

conditions; and this in fact is intimated by the author himself in another place.

The monograph is open to another criticism in its treatment of the property tax on corporations. The laws of 1823 and 1829 are given correctly, but no mention is made of the successive changes, some of them of considerable significance. In particular, the important subject of bank taxation is wholly omitted. Again, the provisions of the general corporation tax law on page 90 are by no means exact, and we find, moreover, no mention of the separate taxes on transportation companies. With these exceptions, however, the essay is a good piece of work. And it is to be hoped that we shall soon see similar monographs devoted to the other American commonwealths.

E. R. A. S.

*Freiland.* Ein Sociales Zukunftsbild. Von THEODOR HERTZKA.

Leipzig, Verlag von Duncker & Humblot, 1890. — xxxiv, 677 pp.

It has seemed to me a mistake on the part of the author of this romance that he has put his book into the form of a novel, for he has not the novelist's gift. His purpose, as distinctly announced, was to present his ideas in a realistic, striking way, so that they would reach a wider circle of readers and would have a deeper influence. If he had presented his views on the social question compactly and in scientific form, the greater part of his readers would have been better pleased, and the book would probably have had a wider influence; for this novel has dissertations as long, dry and unpleasantly scientific to the unscientific novel reader, as is a work on political economy; while to the economist the love story—an improbable, not to say silly one—and the multitudinous details regarding the settlement and growth of Freiland are almost equally burdensome.

One cannot avoid the comparison of this work with Bellamy's *Looking Backward*. As a novel it is immeasurably inferior. Bellamy presented pleasing pictures, with details that were pleasing, but in the main he spared his readers statistical details and long dissertations. Besides that, the spirit of charity and brotherly love, so pleasing in an ideal world, so hard sometimes to find in our real one, breathed throughout the book. In *Freiland* the spirit is the passionless, scientific one, which is out of place in a romance, however valuable and necessary it may be elsewhere. A novel should conform to the principles of literary art; but these would exclude the rather precise pages of population statistics. *Freiland's* absurd love story, too, utterly fails to remove the impression that the author has a piece of hard work on hand,—an impression that is not favorable for arousing one's enthusiasm for the good time coming.

But the author of *Freiland* would not wish to be judged as a novelist. He is primarily an economist, and this work is intended to be an economic work. He thinks that he has discovered the solution of the social problem, and in this book he makes his discovery known. He had thought long over this problem; he had wondered at the absurdities of many of the answers given by great thinkers from Plato's time to our own; when "suddenly, like a dazzling sunbeam into the darkness of his doubt," the consciousness came that his solution was not in conflict with the discoveries and the work of others, but that it was rather the key to them all and was the only true and complete solution. I confess that the manner in which the author first places himself in the same rank with Plato and Bacon — calling the latter by name — and then coolly acknowledges that he is greater than any preceding social philosopher, has a tendency to prejudice the reader against him; but that should not hinder a judgment on the merits of the case.

Perhaps the fewest words in which the solution of the problem can be given are these: the abolition of interest on capital, of private property in land and natural forces, and of the profits of the entrepreneur as such. Or rather, as the author would say: since the use of the land is free and capital is furnished free of interest by the state, and since each person may at his will engage in whatever business suits him and go at will from one to the other, rent, interest and profits of the entrepreneur disappear, without being forbidden by the state; or, as he puts it again, they unite with wages into a single indivisible income of labor. Free association in business is encouraged to the fullest extent, in order that all the benefits of organization on a great scale may be obtained; and to each association capital is furnished by the state for productive purposes, without interest, though the capital must be repaid, and though taxes are paid for state purposes, as well as to get capital for loaning. Of course, no capital is loaned without good security for the repayment of the principal. It is not given to every one who asks for it.

A detailed criticism of the various points made in the book is not necessary, though they admit of much discussion. On economic questions we expect good work from the author. One fundamental error seems to belong to the book, — the one found in nearly or quite all books written with the same object in view. The author seems to assume too great foresight and intelligence on the part of the citizens, and he seems to overlook in great measure the means by which men are really managed by their leaders. In fact, he acknowledges in one place that it is hardly fair to start a society consisting exclusively of educated people; but he thinks that all would soon be educated in a society

like that of Freiland. Unfortunately a knowledge of reading and writing, or even of many other arts, will not give a man common sense or take from the ambitious the desire to overmatch, even by unfair means, their fellows. There is to be no master of labor, no entrepreneur who can crush with low wages his workmen. Instead there will be a labor organizer and director, chosen by the members of the association for his fitness, subject to removal by them and having his reward fixed by them. It is difficult to believe that men would know their interests well enough to put the best man into the most important place. Nor can competition of the ablest bring about this result. In real society there is always a dearth of men of prime executive ability, but never a lack of those who are willing to use every art, fair and otherwise, to force themselves into positions of honor, profit and responsibility. Many co-operative establishments are even now, under the present system of society, meeting with success; the failure of others is due as much to the character of the men undertaking them as to the unfavorable form of our present society. The solution of our present social troubles involves a change in the characters of the wealth producers, and I do not see that this is provided for in *Freiland*, though the author thinks that he has appealed to the every-day motives that influence human conduct, and on which are built our present form of economic society.

The author's discussions are many of them very suggestive. For instance, the one regarding the advantages of publicity in all business calls attention to what seems to be a tendency of the day, as the sphere of the state's control is widening. It is probable that more publicity regarding business might be a sufficient check to some of the greater combinations in business, trusts *etc.*, if such publicity could fairly be secured. Certainly much has been done in controlling railways simply by this means.

As a whole, however, when one considers the author's purpose and the range of influence that he ascribes to his ideas, the book must be judged deficient. As a novel it is not a success, and, in my judgment, his reforming schemes are founded on untenable assumptions regarding human nature.

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*Der Moderne Socialismus in den Vereinigten Staaten von America.* Von A. SARTORIUS FREIHERRN VON WALTERSHAUSEN. Berlin, Hermann Bahr, 1890.

Even the special student of economic and social questions in the United States will be grateful to Sartorius von Waltershausen for his conscientious and painstaking study. The book has excellences that no other single volume supplies. A large correspondence with the Ger-