





Economics and Socialism.

BY LAURA WILLARD TAFT.

The Chautauquan for December contains an article under the above title by J. Laurence Laughlin. What makes the article of special interest is the fact that its author is head professor of political economy at the University of Chicago. One opens it with interest as an authoritative statement of the position of economists regarding socialism.

Professor Laughlin's article has at least this merit: It does not dodge the issue. It does not begin, as did another learned article here reviewed, by asking solemn questions on the future of socialism and its probable relation to the future of trusts, and end by telling the reader that the whole matter is really immaterial and a mere question of the difference to investors "between three and four per cent."

FOREIGN NEWS.

Glimpses of the World-wide Struggle of the Proletarian Army for Its Liberty.

POLAND. Many arrests have taken place at Warsaw. The persons arrested are charged with distributing socialist literature. They were all connected with public libraries, and it is alleged they made use of their position to distribute tracts, etc.

MARX AND DARWIN.

The Great Italian Scientist Ferri, On Darwinism and Socialism As Related Truths.

The well-known Italian anthropologist and criminologist Enrico Ferri, has lately turned his entire attention to economic-social questions and has also expressed his views upon socialism. His work entitled "Socialism and Modern Science" was published in Rome in 1894, and shortly afterwards a German translation appeared in Leipzig. This work deserves the attention of the reading public, the more so as the author is one of the most eminent representatives of the Italian school of sociology.

and social theories are not created willfully but arise from the necessities of the time. To this may be added that all the above arguments of Haeckel designed to prove the contradiction of the two theories cannot be maintained. Haeckel asserts that socialism tends to Utopian equality of all while Darwinism shows inequality as based upon nature. Further that while according to socialism all would overcome in the struggle for life, while according to Darwinism the strongest only may survive.

This self-criticism which is becoming now very dominant is not unknown to the proletariat. All present received the impression that the delegates vote not only for resolutions but mean to execute them. It is to be hoped that the report of the next congress will prove this opinion to be correct.

