

Now, Single Tax in the rural areas of the North-West—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—means only a very small tax, because the revenues required by the Government of these provinces is small. Also small is the revenue required by the cities and towns. I am afraid that many people in Great Britain do not see the difference between such Single Tax systems as exist in the North-Western Provinces, where taxes are small, and the system advocated by Henry George, and called the Single Tax. Anyway, there is nothing to be afraid of. We can in this country proceed on the scientific and practical lines followed by the North-Western Provinces, and leave the ultimate goal to the citizens of the future. It is given to us to be wise in our own generation, and to hope that the generations that follow us will benefit by our experience, and decide for themselves how far they shall proceed along the road to the ultimate goal.

The people of North-Western Canada engaged in industry have learned from practical experience that it is wise to let men enjoy their personal property and improvements. Are we here so wedded to tradition that we cannot try how exempting industry from taxes would benefit the producer? And after all it is no revolutionary proposal in this country. We had no other system for over a thousand years. When we consider our history and traditions, taxing industry and improvements is a modern notion. Everybody agrees that our present system is rotten, and that some change must take place. Surely we have tried every taxing system under the sun, and the man who is to invent a new one is not yet born. My word to your readers is: Do not be afraid of terms.

Now let us look at the United States of America. A little contrast may show a great deal more than economical argument. No one will deny that for fifteen years the best of American farmers have been leaving their lands and going across the border into Canada. So great has been the exodus that the North-Western States of America are full of alarm. Do our Imperialists stop to ask themselves what are the superior attractions which woo the farmers of the States away North? Take the States of Washington or Oregon. Their climate is as fine, their land as fertile, their winter not so severe as the lands of North-Western Canada. Why should the farmers leave them, if not for the benefits of the Single Tax? It is true that in the American States there are some taxes upon land values, but most of the State and Municipal taxes are levied upon personal property and improvements. And now you find that the burning question of Oregon, Washington, California, Iowa, Nebraska, and other States of the West is that of taking taxes off personal property and improvements. For what reason? They are quite candid about it. The reply is: "We want population, and besides we want to keep the people we have where they are." As one man said to me in Portland (Oregon): "We are going to stop being a certain kind of fool. We are not going to get them all the way out here to settle, only to learn there are greater attractions in Canada."

I spoke at six public meetings in Oregon, and I can assure you, though they may fail to win next month, the battle has now begun in Oregon, and they mean to go on until they get the taxes off personal property and improvements. I found bankers, large manufacturers, lawyers, doctors, mechanics, and agriculturalists taking leading parts in the campaign in favour of the Single Tax.

It is impossible adequately to describe the difference in the homesteads in the United States. There are no such evidences of prosperity and comfort as one sees in Canada to be found with the farmers in the States. In Oregon I motored over 100 miles each day for four days, round about Pendleton, Le Grand, Union, and Baker City. Then again, from the back of the observation car for over a thousand miles through Idaho, Wyoming, and Nebraska—comparatively long-settled districts—I found no evidences

of Canada's prosperity. And what I have said of the Western States can be said of the States of the Mid-West. I spoke at many meetings in Missouri. Of course, the cities have grown enormously since I was last in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Just a word, in conclusion, on New York City. The growth of Single Tax principles there has gone on amazingly in the past eight years. It will, no doubt, surprise many of your readers, as indeed it surprised me, to learn that in the borough of Manhattan the local authority takes at least 20 per cent. of the annual value of land. Land speculation is dead in the borough of Manhattan. A great real estate man, at a banquet of his colleagues this spring, said: "No one would think of buying land in the borough of Manhattan for any other purpose now than improvement." What a blessed stage we shall have reached in this country when that could be said of our taxing and rating systems!

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN.

UNITED STATES.

DEATH OF RICHARD F. GEORGE.

To all but his nearest friends the news of Richard F. George's dying has come with the shock of sudden death. But since the early spring he had lingered in an illness over which Death's shadow hung heavily. He died in Brooklyn, N.Y., on the 28th. His body was buried near his father's in Greenwood on the 30th.

The second son of Henry George, and only brother of Congressman Henry George, Jr., Richard Fox George, was born in San Francisco on the 27th of January, 1865. This was at the time when his father's fortunes were at their lowest ebb. Richard's birth was consequently under circumstances which, as described in the LIFE of his father by Henry George, Jr., must have gone far to inspire Henry George with the message he vitalised in PROGRESS AND POVERTY and in his own subsequent career.

For a time Richard George was the "Co." in the firm of Henry George & Co., which published George's books in the '80's; and during its earlier years he served in the business department of Henry George's STANDARD. He and Mary E. Robinson were married in 1888 by Father Huntington, the Episcopal priest whose sympathy with Henry George's message had been awakened in the Mayoral campaign of two years before in which he had taken an active part as a street speaker. Mr. George's wife and three of their four children survive him.

Some years after his marriage, an artistic impulse, noticeable in his youth, found an inviting opportunity for development under the tutelage of Frank Stephens, the Philadelphia sculptor. Thereafter, until the illness of which he has died incapacitated him, he devoted himself altogether to sculpture—especially to portraits.

His first notable work was a bust of his father, now widely known, which is both interesting and authentic. A bust of Thomas G. Shearman for an institution in Brooklyn was another of his works, and one of Tom L. Johnson another. He has left behind him an unfinished statue of Father McGlynn. The impressive tombstone at his father's grave is also the work of Richard F. George. So are those portrait tablets on the walls of the two buildings fronting on Union Square, New York, in which respectively William Lloyd Garrison and Henry George died. His last finished work was the huge bronze medallion of Henry George and Tom L. Johnson, of which there are many small reproductions in bronze. It was presented to Tom L. Johnson less than a year before Johnson's death, in honor of Johnson's work for the truth that George had tried to make clear; but now it may serve as well for a memorial to the sculptor himself as to his father and his father's disciple and friend.

Richard Fox George had much of the temperament of his father, along with a marked physical resemblance. He had also his father's persuasive oratorical qualities, but gave himself little opportunity for oratorical expression. In the Single Tax campaign in Delaware in the early '90's he made a good speaking record. After taking up sculpture, however, he clung to his profession. Yet he never allowed his devotion to art to submerge his social ideals.

Personally, he was among the most lovable of men. And difficult though his pathway was, he has followed it with unwavering loyalty to the great principles of human life. Straw for his tale of bricks he tried to get, but straw or no straw he faithfully made his bricks.—THE PUBLIC (Chicago), October 4th.

The merry jest, the kindly mood,
The modest soul that dwelt apart
From all save us who understood
The greatness of his mind and heart,

Is silent now. How strange it seems
That he should lie where green trees nod.
Is this the end of all his dreams—
A little dust, a patch of sod?

Yet to have sought to wrest the soul
Of Beauty from the passive clay
And dwell with her, were worth the whole
Of Life that merely lives its day.

Dust unto dust—yet nothing dies,
For here where Life its tents has furled,
Like him his mighty father lies
Whose thought now shakes a world!

—Joseph Dana Miller.

Writing from Merriwold (Sullivan Co., N.Y.) on October 7th, Henry George, Junr., says:—

"Doubtless ere this you have heard of our affliction, my brother Dick's going. The doctors a year ago warned us, but one will not be warned, despite the doctors. We did all we could, but we did not believe the disaster could overtake us. It did, however, on the 28th ult., and my brother now lies at Greenwood with my father, mother and Sister Jennie. We did not suspect the truth for a long time. When we found out, we took the best medical advice.

It is a heavy loss to me, for Dick and I were more than ordinary brothers. The bond since infancy was very close.

THE SINGLE TAX FIGHT IN MISSOURI.

The following excerpt from the CHANCELLOR (Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.) of October 3rd, gives a comprehensive idea of the campaign now being carried on in Missouri by our American co-workers:—

The SATURDAY EVENING POST prints a very fair editorial upon the great fight for a limited application of the principles of the Single Tax in Missouri, as follows:—

"After 1914 there shall be no taxes on personal property, no poll tax, no license tax on merchants, manufacturers or upon any occupation that does not require police regulation. In 1914 improvements upon lands shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of one-fourth of their value and an additional one-fourth each two years thereafter until, in 1920, all improvements upon land shall be exempt from taxation."

Such is the proposal which the Equitable Taxation League lays before the people of Missouri in the form of a constitutional amendment, to be voted upon next November. The argument is simple: Personal property and improvements upon real estate are the result of individual effort. The possessor acquired them through his personal exertions—or, if he inherited them, somebody else acquired them through personal exertion.

Missouri wants people to exert themselves. It wants them to lay by money, put up better dwellings, barns, factories, office buildings, warehouses. It should encourage them to add as much as possible to the State's total wealth through their own efforts. Hence it should not tax the fruit of such efforts.

And revenue—when these things are exempt from taxation? exclusive of improvements. Nobody made the land. Bountiful Nature provided it. And land values, exclusive of improvements, result from the increase of population rather than from anybody's individual effort. A certain plot of ground, vacant and unproductive, is worth a million dollars in the market simply because half a million people live close to it.

That is what the sponsors of Missouri's constitutional amendment propose to tax.

The Taxation League's proposal involves something of a revolution, and the time allowed for carrying it into effect may be rather short. A very big and complex vested interest has been built up on the "unearned increment" in city real estate. To unbuild it without disaster needs much care and patience.

But the only interest which this Missouri amendment proposes to unbuild is one that is causing disaster to all other interests. The Missouri landowner who is putting his land to good use will derive a great and immediate benefit from the change. He will be relieved of burdensome taxes on his improvements and personal property. There will be a corresponding increase on franchises of monopolistic corporations and on values of lands withheld from use.

The interests which derive profit from obstruction of industry and from levying of tribute on producers can easily be dispensed with, with no more disaster than would result from complete elimination of any other form of robbery. It is absurd to urge caution in assuring to industry and enterprise the full reward of their efforts, lest vested interests built on wrongful appropriation of such rewards may suffer. Yet it is with such an absurdity that the SATURDAY EVENING POST mars what is otherwise an able and thoughtful editorial.

The Old English Village

Notes on the Ancient
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