

SINGLE TAX REVIEW

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of Single Tax Progress.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

We desire to remind all those who fail to receive the REVIEW to notify us before the edition is exhausted. The mails are not always infallible, nor is the mailing clerk. So, too, when a copy arrives that is soiled or torn in the mails, or imperfect in any way, our subscribers will confer a favor by writing us at once and we will take pleasure in mailing another copy.

Again we urge upon our readers the necessity of securing every Single Taxer in their vicinity as a subscriber for the REVIEW. These are summer days and most Single Taxers are resting, but the movement is merely dormant, and will be revived in the Autumn as never before. In a presidential year, once every four years, the American people give more or less earnest study to economic questions. The tariff is bound to be discussed and with it the whole taxation question, and the related questions of monopoly and wages of labor. In the presidential campaign the REVIEW, in accordance with its settled policy, will take no sides. The great body of Single Taxers will no doubt support Bryan should be nominated, as now seems certain he will be, but they will not fail to criticise him. They will be among the most intelligent of his supporters as

they have long been the wisest and most discerning of his critics. But many, doubtless, for reasons that seem best to themselves, will espouse other causes. It is absolutely certain that should Eugene V. Debs, candidate for president on the Socialist ticket, receive a million votes, as is predicted and hoped for by our socialistic friends, the Single Tax cause will move forward. For a vote of this magnitude will make occasion when the defenders of things as they are must pause and take note. There is our opportunity. For our well meaning friends have no programme; their "Co-operative Commonwealth" is without chart or compass; and to their destructive criticism we alone present a constructive front.

But whatever the final result, the period of active campaigning gives us the opportunity to present our cause to willing ears. Our literature should be circulated wherever funds can be raised for the purpose. The REVIEW will be a source of inspiration to our workers and it will not fail to contain brief expositions of our principles for the benefit of the inquirer who is uninformed, and full and enlightening reports of our progress throughout the world. To the latter object we entreat the support of our readers everywhere.

DEATH OF GROVER CLEVELAND.

Grover Cleveland is dead. And with him the old democratic party dies. At all events, no figure of equal prominence and prestige appears to head the rapidly vanishing remnant of the conservatives who constituted what is termed the Old Democratic Party. What survives gives hope of the birth of a new spirit that shall oppose on fundamental grounds those institutions of privilege which threaten the life of the nation. But as yet this spirit of opposition lacks the coherence necessary for effective action, failing to enlist those who for reasons of party attachment, association, or tradition still count themselves Republicans.

Grover Cleveland's career was not with-

out its lesson. But that lesson is unlike that which in protracted homilies, newspaper obituaries seek to inculcate. For contrary to popular notion, Grover Cleveland had his opportunity and missed it. In proof of which let us supply an unwritten chapter in his life which the newspaper chronicles have wholly missed, and for which we were long ago indebted to the late Donn Piatt, once Lincoln's private secretary and later editor of *Belford's Magazine*.

The kind of political associations that made Grover Cleveland Sheriff of Buffalo were not such as to arouse any curiosity for the study of economic problems. This is not said in depreciation of the man—for he later demonstrated that he had ideals far in advance of his political associates. It is to his credit as a man and a party captain that he drew to his side such men as Henry Ward Beecher, George William Curtis and Carl Schurz in support of the moral revolt in which he was no unworthy leader.

But economic problems were not at this time an issue in politics. Thus it was that Cleveland, who had probably regarded the tariff much as his predecessor on the Democratic ticket, General Winfield Scott Hancock, had done, as "a local issue," when he became President knew as much of the vexed question of protection or free trade as the average politician of his day—and no more. But a book fell into his hands—a book by a Single Taxer. This book was "The Protective Tariff—What it Does for Us", by the late General Herman Lieb. It is a good book and ought to be circulated in the present campaign. There is only one other book on this great question that is better, and that is the one by Henry George, and the latter to a mind like Cleveland's would probably have not been nearly so effective. But this opened a new vista to him. As he had never been, in all probability, imbued with protectionist notions he had little to unlearn. His mind was not of the highest order, but there was a directness in his mental processes and small tendency to tergiversation. He saw the whole system of robbery falsely called "protection;" and with something of the same moral enthusiasm in which he had

opposed the spoilsmen of his party he sat down to write his tariff message—the one that never saw the light. So the story goes as told the writer by Donn Piatt. The message burned and shrivelled the paper on which it was written. It was not an official paper—it was a free trade tract. His advisers heard with horror. They plead with him. Still with that same dogged obstinacy he flung back at them, "But what is said here is true."

On that message, much modified from its original declaration, he was defeated; on the principle of that message four years later he was triumphantly elected.

For this election he was indebted to the Single Taxers more than to any other group of men, for they were the most active and the most intelligent of the free trade propagandists before whose assaults the protective edifice was shaken to its foundations. It seemed as if the battle was in a fair way of being won. Had Grover Cleveland been a Richard Cobden or a John Bright the war could have had but one issue. But the spirit aroused was allowed to sleep. Mr. Cleveland accepted, though with silent protest, the miserable compromise known as the Wilson Bill, and to all intents and purposes the Protectionists had won.

We are not forgetting the difficulties that confronted the president. That the "Dave" Hills and the "Jim" Smiths of the Presidents own party had helped to defeat him, and that the money question intruded itself to the diversion of the free trade forces. But all this might not have been had Cleveland possessed the soul of a crusader—had he been as tenacious of his opportunities and the spirit he had aroused in this great matter as in smaller things. But he was a politician and his instincts and sympathies were with the privileged classes.

He had missed a great name in history by missing his opportunity.

J. D. M.

THE "involuntary poverty" we speak of arises from *voluntary servitude*. That is why so many of us lose heart.