

speakers were Messrs. John S. Crosby, Samuel Cooper, Arthur C. Pleydell, and Frank Stephens. Letters were read from Richard George and H. V. Hetzel, all paying eloquent tribute to Mr. Stephenson's worth and ability. A quartette sang "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Lead Kindly Light," and Chopin's "Funeral March" was played on the organ.

The following resolutions were passed :

We, the members of the Single Tax Society of Philadelphia, deeply conscious of the loss this Society in common with all mankind suffers in the removal by death of our brother, Arthur H. Stephenson, desire to place on record this tribute to his memory :

"Arthur H. Stephenson was gifted by Nature with more and greater talents than many men, but instead of devoting those talents to the support of privileges which make a few men monstrously rich and many men correspondingly poor, and which are in themselves the cause of most of the evils from which men suffer, he denounced those privileges and worked faithfully and laboriously to abolish them.

"He clearly saw that the institution of landlordism, arising as it does from our treatment of land as property, results in the denial to men of the bounty of the Creator; and he brought to the service of the disinherited and oppressed all the powers of his well-trained mind, standing courageously at all times and in all places for the equal right of all men to the use of the earth, and the consequent freedom and happiness which he knew would follow whenever this right was restored to them.

"Arthur H. Stephenson stood for Justice ! Not that conventional justice which is satisfied with the incarceration of petty thieves driven to crime through want, and at the same time applauds and rewards those who through unjust laws rob labor of its just reward; but a justice so exact and far-reaching as to secure to every laborer the full product of his labor; and which would deny to idlers and non-producers the privilege of fattening upon the toil of others.

"Arthur H. Stephenson did not live to see the time, surely coming, when 'if a man do not work, neither shall he eat;' but he contributed greatly to hasten that day, always mindful that to work was to be busy in benefit, and that no one could be esteemed an honest worker whose energies and intelligence were directed to fostering that system which makes the idle rich the pensioners of the toiling poor!

"Holding, as we do, to the belief that 'a man is worth only so much in this world as the things are worth about which he busies himself,' and ever mindful of the great things with which Arthur H. Stephenson busied himself, we call upon all those who, following his example, would do something for their fellow men, to join with us in the

public meeting, to be held on Sunday evening, the 12th instant, at Odd Fellows' Auditorium, to testify to his distinguished services to humanity."

The work which Mr. Stephenson so ably began is still unfinished, and if single taxers would honor his memory as he would have them do, they will work the harder and be the braver now that one more able champion of human rights is gone.

FLORENCE A. BURLIGH.

#### A HERO IN THE RANKS.

There died the other day, at Wakefield, Massachusetts, a humble citizen, by trade a moulder. Measured by academic tests, he was an unlettered man, yet so enlightened was his understanding, so clear his perception of principles, so faithful and persistent was he in the advocacy of an unpopular cause, that his demise calls for more than ordinary notice.

Jeptha N. Ryder was the oldest member of his trade in the town. "Bound to the wheel of labor," he followed day in and day out, for forty-six years, the routine of the mechanic, with small opportunity for relaxation and social indulgence. In spite of this limitation, through his habit of reading and reflection, his sturdy character, his faithful speech, his profound interest in the welfare of his fellow workers, as well as in the community in which his lot was cast, he acquired the respect and commanded the attention of his fellow citizens.

His life was worthy of notice inasmuch as he was the type of citizen upon whose existence and multiplication the survival and perpetuity of democratic institutions depend. There is often given to plain men, untrammelled by conventional standards and unconfused by the sophistry of learning, a clear vision of truths which evade the scholar. It is from Lincoln's "common people" that reformers draw the bulk of their disciples, for wealth and learning are timid and a cowardly subserviency is the price most frequently exacted for popular success.

Mr. Ryder was an early convert to the gospel of Henry George, and an earnest propagandist of the teachings of "Progress and Poverty" when ignorance of just principles of taxation was dense and all abounding. It was at his suggestion that the Massachusetts Single Tax League sustained for a week a series of protracted meetings at Wakefield in 1895, awakening thought by its careful presentation of local tax conditions, illustrated by pertinent individual examples, a memorable episode in the League's history.

Because of our friend's persistent watchfulness, frequent articles in the *Town's War-rants* kept the single tax contention fresh in mind. He was active in securing by a large majority the petition of the town for local

option in taxation, which was promptly presented at the State House by the chairman of the Selectmen. Through Mr. Ryder's influence, also, Henry George and Thomas G. Shearman were included as lecturers in the Town Course.

Indeed, Mr. George's appearance in this course at Wakefield was his last in Massachusetts. The great leader upon that occasion revealed to his friends the physical exhaustion which presaged his death a few months later. He prefaced his address with an earnest and feeling protest against President Cleveland's Venezuela proclamation, which had that very day startled the country. It seemed to the speaker unnecessary and dangerous, inflaming the war spirit that later was to sweep the country into strife and bloody conquest.

When, however, Mr. George addressed himself to the familiar subject of taxation, the effort was evidently a labor and the extreme deliberation of his utterance generated an anxious feeling among the friends who had accompanied him from Boston. He exhibited a marked depression of spirit after the lecture, feeling coconscious of his unsatisfactory discourse, and cheering words were needed to lift the cloud. The evening left a strong impression upon the writer, who then looked upon the living countenance of Henry George for the last time. With the event described the name of Mr. Ryder is indissolubly associated.

The circle of early single taxers has narrowed perceptibly since then and the meetings of the faithful bring painful reminders of the brave comrades who have fought the good fight and whose familiar faces are sorely missed. They are not forgotten and their works do follow them. They have not battled in vain. The cause they nursed in weakness is lusty and full of strength, and their faith, which never faltered in days of trial, is finding recognition and justification now. Upon the grave of the devoted and unselfish worker for whom this tribute is written, his old associates lay this offering of sincere respect.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

#### News—Domestic.

CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO.—(Stephen Potter.) Henry George's birthday was fittingly observed by the San Francisco Single Tax Society at Council Hall, Redmen's Building, in this city. The memory of our immortal leader is still fresh in the hearts of single taxers, as was attested by the earnest crowd that overflowed the hall and warmly greeted the speakers and entertainers. The gathering was augmented by a delegation from the Oakland Society from across the bay. A pleasant evening was passed listening to a charming programme of literary and musical numbers and addresses by prominent members of the San Francisco and Oakland societies.

Mr. W. G. Sawin, the President of the San Francisco society, presided, and in an interesting speech referred to the services rendered in the past by the great men of our country down to the time of George, showing the debt we owed to those unselfish, self-sacrificing men, whose lives had been devoted to the bettering of the condition of their fellows and paying a glowing tribute to our own great leader, who occupied a niche in the temple of fame above all others.

Joseph Leggett took his hearers back to George's boyhood days, reciting many entertaining anecdotes illustrative of the traits of character that were so prominent in his after life, his earnestness and fixedness of purpose, his power of analytical reasoning, his unselfishness and devotion to the cause of justice, and his humanitarian ideas. He traced his life along to that epoch-making event when he first unfurled the banner of the single tax at Metropolitan Temple in this city. He told of his labors and trials while engaged in journalism here, how he was regarded as a crank and cartooned as a rider of a hobby, of the difficulties overcome in the publication of "Progress and Poverty," of his removal to New York, of the formation of the Anti-Poverty Society, of his triumphant tour of Great Britain, of his campaigns for the mayoralty of the great metropolis, of the final recognition of his greatness by the thinking world, and the wonderful progress that had been made in the cause up to the time of his martyrdom. He pointed out how since then in England and Australia and throughout the English-speaking world great advances had been made, and how in this country the work had been taken up by Tom L. Johnson with an energy that promised the most substantial results for the future.

Edgar Pomeroy, past president of the Oakland society, called attention to the battle now waging between the people of Oakland and the great water corporation of Alameda County, now seeking to renew its franchise, stating that the Alameda single taxers were lined up with the people who opposed such renewal and favored municipal ownership, as a practical step in the direction of the end for which they were all working.

At the conclusion of the program a few pleasant moments were passed listening to brief addresses by L. M. Manzer and Ralph Hoyt.

This meeting of the San Francisco society will leave its happy recollections. The prospect of a new impetus being given to the movement under the leadership of Tom L. Johnson has inspired the faithful with renewed hope, and they see a possibility of the fulfillment of the prediction of our friend Leggett that the single tax is due during the first decade of the twentieth century. It had been the intention to celebrate the day by a great public meeting at Metropolitan Hall, as has been the custom in the past, but the word went out that the site of the old hall was wanted for a more modern building,