

In the passing of Mr. C. B. Fillebrown which occurred at Boston, Mass., on December 2nd, the Single Tax movement in the U.S.A. lost one of its greatest and most conspicuous figures.

Friend of Henry George and contemporary as well of Thomas G. Shearman, Father McGlynn and the rest of the galaxy of early American Single Taxers, his services to the cause was continuous, indefatigable and highly intelligent. Leaving to others the political and oratorical methods of propaganda, Mr. Fillebrown held steadily to his chosen task of establishing the Single Tax as a reasoned philosophy capable of illustration and demonstration. The printing press was his vehicle, and while through its aid he addressed the reading public generally his favourite appeal was to educators. He sought and obtained the ear of the economists and the college professors, among whom he numbered many friends and counsellors. All his writings are marked by clearness of thought and aptness of illustration which entrances the reader and interests him in the most complex argument. His principal work, *THE A B C OF TAXATION*, is known in most parts of the world, and his output of lesser publications was considerable in volume and influential in effect.

Personally Mr. Fillebrown was quite exceptional. Tall and imposing in appearance and courtly in manner, he was one of the most modest and lovable of men. At the same time no one could be more immovable than he when a matter of conviction or of principle was involved. Sound and logical as a thinker, a patient investigator and an accurate writer he was to his last day on earth both an indomitable protagonist of the Single Tax and a type of the gentleman, *sans peur et sans reproche*.

### "THE LANDLORD OR HIS AGENT."

Alderman W. H. Lander, retiring President, presided at the annual meeting at Shrewsbury on Saturday, January 26th, of the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture, when Mr. E. B. Fielden, of Condover Hall, was elected President.

The report showed that the membership was 414, and the receipts were £330.

Mr. Alfred Mansell, Secretary of the Chamber, read a paper on after-war problems affecting agriculture. He said that Agricultural War Executives had revealed to many who did not know or shut their eyes to facts that there were far too many holdings not producing what they were capable of producing; others not producing half their quota, and a very considerable number producing little or nothing. Answering the question who was primarily responsible for that state of things, Mr. Mansell said in many cases it must be the landlord or his agent. He was Radical enough to say boldly that the time had arrived when it must be clearly understood that landowners held their property as trustees for the nation. The majority of landlords did their duty, but there was a large number of farms where the house and buildings were in a disgraceful state of disrepair, and he did not think any self-respecting tenant should be called on to put up with that state of things. — *"Birmingham Daily Post,"* January 28th.

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### TOWN PLANNING IN SCOTLAND

The present position of town planning in Scotland is that the Local Government Board have received 32 applications from Local Authorities for authority to prepare schemes. The Board have authorised the preparation of 20 of these schemes; and of these, 3 schemes have been submitted to them for approval. The list of Scottish authorities who have made applications for authority to prepare town-planning schemes is encouraging as indicating that many Local Authorities—especially of the more populous districts—have already shown an appreciation of the benefits which the Act confers.

We regret to note that no schemes have yet been finally approved. A good many have been prepared, as we have said, but for one reason or another no scheme has yet reached the stage of being sanctioned by the Local Government Board. Conditions have, of course, been entirely abnormal (during the war), and consequently the progress of the last three years cannot be taken as a criterion. Even so, however, we think there is a desirability, indeed necessity, for a speeding-up of the framing of schemes by Local Authorities and the consideration of these by the Central Authority. It is very essential that schemes should be ready so that building progress may be made immediately the war is over, and therefore town planning is an eminently fit subject to engage the attention of both the Local Authorities and the Central Authority during the war. . . .

Under section 58 (2) of the Act of 1909, no person is entitled to obtain compensation on account of any building erected on or contract made with respect to land included in the scheme after the time at which the application for authority to prepare a scheme is made, or after such other time as the Local Government Board may fix for the purpose. The Local Government Board have exercised this power to assist Local Authorities. In these cases they have fixed a date anterior to that from which claims for compensation would have ceased under the provisions of the statute. The result of the provision in the Act is that any person who desires to erect buildings of any description within a town-planning area must do so always subject to the risk of having to demolish these buildings at a later date without any compensation. That, of course, is a very serious aspect, and does tend to prevent the erection even of workmen's dwellings, which are at present a clamant necessity. A town-planning scheme may get through its various stages within twelve months, but under existing conditions (including the fact that the staff of the Local Government Board have been called upon to undertake work in connection with the war, and town-planning work has in great measure had to be suspended) land has been sterilised for a period of several years. Indeed, it became necessary, so far as the Rosyth area of Dunfermline was concerned, to pass an Emergency Act in 1915 by which it became possible to erect with safety dwellings for Government employees within the town-planning area, pending the approval of the town-planning scheme.—*From the Report of the Scottish Housing Commission.*

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