

MASSACHUSETTS.

The question of the enormous land values of poorly developed localities in Boston seems to be rapidly coming to the front in a growing demand for equitable assessment methods.

Mayor Fitzgerald, it would seem, considers it "good politics" to call the attention of the public to this condition, which of itself means a tremendous advance from a few years back when the private appropriation of these publicly created values was deemed highly proper in current thought.

The general tendency in assessing has been of course to favor unimproved property, but this has no justification in Massachusetts' law.

The assessors blanks require them to separate land and improvement values in different columns and this being so, the improvement demanded in assessment methods is going to open up the whole question of land value taxation when once the smaller home owners are shown how the large estates shift the burden.

The Massachusetts Single Tax League has been reorganizing, as we hope, for more effective work in keeping with the advance that Single Tax principles have made elsewhere than among its known adherents. Many of us believe that with a cause such as ours every opportunity for publicity should be seized, and that in this the reformer can learn much from the politician. As Henry George said in his chapter on "Practical Politics" in *Protection or Free Trade*, "The zeal of the propagandist needs to be supplemented by the skill of the politician,"—a good admonition.

As elsewhere, the Single Taxers in Massachusetts feel that an immediate necessity is the adoption of the initiative and referendum, and in April the General Court will consider such a measure. It must pass two successive legislatures before being submitted to the people as an amendment to the constitution.

We expect to use the practical evidence of Vancouver, etc., as matter for literature circulation among building trades, improvement societies, boards of trade, etc., in the State as far as our means will permit. Mr.

Bengough more than captured a large audience in Boston's well known Ford Hall, Sunday ev'g, Mar. 12th, where Herbert Bigelow, Bishop Williams and Henry George have also been heard this season.—EDWIN THATCHER CLARK.

SPOKANE.

Although Henry George, Jr., came to Spokane on the eve of a warmly contested campaign to elect five men, to usher in the commission form of city government, under our new charter, we had a very successful series of meetings for fundamental economic reform. Mr. George came to us from the south Friday afternoon Feb'y 24th. He delivered his lecture on the Single Tax the same evening; addressed a noonday luncheon Saturday given in his honor under the auspices of the Young Men's Democratic club and the Henry George Club; delivered his lecture on the "Worlds progress toward social justice" in the evening; addressed a Y. M. C. A. meeting that crowded their assembly hall Sunday afternoon on "The Silversmith of Ephesus," and a large audience in the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Sunday evening on the "Nobler Life." This pulpit has been until recently occupied for seven years past by Rev. W. J. Hindley, an old time admirer of Henry George and his philosophy.

Mr. Hindley had resigned his pastorate and entered the race for city commissioner along with ninety-four other citizens. After a very progressive campaign, bristling with the same high ideals and economic truth that had characterized his many sociological sermons, he came out second best in the election March 7th; although he did not seek nor receive any endorsements of the various organizations and although he was bitterly opposed by many of the less progressive clergymen of the various churches.

Mr. George left us temporarily immediately after this Sunday evening lay sermon to bring up his Montana dates. On his return Thursday the 9th inst. he addressed our high school students at the request of Principal H. M. Hart, also the students of the Spokane College by request of Presi-