

Alfred Cridge, who died in San Francisco, Cal., in January last, though his name will not be familiar to many single taxers in the East, was one of the foremost advocates of our principles for many years in the city where he died. He was famous as an advocate of proportional representation, and was a lifelong democrat in the generic sense, a lover of liberty, and a foe of tyranny. He was born in Newton, England, in 1824. He would not take out his citizenship papers as long as chattel slavery existed, but on the appearance of the Emancipation Proclamation became a citizen of the United States. And the community in which he lived profited by his earnest and never flagging public spirit. In 1897 he was selected by Mayor Phelan as one of the committee to draw up a charter for the government of San Francisco. He was one of the pioneers of our movement in those days when Henry George was struggling mightily for the recognition of the principles now hailed by millions as the true evangel. His life was a noble one. Well might his son say as the body was borne to its last resting-place: "I would rather have my father leave me what he did, an honored name and such a record, than all of Rockefeller's wealth."

National Lecturer Batchelder in suggesting the subject of taxation for discussion by the Farmer Granges, says: "The question of equal taxation is as old as the establishment of government, and doubtless will continue an important issue as long as the world stands and government exists." It is to be hoped that the granger will not enter upon the discussion of the question in any such spirit as this. Throughout the granges there are many men who perceive that there must be somewhere a natural, rational system of taxation that offers a solution of the question; others know what that solution is.

Mr. Batchelder says: "The common basis upon which all the taxes should be assessed seems to be quite well agreed upon, for no one can honestly dissent from the principle that the assessment for public expenditures should be in proportion to wealth. . . . In other words, that a person's or corporation's contribution to the fund for public expenditures should be in direct proportion to their wealth."

Surely Mr. Batchelder has heard of disagreement with this canon of taxation, and surely he must have met with theories the reverse of it, not only "honestly" held, but vigorously urged. The notion that everybody should pay in proportion to his wealth, and the attempt to practically apply the theory, it may surprise Mr. Batchelder to be told, is responsible for more than half of the farmers' poverty. It is the wealth of the agriculturalist that is the most ruthlessly confiscated, since its value is more easily ascertained and the wealth itself cannot be secreted. If the inequalities of taxation are inherent in government, and are destined to persist as long as government endures, according to Mr. Batchelder's positive dictum, one wonders what can be the practical value of its discussion by the granges. To talk about a problem so hopeless of solution is to waste time that might more profitably be given up to the consideration of the phases of the moon.

The city of Basel, Switzerland, receives 20,000 centers (about 2,200,000 lbs.) of salt annually as royalty from its salt mines, which are washed by the river Rhine.

A recent issue of the Canada *Gazette* announces that the Governor-General in Council has ordered that a royalty of ten cents per ton be levied on the gross output of coal mines in the mining lands of the Crown in British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Manitoba.