as including “in the working class all those who live exclusively or principally by means of their own labor,” and the first International as declaring that “the struggle for the emancipation of the working-class means not a struggle for class privileges and monopolies, but for equal rights and duties, and the abolition of all class rule.”

It is to be observed nevertheless that Mr. Hunter does not escape the serious error, common to all socialist controversy, of measuring the relative

importance of land monopoly by the relative power of landlords as a class. For instance, at page 157 he says that "nearly everywhere the landed class are today less powerful in government than the trader, the man of commerce, and the capitalist." The inference is that the latter three possess no great landed power; whereas the fact is that their landed power—much of it masked in corporate stock certificates—is as Samson's hair was to Samson's strength.

But there is little attempt to deal with fundamental principles. As its title implies, the book is an attempt to picture socialism in action. Although there is even in this respect an observable tendency to confuse an evolution of the social organism with socialist-party organization, somewhat as pietists confuse religion with ecclesiasticism, yet that is incidental and not very important. For it is the activity of the party organization, after all, that Mr. Hunter has set out to describe. And this he has done with more than the pen of a chronicler. It is not a collection of memoranda but a picture, that he has given us.

To the provincial American, and no less so to the globe-trotter who sees much of the world that is a-dying and but little of the world that is a-borning, this interesting book would prove a revelation. The magnitude of the socialist organization in Germany, where it may be said to have originated, its strength and the intellectual aristocracy of its leadership in Italy, its political peculiarities and power in France, its development in Great Britain, and its economic as well as its political surprises in Belgium, countries in which the author personally observed its manifestations, are described with picturesque strokes, yet without prejudice to the important facts. Besides these descriptions there are chapters on the programme of socialism, socialism and social reform, socialism in the parliaments, and in art and literature. The story of the famous International is told in another chapter; and in a supplementary chapter, by Mr. Charles Lapworth, there are brief statements of the origin and status of the movement in all the countries not investigated by Mr. Hunter himself.

We should suppose that he must be a careless student of affairs, or else an unwise one, who ignores a movement so vigorous as socialism appears from this interesting volume to have grown to be.

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JEWES IN AMERICA.

The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Jews in the United States. Published by the Co-operative Society, New York.

A memorial of the anniversary in 1905 mentioned in the title. Addresses were made at Carnegie Hall, New York; at Faneuil Hall, Boston; at Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Orleans,

San Francisco and St. Louis. The Carnegie Hall proceedings are given in full, as are the addresses at Boston, the remainder of the volume containing selected addresses delivered at other places, together with pertinent editorial extracts and pamphlets. Among the selected addresses are those of Judge Mack of Chicago and Dr. Solis Cohen of Philadelphia.

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KARL MARX.

Karl Marx: Biographical Memoirs. By Wilhelm Liebknecht. Translated by Ernest Untermann. Published by Charles H. Kerr & Company, Chicago.

Personal notes of the father of "scientific socialism," of which the translator has endeavored, as he explains and satisfactorily as the reader will be likely to testify, to "preserve as much of the delightful freshness and racy strength of Liebknecht's style" as he could without doing violence to the English language.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—The Story of Jerry Simpson. By Annie L. Diggs. Published by Jane Simpson, Wichita, Kansas.

—National and Social Problems. By Frederic Harrison. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1908. Price, \$1.75 net.

—Erewhon; or, Over the Range. By Samuel Butler. New and Revised Edition. Published by A. C. Fifield, 44 Fleet street, E. C., London. Price, 2s 6d net.

—The Labor Contract from Individual to Collective Bargaining. By Margaret Anna Schafner. Published by the Wisconsin University, Madison, Wis. Price 50 cents.

—The Religion of a Democrat. By Charles Zeublin, author of "A Decade of Civic Development," "American Municipal Progress," etc. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York. Price \$1 net.

—Labor History of the Cripple Creek District. A Study in Industrial Evolution. By Benjamin McKie Rastall, Economic Expert of the New York State Department of Labor. Published by the Wisconsin University, Madison, Wis. Price 50 cents.

—The U. S. Government's Shame. The Story of The Great Lewis Case. By Edwin C. Madden, Third Assistant Postmaster General from July 1, 1899, to March 22, 1907. Price 50 cents. Sent to any address by the National Book Company, Detroit, Mich.

PAMPHLETS

La Follette's Speech.

Senator La Follette's speech in the Senate on the Aldrich bill was so badly mangled in the newspaper reporting that its publication in pamphlet form will serve a highly useful purpose. His list of 62 directors of two New York banks who held 1,007 director-