

## JOSEPH LEGGETT

By the death of Joseph Leggett, which took place at his home in San Francisco on June 10th, the single-tax movement in the United States has lost one of its oldest and most outstanding members. We are indebted to the STAR (San Francisco) for the following appreciation of his life and work.

Mr. Leggett was born in Balrothery, near Dublin, Ireland, June 19th, 1840. At the age of 12 he came with his parents to the United States, where they settled in Western New York. After taking a course at Alfred Academy he completed a course at the Toronto Normal School and taught school in Oakville and St. Mary's, Canada, while preparing to enter the University of Toronto. He left the University in his third year and took a trip to Australia for his health. In 1868 he came to California, where he first taught school in Santa Clara County and then became professor of Latin and Greek in the University of the Pacific. Later he became principal of the Grass Valley High School, which position he held for two years, moving to San Francisco in 1871. In 1873 he was made Deputy Superintendent of Schools. In the same year he was admitted to the bar. He was elected a member of the Board of Education in 1877, and during Mayor Taylor's administration was a Police Commissioner.

In 1874 he married Miss Elizabeth Widney, of Santa Clara, by whom he had four children—Joseph W. Leggett, Elizabeth A. Leggett, Dr. John W. Leggett and Dr. Robert M. Leggett—who survive him.

Joseph Leggett was truly "one who loved his fellow-men," and it may be said of him that his life was consecrated to the service of humanity, for it was put to the best possible use in "making the world better because of his having lived in it." No higher tribute can be paid to the memory of any man.

He was among the pioneers who adopted the doctrines of Henry George, and he never missed an opportunity, in public or in private, to preach and teach the "gospel"—which he did with unusual clearness and force.

It was in 1871 that Henry George published his pamphlet, "Our Land and Land Policy," which Mr. Leggett read, and became deeply interested in the subject of land monopoly and the way to abolish the evil.

In 1878 the Land Reform League was organised in Judge James G. Maguire's law office. The term "Single Tax" was then unknown, but that League was really the first Single Tax organisation in the world. Mr. Leggett was elected its president, being nominated for the office by no less a person than Henry George, who was at the time writing that book of books, *PROGRESS AND POVERTY*, proof-sheets of which he submitted to Mr. Leggett before publication.

Leggett remained president of the Land Reform League (its name was changed to the Tax Reform League) until the organisation of the Single Tax Society of San Francisco, in 1887, when he was succeeded by Judge Maguire.

Mr. Leggett was also one of the organisers of the "California League for Home Rule in Taxation," in which he took a most active part, and was its treasurer from its organisation to the day of his death.

Readers of the STAR will remember his exceptionally fine series of articles on the Single Tax, under the title of "Common Sense," running in these columns through several years.

Frederic C. Howe, Immigration Commissioner of New York, and author of "The City, and Hope of Democracy," as well as other great books, visited San Francisco last year, and spoke at one of the weekly luncheons of the League for Home Rule in Taxation. In the course of his speech, he said that he was glad to meet with the San Francisco Single Taxers, because he remembered that when Tom Johnson

was Mayor of Cleveland (Howe being then a Supervisor of that city), Mr. Johnson would frequently invite him to his home, to show him letters which he received from time to time from a Single Taxer in San Francisco. "These letters," said Mr. Howe, "contained wise comment on politics and public affairs, and were always written in an optimistic spirit." Continuing, Mr. Howe said:—

"Mr. Johnson often told me that sometimes, when most depressed—when his great struggle for the right against entrenched wrong seemed almost hopeless—the letters I speak of gave him new hope and courage, and inspired him to higher endeavour. The author of those letters was Joseph Leggett, whom I am glad and honoured to meet to-day, and to personally tell him in what high esteem he was held by the late Mayor Tom Johnson."

Joseph Leggett was highly esteemed not only by Tom Johnson, but by all the leading Single Taxers of the world, with whom he was in constant correspondence.

Truly, Mr. Leggett fulfilled beyond measure, Croasdale's definition of a Single Taxer—"one who does something for the Single Tax." No man ever "kept the faith and fought the fight" more faithfully and zealously.

Mr. Leggett was a Jeffersonian Democrat. He always took an active interest in public affairs, and, in the broad sense, was a progressive of progressives.

At all times he fought for the right as he saw the right, whether it was popular or not. He had little patience with those who had eyes to see, but would not, and no patience at all with those who saw, but lacked the courage of their convictions.

He stood on the mountain-top and grasped the entire phenomena of human life. He taught how to substitute service for privilege and bring about industrial freedom. He "allured to brighter worlds and led the way." He did not live to see the fruition of his hopes, but he saw the dawning of the new day, when involuntary poverty, with all the misery and crime that follow in its wake, will be no more.

Joseph Leggett was a fond husband and father, a public-spirited citizen, and a steadfast friend. In all relations of life, his was the "god-like attitude of a man."

May his widow and children, in their bereavement, find sweet consolation in the thought that although gone from our midst, he lives in his good works, and in the hearts of all who knew him, by whom his memory will ever be revered.

## SINGLE TAX PERIODICALS

The following is a list of the principal single tax papers published in various parts of the world. Our readers are kept as well informed as possible of the activities of the movement abroad through the notes that appear in *LAND VALUES*, but they will obtain fuller information and at the same time encourage those who are doing such good work in other countries by subscribing to these periodicals. In particular we may recommend to the British reader the two journals published in Australia where so much has already been done and is still being achieved in spite of the war.

THE STANDARD. (Monthly.) 2s. per annum. 65, Market Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

PROGRESS. (Monthly.) 2s. per annum. 97, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

THE LIBERATOR. (Monthly.) 2s. per annum. 161, Abel Smith Street, Wellington, New Zealand.

THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW. (Bi-monthly.) 6s. per annum. 150, Nassau Street, New York.

THE SQUARE DEAL. (Monthly.) 2s. 6d. per annum. 79, Adelaide Street, E., Toronto, Canada.

THE SINGLE TAXER. (Monthly.) 2s. 6d. per annum. 253, Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Winnipeg, Canada.