

SEVENTH DAY, SUNDAY, 19th AUGUST:

10 a.m.—“Christian Economics; Private Property and Equal Rights in Land.” Fred. Verinder (London).
“Land Monopoly, War and Public Debt.” Dr. S. Vere Pearson (Mundesley).

Chairman: Chas. H. Smithson (Halifax).

8 p.m.—“The United Committee; its Activities and its Place in the Movement.” John Paul, and The Hon. President, Charles E. Crompton.

Chairman: A. W. Metcalf (Belfast).

William Dennison McCrackan

WILLIAM DENNISON McCRACKAN, of Tamworth, N. H., died of heart disease on June 13, 1923, while visiting friends in New York City, following attendance at the Centennial celebration of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., from which institution he was graduated in 1885.

Mr. McCrackan was born in Munich, Germany, of American parents, on February 12, 1864, and received his early education in Switzerland, Germany and France. He was prepared for college at St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H. Soon after his graduation from Trinity he returned to Europe, spending much of his time tramping through Switzerland and the Tyrol and talking in their own languages with the people.

A lover of nature and his fellow man, and a student of political and economic history, he found an apt theme for his first book, published in 1892, in “The Rise of the Swiss Republic,” a study of democratic government by exemplification. Had Mr. McCrackan written no other book it would have obtained for him a secure place in this high order of literature. It is used as a text book in schools and colleges, and it secured him membership in the American Historical Association.

The poetic strain in the author's nature revealed in passages in his first book, had fuller expression in his next publication, “Romance and Teutonic Switzerland,” which appeared in 1894. This has proved a most instructive and inspiring book to tourists, not only those who have the privilege of visiting the glorious and historic scenery of the Bernese Oberland, but also the men and women of imaginative capacity who, in the quiet of a library, love to travel in the mind, unlimited by the conditions of space and time.

In the same year (1894) he published a work on “Swiss Solutions of American Problems,” discussing such subjects as the initiative, referendum, and proportional representation. This book had a great influence in enlightening the author's fellow Americans and accelerating action in various States of the Union along the line of direct government in distinction to representative government. It was largely drawn upon by James Bryce in his studies of American and other forms of democracy, and was highly praised by this great publicist.

Returning to the romantic vein, Mr. McCrackan published in 1895, “Little Idyls of the Big World.” Ten years later

he published an inspiring guide book on “The Fair Land Tyrol,” and, in 1907, another work of this order, “The Italian Lakes.”

In the later nineties, by association with his brother-in-law, Lawson Purdy, and with Hamlin Garland, Mr. McCrackan, already inclined to the Georgian economy by his devotion to pure democracy, became a Single Taxer. He served quietly and efficiently as President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club in 1899 and 1900.

Mr. McCrackan confessed also his debt to another influence exerted by Mr. Garland in which literary craftsmen will be interested. Mr. Garland told him to write not only for the intellect but for the five physical senses, smell and taste and touch, no less than sight and hearing. In Mr. McCrackan's last work “The New Palestine,” published in 1922, we see, and hear, and otherwise sensuously perceive the fine effects of this admonition.

There was also a mystical strain in our author, which combined with his humanitarian impulse to lead him into Christian Science. In 1912 he devoted his talent as an historical writer to the production of a book on “Christian Science: Its Discovery and Development.” Naturally, however, propagandist purpose impaired the historical value. From 1916 until 1919 Mr. McCrackan was associate editor of *The Christian Science Journal*, and *The Christian Science Sentinel*.

In 1919 our author went to Jerusalem to “do his bit” in world service by abating the fierce racial jealousies and animosities of the so-called “Holy City.” In this cause he founded and edited a small English daily, *Jerusalem News*, to establish concord, based on understanding, between the conflicting elements. With the establishment of civil government under the British mandate the paper was discontinued.

Mr. McCrackan was president of the Anglo American Society of America, and in the winter of 1922-23 he travelled around the world to promote the purpose of the organization.

The philosophy of this spiritually minded, earnest worker for the good of humanity is well indicated by the concluding paragraph of the chapter on “Some Palestine Problems” in his last book: “What then is this phenomenon called Zionism? It is the false start of a true movement which will be a genuine restoration, a spiritual reunion.”

YOU may lack missionary zeal, but hand to your neighbors a copy of the REVIEW and George's “Single Tax: What It Is and Why We Urge It.”

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BOARDS demands lower freight rates, but says nothing of lower ground rents. Selfish?

FRENCH statesmen defend their Ruhr policy by pointing to a bad thing British government did years ago. Ohio advocates of old-age pensions point to the fact that Pennsylvania has such a law.