

## NEW BOOKS.

## "THE THREE PHASES OF CO-OPERATION IN THE WEST."

BY A. G. WARNER.

With the growth of an industrial organism, greatly owing to and aided by the invention and perfection of labor-saving machinery,—and in proportion to the complexity of the "division of labor," have combinations on the part of capital, grown more necessary and more frequent. Partly owing to this fact, but in a much larger degree owing to the conditions which precede the possibility of the law of competition exercising perfect sway, capital tends to the increase of that part of production which is accorded to labor. It is not that the condition of the laboring classes is actually worse and the tendency always downward, that dissatisfaction on the part of the wage worker grows and that a halt must be called. The condition of the laborer is only relatively worse, if worse at all, when compared with the heights obtained, or obtainable by capital, only worse again when tried by a much advanced and a most exacting standard of living. To gradually do away with this disparity, to lessen the growing differences, to level on the one hand and to raise on the other, setting one common and medium standard of living, is the work to be done, states the general mind of labor on combinations. There must be a justification for revolutionary acts and measures without exception and without question, else they are bad, utterly bad. Strikes and boycotts are, though often justifiable, objectionable, they are revolutionary. Co-operation and profit-sharing are, on the other hand, remedial, and unobjectionable. In theory they are very promising. Are they practical remedies? Viewing them from a purely theoretical standpoint we at once formulated these conclusions: "Co-operation promises best in the less complex and less exacting enterprises. Profit-sharing may be successfully carried on in the most exacting industries. Neither is a panacea, a cure-all; and neither can be applied under all circumstances. Philanthropic and humane men will always be necessary to insure success." But a history of co-operation and profit sharing was what we needed to confirm us in our opinions, and to further demonstrate the conditions under which success was insured or failure inevitable; and such a history of "co-operation" in our own economic and social world, we find in the monograph before us, by Amos G. Warner, '85, U. of N., and now Fellow in History and Political Science at Johns Hopkins University. This monograph was issued in March, 1887, from the press of the American Economic Association, and is but one of a series of valuable publications, our interest in it being heightened by our interest in its author. The title is "Three Phases of co-operation in the West," and those phases are: "Co-operation among Farmers," "Co-operation among Wage-earners," "Co-operation among Mormons." The district covered by this study of practical co-operation, includes the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and Nevada and the territory of Utah. Among American farmers, Mr. Warner finds co-operation to have been put to a practical test only by the Grange societies in the shape of distributive supply agencies and stores, and in the operation of creameries. The Grange stores have failed in the majority of cases, while co-operative creameries, under all favorable circumstances, have proved a success. Mr. Warner finds in his study of this phase, some half dozen more or less immediate causes of failure. To summarize:—"there are," he thinks, "conditions under which the co-operative is demonstrably inferior to the distinctively competitive organization for the attainment of given objects." A lack of prop-

er legislation is given as a second cause of failure. Again, rural life and character are ill adapted to the co-operative method of managing business. The general indebtedness of the farming class, the intense hostility of the regular tradesmen, and local quarrels and jealousies, make up the list of potent and sufficient causes of failure. The educational benefits, the better regulation of prices, the habit of going to first sources for supplies, and the demonstration of the fact that with good management under right laws success may be achieved, are the important benefits which Mr. Warner finds to have remained as the residual of approximate failure.

We have noticed in detail this first part of the monograph because of its special interest to the farmers of the state. The remainder of the work is characterized by the same concise and analytical treatment. The whole furnishes quite a storehouse of data and illustrations from which to argue the most promising results for cooperation under the proper conditions. We must congratulate Mr. Warner upon the excellent style and treatment he has given his subject. There was a great opportunity for a diffuse and lengthy treatment, which would yet have been of value, but instead Mr. Warner has made it characteristically straightforward, concise and thorough, and hence unusually valuable.

*Practical Piety:* four discourses delivered at Central Music Hall, Chicago, by Jenkin Lloyd Jones. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co. Price 30 cents. For sale by A. T. Leming & Co.

This little book supplies a long felt want. The sermons are given in a candid, straightforward manner which cannot fail to interest and charm the reader. Mr. Jones possesses that rare faculty of being able to express sound and practical truths in forcible, beautiful and intelligible language. The whole book abounds in excellent thoughts, and in reading of them one feels intuitively the earnestness emanating from him who gave them expression.

*The Legend of Hamlet,* by Geo. P. Hansen, late U. S. Consul at Elsinore, in Denmark; edited by Charles B. Simmons. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co. Price 25 cents. For sale by A. T. Leming & Co.

The great and absorbing interest felt for the character of Shakespeare's character of Hamlet makes anything pertaining to it more than ordinarily interesting. The legend of Hamlet as given by Mr. Hansen, is told in a pleasant, off-hand way, and the fact that the author was conversant with the scenery of the legend, lends to it an additional charm. Those of the students who have made a study of the play under Professor Sherman will find in this little volume much to instruct, amuse, and interest them.

*Progress from Poverty:* Review and criticism of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty and Protection or Free Trade*, by Giles B. Stebbins, Detroit, Michigan. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co. Price 25 cents. For sale by A. T. Leming & Co.

We have not seen an exposition of this important subject more comprehensive and thorough than the one before us. The mere mention of its title ought to secure for it a ready acceptance. But when a man of Mr. G. B. Stebbins's ability undertakes to discuss the question the success of the book is assured. Mr. Stebbins has, with keen perception, seized upon the arguments of Mr. George and laid bare their fallacies. We cannot refrain from giving the opening paragraph entire, in order to give the reader some idea of the style in which the book is written.

"Henry George has written a book, the title of which outlines its theory. "Progress and Poverty implies that wealth