

## DEATH OF TOM BAWDEN.

Our readers will learn with regret of the death of Tom Bawden, whose long and earnest work for the Single Tax in Detroit has left its influence behind him. His extraordinary exertions in behalf of the truth which he held as his religion hastened his end, and he died a martyr to the cause. His death should prick the conscience of those of us who are content to preach the Single Tax in our own selfish and comfortable way. Tom—for as Tom he was always known—did scouting duty where the bullets were thickest, while the great army lagged behind.

"Strike once more then and be dumb;  
Let the victors when they come,  
When the forts of folly fall,  
Find thy body by the wall."

And Tom's body lies by the wall, one of the many fallen in a good fight. He sacrificed ease and comfort to the cause, and at the end he gave his life for it.

The Detroit papers paid their respects to the deceased in many appreciative notices, for his sincerity had come to be recognized. From one of these, the *Informer*, an organ of the negro citizens of the city, we select the following notice:

"Thomas Edward Bawden was born to Samuel and Elizabeth Bawden, in Toronto, January 11, 1857. Upon becoming of age he went to work for the Grand Trunk railway as a fireman on a locomotive. After becoming a competent engineer he went west and secured employment in Iowa, but returned in six months to marry Eliza, the faithful wife who is now his widow. They returned to the west at once and for three years Mr. Bawden was an engineer on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad. At the end of that time he returned to Toronto and engaged in the flour and feed business and was quite successful, but tired of this and selling out in 1891 he went into the insurance business. It was not long before Mr. Bawden became superintendent of the Yorktown Loan & Savings Co., and was assigned to Windsor, Ont., where he managed the company's business. It was while residing in Windsor that Mr. Bawden saw the "Single Tax cat" and at once resigned his position and came to Detroit to take up the active work of propagating the Henry George doctrine. Left to mourn his loss are Eliza Bawden, wife, and Bessie, aged 20; Gertrude, aged 14, and Roy, aged 12, children. Mr. Bawden left no property except a life insurance policy for \$1,000, which will not be available for some weeks while necessary steps are taken in the probate court to secure it. This fact speaks volumes for the unselfish character of the man who gave his life that others may know the real inwardness of our social iniquity and with that knowledge help to destroy the evil."

The *Detroit Tribune* contained this mention of an important incident in the life of this earnest apostle of the Single Tax:

"For a few days in May, 1901, Tom Bawden was the most-talked-of man in Detroit. It was his persistence in delivering Single Tax addresses on the campus that brought about the so-called "campus riot" on the night of May 10. In defiance of the orders of Frank C. Andrews, then police commissioner, Bawden attempted to give a speech on the campus that night. When the police, acting under Andrew's orders, attempted to disperse the crowd, they were attacked by the enraged people and a riot ensued in which a number of persons were injured. Thousands of people paraded the streets, cheering for Bawden and shouting threats at Andrews and his policemen.

Andrews succeeded in having an ordinance passed by the council, prohibiting gatherings on the campus, and for violating this ordinance Bawden was arrested and thrown in jail. He steadfastly refused to pay his fine, declaring that he would 'rot in jail first.' His friends finally paid it without his knowledge and he was released."

The *Detroit Times* commented as follows:

"For all that he did with voice and pen toward the bringing in of this new era of justice and light; for all that he did in the hope of serving his brothers by emancipating them from the yoke of oppressive economic ills; for his courage and independence in fighting on the very frontiers of truth, if for nothing else, Tom Bawden deserves the kindly recollection of his fellow men. While the majority of men were too busy, too timid or too dull to deflect a hair's breadth from the beaten path, he was striking out into new arenas of truth and boldly proclaiming it."

The Rev. Reed Stuart pronounced an eloquent eulogy at the funeral, and among the pall bearers were John D. Howarth and Frederick F. Ingram, names familiar to Single Taxers the world over. Many prominent citizens attended the services, and Tom Bawden was not without honors at the last. He has left his impress upon the moral and intellectual life of Detroit, and his work is an example of the influence that can be wielded by one not exceptionally endowed by nature with extraordinary intellectual gifts, but armed with a passionate hatred of injustice and a Christ-like pity that almost excluded the thought of self. It is well to live for such a cause as ours; it was given to Tom Bawden to die for it.

A new novel by Hon. Herbert J. Quick, Ex-Mayor of Sioux City, Iowa, will soon appear.

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