

WORK AMONG COLLEGIATES.

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

By **MARY BOISE ELY.**

No longer do young men and young women accept without question the religious or political opinions of their parents. They are thinking for themselves. To the colleges in every State come an increasing number of young men and women. They come from every social, religious and political class in our country. The college is the great rostrum in which to tell the good tidings of peace and good will to men. To preach the gospel of Henry George.

The young are unusually open-minded, especially unprejudiced and untrammelled along economic tradition. They are susceptible to ethical standards and values. They also are practical and eager to change conditions and sure that they can do so. Therefore, I feel, that it is through the young men and young women in our colleges that the future of the land movement rests. The simplicity and the practical working of the Single Tax, as well as its lofty and far-reaching philosophy—the true brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God—would appeal to the young mind. There is hardly a college in this country where the Single Tax is intelligently and sympathetically presented in the economic classes.

I would present to the Conference the desirability of the Single Taxer of New York trying to sow the seed in this fertile field already prepared for us and to begin an active campaign of educational work in the colleges in New York State.

There are many ways in which this work could be done—and in submitting my plan I do it only by way of suggestion. This work could be done under the direction of each Single Tax League in the State, where each local league would be responsible for the colleges in its district. It is not so much how we reach the young people and present to them the way, and the only way, that poverty and inequality can be abolished, as that we begin the work in the colleges.

My plan is to organize in all the colleges in New York State, College Leagues. Have an initiation fee of \$1.00 and no dues. Have these leagues under a State governing board who would plan the work—sending lecturers from time to time to each college to arouse interest among the students and an organizer who would enroll members and assist in the electing of officers and all the preliminary work, and keep in touch with each league until it was strong enough to stand alone.

To stimulate interest and create enthusiasm sufficient to carry on the work, offer prizes for the best essay on the Land Question. I should favor one prize and have it of a large enough amount to make it seem worth while

to work for it. I believe that in a few years this movement would grow so that the amount collected from initiation fees would amount to a sufficient sum to make it self supporting. But if the entire amount collected from initiation fees could be paid back in prize money it would add great vigor to the movement.

The work must have an organizer who goes over the ground of each of these colleges and keeps in touch with the needs of each league. Young people in college are busy and even the sports that they love so much need constant oversight, and in each college there is a salary paid for this work. So one must expect that it would require pretty intelligent supervision to start this work and keep it going after being started.

If the movement were successful in New York State, my hope would be that we could organize the same work in every State in the United States.

READING CIRCLES.

By OSCAR GEIGER.

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

Fundamental Social Betterment, to be lasting, must come in response to a demand from the people, and the people must understand before they can demand. If we are ever to get the Single Tax on the statute books so that it will stay there, we must first get it into the minds of the people. We must get the people to want it and to get them to want it we must first get them to know it.

It is proper for us to try to get whatever measure of justice we can by such legal enactments as with the present state of the public mind we are able to obtain, but we must not delude ourselves into believing that merely direct effort toward legislation in the people's present state of mind will secure fundamental justice, or if by chance it does, that it could be maintained. The people themselves would soon undo or sanction the undoing, passively if not actively, of any law, however just or right it may be, which they did not understand. Vested interests would soon proclaim the sacredness of contract, the inviolability of predatory and time-honored institutions, and successfully show how their sacred rights were being violated.

The people are not proof against resounding phrases, against the wiles and cunning of the political boss and the corporation hireling. They must be educated. There is no enduring short cut to freedom. The path of democracy lies through education.

This accepted, there remains only the selection of effective methods of educating the people. There are many ways, most are expensive, while many are fraught with the requirement of undue effort, and therefore wasted energy.