

We venture this quotation from page 99:

"The criminologist must face the fact that, in spite of contrary preferences by most of our social doctors, we are still in our work-a-day world guided almost exclusively by the mores—the folk-way of old, founded on expediency as revealed by experience, and acquired by the only known process, that of trial and error. If this be true, it clearly follows that in order to conserve any vestige of a civilization, we must realize the fact that property crimes are the normal result of the complex activities making up the treadmill called civilization. We must likewise realize that to modify these crimes we must modify the trend of the race."

Mr. Darrow has well summed up the environment that makes for crime. He has traced for us the development of the criminal under the conditions that surround him from the time of his first infraction of the law, his incarceration and his freedom when the period of imprisonment is at an end. But his record does not cease to follow him when he is free—in fact, he is never really free from the time when he falls into the clutches of the law. Whatever environment and heredity have done to start the criminal on his career the law and society tend to confirm. Darrow, with his long familiarity with the phenomena of crime, knows the story as presented in a thousand chapters and in the lives of hundreds of unfortunates.

Here is Darrow's exclamation which should arrest the reader: "If only the public would understand. If only the public were more intelligent, which in this connection would be more human."

Altogether this is a book which is well worth the perusal of one who loves his fellowman and wishes to hear at first hand from one who has moved among the dark places of mankind, who has associated with those whom society has branded, and who writes of all he knows—and what he knows is more than most men—with a fine sympathy and out of a discriminating mind.

J. D. M

TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT, TOO MUCH TAXATION*

With much of this book's protest against the meddling by State and Federal governments with what is properly the sphere of private industry, all Single Taxers can heartily agree. The annoying extension of regulatory legislation, with its boards, commissions and bureaus, all attempting to control production and distribution by an army of officeholders, is a discouraging sign of the bankruptcy of intelligence on the part of national and State legislators. Crises are discovered in trade and industry. Make a law to stop them. If the law does not work, create a supervisory commission with powers to investigate and make regulations. This failing, enact more laws creating bureaus to supervise the commissions, and find out why they are not serving the public. Thus the bureaucracy grows, until there are millions of officeholders supported by the patient taxpayers, all busily engaged in showing how not to promote industrial and commercial prosperity.

Mr. Hay sees clearly that governmental extravagance and corruption are largely due to the failure of the great masses of the people to realize the heavy burden laid on productive industry by existing systems of taxation. If the average citizen could be brought to realize the extent to which he is robbed by indirect taxes, ultimately paid by the consumers of goods, he would revolt against the political quacks who are responsible. Yet, as is the case with so many well-meaning persons who protest against present conditions, he has no better remedy to offer than the crooked and discredited Sales Tax, which he suggests as a way out of the indirect taxes that are not felt by the public. He wants to rouse the American people against the crushing and oppressive taxes on capital, industry and trade, but his only solution is a tax on consumption that would increase prices, decrease purchasing power and cut down production!

The author has heard of the Single Tax but discusses it in a ten-line footnote, with the casual comment that it is a tax "on real estate or rents," which, he says, has the great disadvantage that it is levied on a limited class, the land owners. After this exhibition of perspicacity it is not surprising to find him accepting the canned wisdom of the financial freebooters and princes of privilege who are trying to force the Sales Tax upon the country.

*Too Much Government. Too Much Taxation. By Norman Hay. Doubleday Page & Co.

CORRESPONDENCE

AN APPROVING WORD FROM A WELL KNOWN AUSTRALIAN WORKER

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I have greatly enjoyed your articles in the REVIEW, "The Single Tax more than a Fiscal Reform," etc., and I feel sure that your attitude is right, as opposed to Mr. Cooley's.

Corowa, N. S. Wales, Australia.

ERNEST BRAY.

A PROMISING FIELD

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

In my opinion Single Tax will never have a fair trial until it becomes a national measure. It would take a long while to get it passed and in force in the United States, with so many States to adopt it.

I believe Western Canada is the best place to try it out. We have a large domain sparsely settled. There is some friction between the East and West and some talk of seceding, though I think nothing will come of it. The West will have an increased membership in the federal house at Ottawa next election.

The farmers are in control in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in the provincial legislatures. They are out for taxation of land values and almost to a man the leaders are strong for it. Their official organ, *The Grain Growers Guide*, advocates it. The trouble is the rank and file are passive and will not let their leaders put it into effect.

The Premier of Ontario is a Single Taxer, also the head men of the United Grain Growers, the largest grain company in the world, are mostly strong for Single Tax. Here we have the head men who direct affairs strong for it but cannot do much, as the ordinary people do not understand it.

Here seems to me a great chance to work. The heads of the farmers organizations in the Eastern Provinces are also in favor and with some encouragement would fall in line.

If some generous great soul would put up enough to finance a vigorous campaign for five years (advertising) by that time others would fall in line and help out. This advertising campaign to advocate 100% Single Tax with no compromise at all. In rural Manitoba on farms, there is no tax on improvements. No doubt you are familiar with what has been done in the other provinces along these lines. Vancouver particularly has led in exempting improvements, as well as Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary and other cities, but with the after effects of the war things have not gone as some predicted. Single Tax in a federal way would have solved the question.

Here in the West we could advertise it with least expense of any place and reach most of the people. The *Manitoba Free Press*, of Winnipeg, has a large circulation in the three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The *Grain Grower* also has a large circulation among the farmers in the four Western Provinces. These two papers with one in Vancouver would reach most of the people in the West. We call Port Arthur the dividing line between the East and the West. The farmers are just now in straitened circumstances and would welcome some kind of a change, are mildly in favor of Single Tax now but in mass have not studied it much.

Single Tax is my religion and like most Single Taxers count myself a citizen of the world. Am not advocating a trial here because I am a Canadian but because it seems to me the best place to try it out.

S. J. Farmer, Mayor of Winnipeg, is an ardent Single Taxer. F. J. Dixon, member for centre Winnipeg, and leader of the Labor Party, has been for years preaching the cause for us. Under proportional representation he received in 1st to 10th choice about 80% of the votes polled.

What I wish to show is that our leaders are in line but the rank and file are holding them back.

Toronto, Canada.

T. R. WILLIAMS.