

News—Domestic.

MASSACHUSETTS.

THE LEAGUE STILL HAMMERING AWAY—
GOOD RESULTS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOLS—
MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL STILL IN-
CLINED TO BE SHY.

Just previous to Christmas, 1906, the Massachusetts Single Tax League sent to the principals of the 255 high schools in this State a circular in part as follows:

"Desiring to interest teachers and students in institutions of learning in the question of society's relation to the land, on which men must live, this league in the winter of 1905 addressed circulars offering free literature to the principals of high schools in Massachusetts. The response was so encouraging, and so many teachers requested literature, that parcels containing tracts treating this important subject were forwarded without any expense to them. The results obtained from the introduction of this subject to classes and students encourages the league to repeat the offer to those who did not then respond, as well as to those who did.

"As remarked in our first circular the questions in which we are interested and seek to interest teachers and students, are of vital importance to the moral and material welfare of all the people; and it is of special importance that the minds of young people should be assisted in forming intelligent opinions on social and economic questions."

In each envelope was enclosed two cards containing a list of questions for debate, a tract on "The Single Tax" by Henry George and a stamped envelope for reply. Twenty-five responses were received from different parts of the State and parcels were sent containing copies of "The Shortest Road to the Single Tax," "The Land Question," "The Right to the Use of the Earth," "The Single Tax," and "Single Tax Catechism." A copy of Mrs. Twitchell's "Social Economics" was sent to all the lady principals.

One Boston teacher wrote: "I sympathize personally with the doctrines of the League, but my official actions, of course, are governed by restrictions." That is, he could not put literature into the hands of pupils except by permission received from the superintendent of schools. Another Boston teacher asked for our literature to study. The same was furnished him and later on he wrote in the same strain as the foregoing.

A teacher in a small town wrote that he thought the literature was not suitable for his pupils, but he would distribute it among members of the Literary and Debating Society in the town. He was sent a quantity.

A teacher in another town wrote that he could not well use our literature this year, "but will be glad to be notified whenever you are sending out similar literature."

In requesting literature for a civic class of 25 students in a town in the western part of the State, the principal wrote: "The subject of taxation is too little understood even by those who are otherwise well informed in matters of civil government. We rest in the sweet assurance that however bad our present system is it is probably the best that can be devised."

An instructor of civics in a high school in one of the large cities wrote: "Allow me to say that this school is grateful to the Massachusetts Single Tax League for the helpful literature sent us last year, and that we shall be happy to receive more of the same kind at any time."

One principal who had gone into another profession wrote: "I am no longer principal of ——— High School, hence not in a position to further your interests or distribute your literature. I feel that I personally understand only very vaguely the plans and principles of the Single Tax advocates, and should personally be glad for further enlightenment. I am in favor of any plan of taxation which will lift the burden from the shoulders of the poor man and the small property holder and place it upon the rich man and large property holder."

A. W. Bachelier, principal of the high school in Gloucester, wrote in part as follows; "It occurs to me to say that such economic questions are far and away beyond the capacity of high school boys and girls. What, for instance, does a youngster of 16 have in him fitted to cope with such a question as, 'Is private appropriation of ground rent justifiable, morally or economically?' This boy ought to be at work on his fundamentals—algebra, physics, Latin."

It is appropriate to state here that in January a debate was held in the high school at Everett, with four pupils on each side, on the following question: "Resolved, that the Single Tax system is preferable to any other system of taxation."

In January the league sent the following circular to a selected list of ministers of several denominations:

"This league desires to interest pastors and congregations and connected societies, also Young Men's Christian Associations and organizations in the important question of the community's relation to land, on which men must live. We need not remind you of the importance attached by Bible writers to the question of monopoly in land (Lev. xxv. 23; Is. v. 8). This question is of far more vital importance in our day than it was when the sacred writers uttered their warnings. Land monopoly inflicts such great injury on society that the magnitude of the evil is perceived only after careful study of social conditions and of the principles upon which a just tenure of land should be based.

"Would be glad to supply speakers free of charge, except for traveling expenses, also literature without cost, should you

care to have it for distribution to congregation or society interested in social, economic, or industrial questions."

The foregoing circular was sent to 47 secretaries of Y. M. C. As., 47 Baptist, 68 Congregational, 85 Swedenborgian, 41 Universalist and 44 Methodist ministers. In each envelope was enclosed a card containing list of questions for debate, a tract on "The Single Tax," by Henry George, and a stamped envelope for a reply. Under separate cover each one was sent "The Shortest Road to the Single Tax," and "The Right to the Use of the Earth." Seventy Methodist ministers were also sent the last two pieces of literature.

Just six replies have been received up to date (March 4). A Congregational minister handed the circular to the secretary of the Men's Club in his church and an effort was made to get a speaker to expound the Henry George doctrine, but as neither one of the two speakers desired could supply the want at the time the affair fell through.

Two Baptist ministers replied, one stating that he had received the literature and would read it with pleasure. The other wrote: "I am in receipt of the sample literature of your league mailed to me some time since, and have been much interested and impressed thereby. Kindly send any further literature you care to." He sent at the same time the name of a fellow townsman who "would also be glad to receive the same."

Two Y. M. C. A. secretaries were heard from, one stating that he thought he could not interest the men in the subject and the other stating that he did not think it advisable to arrange for a meeting before another Fall.

Two Swedenborgians wrote, one requesting that his name be dropped from mailing list, as he had no time now to devote to the cause, and the other, a well-known Single Taxer, asked for literature for distribution.

One minister, unknown, used the stamped envelope by returning the circular and other enclosures.

A list of Methodist ministers was borrowed from a preacher of that denomination in Boston, who said to the writer: "I often say to my friends that people may pooh-pooh the Single Tax doctrine, but the arguments of Henry George are unanswerable."

At the Methodist conference in Malden last Spring a committee was appointed to study the labor question and get in touch with any similar committee of any other denomination.

C. B. Fillebrown addressed the students in political economy in the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia on February 12. On February 27 he spoke before the Citizen's Association at Quincy, Mass., and on February 28 was one of the speakers at the dinner of the Economic Club in Boston, when the discussion was on "Inheritance

and Income Taxes." Mr. Garrison was present at this function and also spoke.

A reunion meeting will be held by the League in Kingsley Hall, Ford Building, on Thursday evening, April 18. A supper will precede the meeting.

W. L. CROSSMAN.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA DEBATING THE SINGLE TAX.

Among the questions debated by the University of Pennsylvania are—

Resolved, That the Single Tax on land values would be better than the present system of taxation.

Another is—

Resolved, That laws should be passed with a view to securing to the State the future "unearned increment" of the rental of land. (See J. S. Mill, Land Tenure Reform Association, 1870.)

The trouble in Russia is the Land Question.

The trouble in Ireland is the Land Question.

The TROUBLE in all countries is the LAND QUESTION. You can interpret history from this view point.—*Taxation*, Perth, West Australia.

ANOTHER CURIOSITY OF TAXATION.

Every cat owner in Berlin has now to pay a tax, which is equivalent to a license, and each cat has to wear a metal disk around its neck, as evidence that the tax has been paid. Any cat found on the streets without this metal disk is taken to the municipal lethal chamber by the police. This method has already considerably lessened the number of cats in Berlin. The Emperor—who has a hatred of cats almost amounting to a mania—is said to have induced the Berlin municipality to take action.—*Exchange*.

Diogenes' search would have been rewarded had he lived long enough to visit Lampasas, Texas, where a farmer has been discovered who opposes the reduction in his land tax, and insists in adding a \$500 valuation to his property for the purposes of assessment. The name of this individual deserves to be immortalized. It is J. F. Bertchiger.

Mrs. A. R. Wynn, of 3205 Cherry street, Toledo, Ohio, has files of the *Standard* bound in leather from '87 to '91, and would like to dispose of them. Mr. Wynn died two years ago this April, and will be remembered by many of our readers.