

**SOWING THE SEED OF THE SINGLE TAX.**

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By **KATHARINE EATON BRADLEY.**

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*(Read at the Buffalo Conference of the New York State Single Tax League.)*

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The seed sower in the fields of land value taxation must ever be an idealist. Amid social injustice, involuntary poverty and war, although his "soul is cast down and disquieted within him," yet his hope is in God and he is sustained by a vision of a better world, in whose making it is his joy to have a part. He believes that people are not as indifferent as they appear, that they will become convinced of the justice and practicability of the philosophy of Henry George, and that thereby good shall come to all mankind.

As the seed-sower looks about, he finds much to cheer him: the plowshares of our brilliant, dauntless periodicals and the Fels Fund Commission, the disc harrow of the National Conference, and the drill and seed dropper of the State League. Some of the local organizations have equipped themselves with cultivators and are doing valiant work. Later, when we shall have electric-power cultivators, we shall make more rapid progress. As yet, we in Olean lack the local league, but are receiving most efficient help from the State officers. If a new convert be lukewarm, we say, "See William Lustgarten, he will kindle in you an abiding enthusiasm." If another gardener reports blight or army worms, we say, "Write Benjamin Doblin, our Crop Improvement Expert."

Do we realize what a large amount we have of *tested* seed? The words of our great leader are supplemented by books, leaflets and periodicals which will furnish replies to every possible question. How shall busy, wayfaring people believe if they have not heard of our philosophy? We must bring it before them in all opportune ways. Often a book like "The Good Ship Earth" will introduce the subject better than something wearing the Single Tax label.

As a suggestion to workers in every community, my experience in regard to our literature being placed where it will be seen, may here be given. For many years after reading "Progress and Poverty" I longed to know what progress was being made in our cause. While a visitor at the public library of Louisville, Ky., my eye lighted upon a current number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW. I hungrily read every word of it, my mind and heart were "warmed and filled," and I was in touch with comrades throughout the world.

I was informed that the REVIEW had been donated by a resident of the city, Mrs. Avery, then more than ninety years of age. Incidentally may I add that the REVIEW led to my acquaintance with the Brotherhood of the Commonwealth and its founder, Charles Frederick Adams, with the result that my entire family became members of the Brotherhood.

In Washington last winter I was unable to learn at the German Embassy the account of the application of Single Tax principles by Dr. Schrameier in the German province of Kiauchou, China. Visiting the Library of Congress it was found that neither the SINGLE TAX REVIEW nor *The Public* were indexed in the Guide to Periodical Literature, and this omission was made known to Mr. Kiefer of the Fels Fund Commission. In the Periodical Department these publications were not to be seen upon the Sociological rack, as "they were not called for often enough to warrant it." It was suggested that the Single Tax Conference would bring more inquirers, and it was hoped that current numbers of the above mentioned publications would be kept in sight. Five years of back numbers of the REVIEW were finally brought me in which the desired information was obtained. Among scores of books on political economy in the open shelf reference rooms, there was but one book by Henry George, although "it was probable that there was a full edition of his works in the stacks." My spirits rose when I found a most admirable exposition of the Single Tax in the Encyclopædia Britannica.

There is no doubt but that the prize essay contest inaugurated by our State League has created a demand in libraries for George's books. However, the inquiries of our high school students had not increased the number in the Olean Public Library until a personal appeal was made by my showing the librarian the announcement printed of this contest. Then and promptly, to "Progress and Poverty" were added several others in a travelling library. I placed on the periodical racks, *Land Values*, *The Square Deal*, THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW and *The Public*. Recently permission has been obtained to take out back numbers for seed-sowing work, Mr. Bowman, of the *Public*, sending me each week several extra copies of the *Public* for free distribution. Probably one hundred names have been sent the *Public* in response to its offer, to mail copies as especially requested for these persons. This offer is still open.

Of great importance in our educational work is newspaper publicity. As Frank Stockbridge told us at the Washington Conference, editors will rarely refuse articles provided they are brief, and of value as local news, or have the element of a human interest story. Another condition is frequently made; the writer must assume responsibility by signing his name. Our papers took an article which, after speaking of the new magazines on the Single Tax in the library, mentioned and refuted some erroneous impressions held by the public regarding land value taxation. They also printed quotations from some of the addresses given in memory of Joseph Fels. Later, while asserting that the people did not wish articles on the Single Tax, they courteously gave space to an account of its progress throughout the world and of an explanation of the tax system in force in Houston, Texas.

Rusby's booklet, "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries and Lower Wages," was given to a number of the labor unions, men's clubs and lodge rooms.

The Improved Order of Red Men, with 525 registered delegates, met in State Convention in Olean during the past summer. Fifty copies of the Rusby booklet were furnished by the State League, which, with the Land Song and Rockefeller Idea slips, were handed the men as they entered their place of assemblage.

Many forceful leaflets, such as "Moving Toward Single Tax," and "Workingmen and the Single Tax," by John T. McRoy, can be kept on hand in quantities. They can easily be placed in one's letters, or in borrowed books, given to professional men and women, to artisans and delivery men and boys who come to one's house for any purpose whatsoever; the eyes of the unemployed and of the tramp will light up with hope if after they have earned a meal they are given a brotherhood thought and a sandwich of Single Tax literature.

Next week our city has its annual fair. We certainly should make an effort to circulate literature and, if possible, have speakers at all State, county and local fairs.

There are many ways by which women can be reached: during college life, in granges, clubs, reading circles, parlor meetings, and by the personal loaning and giving of information on the subject to many whom we meet day by day.

"Sowing the seed by the wayside high,  
Sowing the seed on the rocks to die,  
Sowing the seed where the thorns will spoil,  
Sowing the seed in the fertile soil—  
Sure, ah, yes, sure, will the harvest be."

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## SINGLE TAX ACTIVITIES IN BUFFALO.

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By F. P. JONES.

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*(Prepared for the Buffalo Conference, but not read, owing to the illness of the author).*

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It would obviously be incorrect to limit the report of Single Tax activities in Buffalo to the brevity of the celebrated essay regarding the snakes in Ireland, although to the Buffalo Single Taxer, reading of activities in other quarters of the world, it seems that we are not making the most of our opportunities. May the spirit and enthusiasm of this Conference inspire us in such a manner that when next called upon to give an accounting of ourselves, we may come to the front with pride and confidence.