

The single tax movement: an irenic propaganda. From a genealogical sketch

By Charles Bowdoin Fillebrown

From a Genealogical Sketch

Boston, Mass.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

The Single Tax Movement

Mr. Fillebrown achieved a considerable reputation as an earnest advocate of the Single Tax, having thought, written and spoken on the subject continually for a dozen years. His temperate and conciliatory method of presenting his plan was widely recognized as a notable and happy instance of "irenic propaganda." And hence a somewhat detailed account of this part of his work may be of interest and value. The following enumeration of some of the occasions of one hundred and seventy-five or more addresses before churches, church classes, clubs and men's clubs, indicates the character and variety of the work.

* Subject: Ethics of the Single Tax. See page 27.

1895-1899. Newton Single Tax Club, nineteen out of the sixty-eight meetings.

1896. February 19, North Evangelical Church Newton.* March 20, Nonantum Club, Newton.* April 20, Universalist Church Vestry, Woonsocket, R. I.* April 13, Manhattan Single Tax Club, New York City. April 25, Y.M.C.A., Melrose.* May 9, Y. M. C. A., Melrose. May 25, Tariff Reform League, New York City. December 5, F. H. Tucker's class young men, Newton.*

1897. Joint Legislative Committee on Taxation: January 13, Social Science Club, Newton.* January 24, Every Day Church, Boston.* January 27, Every Day Church Vestry. January 26, Y. M. C. A., Newton.* February, Malden Economic Association (twice). February 28, North Avenue Universalist Church, Cambridge.* March 5, Municipal League, Providence, R. I.* March 25, Eight O'Clock Club, Newton.* May 18, New England Iron & Hardware Association, Young's Hotel.* November 7, Men's Club, Hyde Park.* November, Nonantum Club, Newton. November 8, Newton Single Tax Club. November, Methodist Vestry, Newton.* November 30, Tuesday Club, Wellesley.* December 1, Women's Suffrage League, East Boston.* December 5, Boston Central Labor Union.* December 19, Second Universalist Church, Lynn.* December 16, Channing Club, Newton.* December 20, Vestry of Trinity Church, Boston, Monday Evening Club.*

1898. Joint Legislative Committee on Taxation: January 5, Citizens-- Middleboro, Mass.* January 10, Universalist Club, Hotel Brunswick.* January 26, Current Events Club, Boston.* January 28, Virginia Street Universalist Church, Dorchester.* January 31, Jeffries Winter Club, East Boston.* February 7, Melrose Economic Club. February, Fulton Debating Club, Boston College. The Agora of Wellesley College. February 20, Third Universalist Church, West Somerville.* February 24, Ladies' Alliance, Unitarian Vestry, West Newton.*

February 24, Wellesley Grange.* February 27, Economic Club, Temple Hall, Melrose.* April 5, Fitchburg, Mass., Middlesex-Worcester, Pomona Grange.* April 21, St. Matthew's Church, South Boston.* May 2, Carey Avenue Baptist Church, Chelsea.* May 18, Jefferson Club, Old Congregational Church, Newtonville. June 1, Merchants' Association, Fitchburg. October 26, Patrons of Husbandry, Marlboro. October 31, Carnegie Lyceum, New York City. November 4, Bell Street Chapel, Providence, R. I. December 17, Y. M. C. A., Rockland.

1899. Legislative Committee on Taxation: January 3, State Grange, Worcester. March 4, Henry George Club, Providence. March 23, Carpenters and Joiners' Union, Newton. June 2, Brooklyn Single Tax League. October 5, Massachusetts Single Tax League, Hotel Vendome.

1900. January 22, Y. M. C. A., Quincy. January 31, Church of the Redeemer, South Boston. February 12, Neighborhood Club, Newton Centre. February 21, Newton City Council. February 24, Legislative Committee on Taxation. February 28, Pomona Grange, Franklin. Mar. 2, House Judiciary Committee, Providence, R. I. March 5, Local Option Hearing, Newton. March 14, Massachusetts Legislative Committee on Taxation. March 20, Business Men's Association, West Hanover. March 21, Unitarian Club, West Roxbury. March 29, Coal Club, Hotel Brunswick. March 30, Unitarian Church, Whitman. April 3, Commercial Club, Rockland. April 6, Men's Association, Northfield, Mass. April 19, Congregational Church, Stoneham. April 23, Board of Trade, Whitman. October 8, Massachusetts Single Tax League, Hotel Brunswick. December 19, St. Botolph Club, Boston. December 22, Mayor's Club, Young's Hotel.

1901. January 18, Men's Club, Egypt, Mass. January 19, Composite Club, Uxbridge, Mass. February 20, Patrons of Husbandry, Pomona Grange, Harvard, Shirley, Groton and Bolton. March 2, Henry George Club, Providence, R. I. March 7, Legislative Committee on Taxation, Augusta, Me. March 14, Board of Trade, Lawrence. March 18, Business Men's Association, Pawtucket, R. I. March 30, Beacon Society, New Algonquin Club. April 9, Men's Club, Clinton. April 24, Men's Club, Beverly. April 25, The Beacon Club, Waban, Newton. May 18, The Eliot Club, Jamaica Plain. October 22, Massachusetts Single Tax League, Hotel Brunswick. November 18, Wellesley Club. December 30, Social Study Club, Newton.

1902. November 21, Bankers' Association, Greenfield. Other occasions not recorded.

1903. February, Men's Forum, Cambridge. February, Men's Club, St. Mark's Church, Southboro. February 24, Social Study Club, Newton Centre. March 2, Hartford Get Together Club. March 21, Men's Club, Park Street Church. March 22, People's Forum, Boston, Mass. April 13, Massachusetts Single Tax League, Hotel Vendome. May 12, Men's Union, Methodist Church, New Bedford. May 28, Worcester Economic Club. November 16, Private Dinner, Hotel Vendome.

1904. January 13, Co-operative Association of America, Faneuil Hall. March 15, Private Dinner to Professors, Hotel Vendome. March 24, Y. M. C. A., East Weymouth. March 28, Unitarian Club, West Medford. April 2, Private Dinner to Professors, Hotel Bellevue. April 28, Economic Club, Boston. December 5, Private Lunch, Young's Hotel.

1905. May 1, Private Dinner, Young's Hotel. November 2, Farmers and Mechanics' Club,

Holden. December 5, Unitarian Club, Needham. December 18, Town Hall, Sharon. December 27, Men's Club, Universalist Church, Brookline.

1906. January 1, Sharon, Residence Rev. A. J. Dyer. January 7, People's Forum. January 30, Y. M. C. A., West Medway. February 26, Chicago University. April 18, Central Club, Newtonville. May 12, Twentieth Century Club Lunch. May 23, Radcliffe, Professor Carver's Class. April 25, Harvard University, Professor Carver's Class. August 22, Recess Committee on Taxation. October 1, Municipal Club, Walnut Avenue Church. September 19, Joint Legislative Committee on Taxation. September 27, the same. October 11, the same. October 19, Brotherhood, Congregational Church, West Medway. November 14, Men's Club, First Congregational Church, Hyde Park. December 29, Men's Club, South Weymouth.

1907. January 6, Emerson Union. February 12, University of Pennsylvania. February 27, Citizens' Association, Quincy. March 28, Young Men's Club, Needham. April 18, Massachusetts Single Tax League, Kingsley Hall. April 22, Newton Single Tax Club. April 25, Wellesley Grange. November 13, National Conference on Taxation, Columbus, Ohio. December 28, American Economic Association, Madison, Wis.

1908. January 19, Labor Lyceum. January 12, Emerson Union. January 15, Men's Club, Dorchester Methodist Church. February 14, Universalist Church, Men's Club, Haverhill. March 20, Providence Legislative Committee on Taxation. April 9, Civic Club of New Bedford. May 24, Harvard University, Professor Carver's Class. December 8, Boston Y. M. C. A. Congress.

Mr. Fillebrown was five years president of the Newton Single Tax Club. It is a noteworthy fact that during his presidency the sixty-eight meetings, held usually at his residence, were noticed by each of the three Newton weekly papers, with an average of a column and a quarter to each paper. The full record of these meetings is preserved in a bound newspaper volume, entitled, "Proceedings of the Newton Single Tax Club 1895-1899."

Mr. Fillebrown was treasurer of the Massachusetts Single Tax League 1892, and its president 1899 to 190a He promoted with all the ability at his command all plans for the agitation and advancement of the cause and at his instigation,! aided by many devoted Single Taxers, and by a shining host who were not Single Taxers, the league embarked in 1896) upon a series of unique propaganda dinners, or banquets, as they were called. The plan was carried out in almost literal accordance with the plan as first submitted and adopted by the league, and resulted in a series of nineteen such banquets covering the decade from 1896 to 1907.) Of the value of this twelve years' campaign an editorial observer writes, with perhaps more friendliness than discrimination, as follows: "I know that what you have already accomplished is the most remarkable achievement ever wrought within my personal knowledge by any one man in the promotion of a great reform. Your methods and their results will long stand as pattern and inspiration to reformers in coming time." The dates, places, speakers and many of the guests are here recorded for preservation:

1. 1897. January 7, American House, To the Patrons of Husbandry, Speaker, Thomas G. Shearman.

Guests: E. D. Howe, Master State Grange; J. W. Stockwell, Lecturer of the State Grange; Hon. Alvan Barrus, State Senator and member of the Massachusetts Commission on Taxation; R. G. F. Candage, George L. Clemence, G. E. Crosby, William N. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Dennen, W. C. Jewett, George S. Ladd, W. H. Porter William R. Sessions, Secretary State Board of Agriculture; Abel F. Stevens, George W. Trull, Rev. I. C. Tomlinson, George M. Whitaker, Editor *New England Farmer*; Henry Winn, and many others.

2. 1897. February 20, American House, Association of Massachusetts Assessors. Speaker, Thomas G. Shearman.

Guests: Thomas Hills, twenty-five years Chairman Boston Board of Assessors; Hon. Alvan Barrus, R. G. F. Candage, A. A. Carlton, J. A. Brownell, H. B. Coffin, Joshua S. Duncklee, J. G. Gooch, Chairman Cambridge Board of Assessors; F. J. Lake, George E. McNeill, Harrison G. Otis, Chairman Worcester Board of Assessors; Henry Winn, and many others.

3. 1897. April 27, Quincey House, Massachusetts Labor Organizations. Speaker, Rev. Edward McGlynn.

Guests: William E. Bell, R. J. Braley, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Davis, William T. Hogarth, Timothy Keefe, Fred J. Kneeland, Mr. and Mrs. O'Sullivan, Edward O'Donnell, B. E. Perigny, J. Rheinstatter, Mr. and Mrs. Abel F. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Carlton, Mr. B. W. Wentworth, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. White, George M. Whitaker, and many others.

4. 1897, November 6, Hotel Vendome, Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association. Speaker, G. Frank Stephens.

Guests: Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, President of the Association; Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and Miss Ayres, Cora A. Benneson, Esther F. Boland, Mr. and Mrs. John Graham Brooks, Alice Stone Blackwell, Henry B. Blackwell, Editors *Woman's Journal*; Rev. A. Eugene Bartlett, Hon. and Mrs. John L. Bates, Rev. E. L. Atkinson, Dr. Emma B. Culbertson, Fletcher Dobyns, Mary F. Eastman, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Richard Fuller, Rabbi Charles Fleischer, Margueretta M. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. George A. O. Ernst, Ida E. Hall, Rev. Frederic H. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Mills, J. B. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Nickerson, Mr. and Mrs. Pitman, Rev. and Mrs. George L. Perin, Mary A. Page, Dr. Mary A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

5. 1897, December 4, American House, New England Free Trade League, Speaker, Hon. Tom L. Johnson.

Guests: Henry W. Lamb, President of the League; Miss Martha E. Parker, Secretary of the League; Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Bassett, Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor *Boston Evening Transcript*; Hon. Patrick A. Collins (afterwards Mayor), Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. DeLong, Frank K. Foster, Editor *Labor Leader*; Frank Grant, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hersom, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Heath, W. Blakely Hoar,

Prescott F. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Nash, J. B. Moors, J. P. Parmenter, Mr. and Mrs. Barthold Schlesinger, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. William H. White, Thomas Tileston Weld, and others.

6. 1898, February 7, Hotel Vendome, Massachusetts Clergy. Speaker, Very Rev. Charles D. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio.

Guests: Rev. D. D. Addison, Rev. William E. Barton, Rev. George G. Bodge, Rev. M. D. Buell, Rev. Borden P. Bowne, Boston University; Rev. E. D. Burr, Rev. Timothy Brosnahan, President Boston College; Rev. B. E. Burgesen, Rev. A. Biewend, Milan C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*; Rev. DeWitt S. Clark, Rev. S. M. Crothers, Rev. J. F. Cummins, Rev. J. J. Chittick, Rev. Charles Dickinson, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Rev. G. F. Eaton, Rev. Samuel R. Fuller, Rabbi Charles Fleischer, Rev. Albinus F. Frost, Rev. J. M. Greene, Rev. Scott F. Hershey, Rev. C. E. Hood, Rev. W. L. Hoopes, Rev. Frank O. Hall, Rev. George C. Lorimer, Tremont Temple; Rev. C. H. Leonard, Tufts College; Rev. Philip S. Moxom, Rev. H. G. Mitchell, Rev. W. F. Mallalieu, Rev. J. H. Mansfield, Rev. B. Fay Mills, Rev. James De Normandie, Rev. A. H. Plumb, Rev. W. T. Perrin, Rev. James Reed, Rev. S. H. Roblin, Rev. Reuen Thomas, Rev. Thomas Van Ness, Rev. A. H. Vinton, Rev. John W. Suter.

7. 1898, October 25, Hotel Vendome, Young Men's Christian Association. Speaker, Rev. S. S. Craig, Toronto, Canada.

Guests: Mr. Frederick Fosdick, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Armstrong, Mr. M. C. Ayres, L. B. Breer, George L. Budd, Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Bosson, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cotton, Mr. George H. Carter, Mrs. O. H. Durrell, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Forbush, Mr. Alfred B. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Goodwin, William F. Hoahn, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Harrington, Mrs. W. G. Lotze, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Mehaffey, Mr. Pitt F. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Robinson, Mr. W. C. Rollins, Mr. Williams, William H. Wyman, F. D. Winslow.

8. 1899, January 17, Hotel Vendome, Boards of Charities and Corrections. Speaker, Fr. J. O. S. Huntington, Westminster, Md.

Guests: Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and Miss Ayres, Very Rev. William Byrne, D.D.V.G., Rev. J. W. F. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Birtwell, Mrs. Samuel Barrows, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Cornwall, Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Codman, Mr. Robert Codman, Prof. Davis R. Dewey, Mass. Inst. Technology, and Mrs. Dewey, Representative and Mrs. Charles A. Dean, Rev. C. R. Eliot, Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Fox, Fr. C. M. Field, Dr. T. J. Giblin, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Humphrey, Miss Ettie L. Lee, Hon. Henry Parkman, Treasurer Provident Institute for Savings, and Mrs. Parkman, Dr. Francis W. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson, Miss Georgia A. Russell, Miss Zilpha D. Smith, Hon. Frank B. Sanborn, John Osborn Sumner, Hon. and Mrs. Arthur Wellman, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Woodbury, Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren Bailey, Rev. Robert C. Bryant, Dr. and Mrs. M. T. Gavin.

9. 1899, April 4, Hotel Vendome, Representative Taxationists. Speaker, Thomas G. Shearman.

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Ayres, Prof. F. S. Baldwin, Boston University, and Mrs. Baldwin, Mr. Richard H. Barton, Mr. Henry B. Blackwell, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Editors *Woman's Journal*; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Blood, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. F. Candage, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Carlton, Samuel Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Dean, Hon. William B. Durant, Alonzo Eaton, Mr. Frederick Fosdick and Miss Fosdick. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. B. Gale, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Harwood, Mr. Guilford P. Heath, E. D. Howe, Ex-Master State Grange; Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hunting, Attorney-General Hosea M. Knowlton, John Lathrop, Associate Justice Supreme Court; H. Lloyd, J. A. Litchfield, George A. Litchfield, Mr. Robert Luce, Hon. William S. McNary, George E. McNeill, D. V. McIsaac, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Miller, Hon. James H. Mellen, J. F. Prindle, Hon. J. P. Quincy, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Root, Hon. and Mrs. George E. Smith, Mr. T. F. Sullivan, Hon. and Mrs. Charles F. Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Witt, Mr. Joseph E. Woods, Mr. Henry Winn.

10. 1899, October 5, Hotel Vendome, Representative Business Men. Speaker, Thomas G. Shearman.

Guests: Mr. Edward Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Cook, Hon. Patrick A. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. E. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilchrist, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Gargan, Hon. and Mrs. Charles S. Hamlin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Horton, Mr. W. N. Hartshorn, Mr. H. C. Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Maynard, Hon. and Mrs. William S. McNary, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Whitaker.

11. 1899, December 7, Hotel Brunswick, Twentieth Century Club. Speaker, Prof. George D. Herron.

Guests: Mr. Edwin D. Mead, President of the Club, and Mrs. Mead, Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and Miss Ayres, Hon. and Mrs. John L. Bates, Miss Mary L. Birtwell, Prof. F. Spencer Baldwin, Boston University; Rev. E. Blakeslee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Burditt, Rev. Howard A. Bridgman, Managing Editor *Congregationalist*; Prof. J. M. Barker, Boston University; Miss Mary W. Calkins, professor at Wellesley College; Mr. William I. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Cook, Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor *Boston Evening Transcript*, and Mrs. Clement, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Coleman, Prof. Davis R. Dewey, Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Mrs. Dewey, Rev. and Mrs. Charles F. Dole, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Duffield, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Dutton, Miss H. S. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Fletcher, Miss S. J. Farmer, Mr. F. W. Fosdick, Vice President State Y. M. C. A.; Rabbi Charles Fleischer, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gow, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Howes, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Heath, Mr. James A. Herne, author "Shore Acres"; Miss Julia Herne, Miss Crystal Herne, Mr. and Mrs. Roland C. Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Lloyd, author "Wealth versus Commonwealth"; Mr. E. I. Leeds, Mr. Marcus Morton, Prof. and Mrs. Thomas Bond Lindsay, Boston University; Representative J. J. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Sumner B. Pearmain, Mr. Robert Treat Paine Jr., Prof. and Mrs. J. C. Packard, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Rev. and Mrs. A. B. Shields, Mrs. J. F. O'Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Barthold Schlesinger, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Sargent, Rev. and Mrs. D. H. Tribou, Mr. Josiah P. Quincy, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Ware, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Whitaker, Miss Dora Williams, Mr. Robert A. Woods, Social Settlement; Mr. H. S. Underwood, Editor *Boston Evening Record*, and Mrs. Underwood, Hon. George Fred Williams, Mr. A. T. Waite, Assistant Editor *Boston Herald*, and Mrs. Waite, Prof. William Z. Ripley

[bottom of page 8]

missing events -- omitting the guest lists! [RSF's library has an original of the booklet]:

12. 1900, October 8, Hotel Brunswick, Real Estate Men. Speaker: C. B. Fillebrown.

13. 1900, December 3, Catholic Union Hall, The Catholic Clergy. Speaker, Rev. Robert J. Johnson.

14. 1901, October 22, Hotel Brunswick, Members of the Boston Merchants Association. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

15. 1902, Januar 10, Hotel Brunswick, Political Economists. Speaker, Prof. E. R. A. Seligman; paper ready by Prof. Charles J. Bullock. [among the guests: Dr. Thomas Fillebrown, Professor Harvard University.]

16. 1902, December 8, Copley Square Hotel, Professional Economists, Speaker. Prof. Charles J. Bullock. Commentaries by Professors Baldwin, Burke, Callender, Fisher, Mixter and Plehn. Reseme, by Prof. T. N. Carver.

17. 1903, April 13, Hotel Vendome, Landlords of Boston. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

18. 1905, April 27, Exchange Club. The Economic Club of Boston. Speaker C. B. Fillebrown. This being a regular Dinner-Discussion of the Economic Club, they were hosts instead of guests.

19. 1907, October 14, Lorimer Hall, Tremont Temple. Speaker C. B. Fillebrown.

page 12:

Sharon; Prof. and Mrs. Garrett Droppers, Mr. Frank A. Day, R. L. Day & Company; Dr. S. L. Eaton, George W. Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Howland, Mrs. Henry Jewett, Hon. William H. Lincoln, President Economic Club of Boston; Robert L. O'Brien, Rev. and Mrs. George L. Perm, J. E. Peckham, Mr. Elwyn G. Preston, Prof. George F. Swain, Mass. Inst. of Technology; Hon. Alonzo R. Weed, Ex-Mayor of Newton.

These banquets awakened great interest, and the Boston press, especially the Herald, Globe, Advertiser, Post and Transcript, and the Springfield Republican were most liberal in their news reports, most of them being cautiously hospitable also in an editorial way. A few brief excerpts, such as refer specifically to the spirit and method in which the reform was promoted, are here reproduced from a voluminous body of editorials covering the ten-year period.

First Banquet. To the Patrons of Husbandry, January 7, 1897. From the Boston Herald, January 8, 1897:

"It was a happy arrangement which the managers of the Massachusetts Single Tax League made

in inviting to their dinner on Thursday evening representatives of the State Grange and of other farming interests which have hitherto stood in the way of the adoption of a Dettter system of taxation." . . .

Second Banquet. To the Association of Massachusetts Assessors, February 20, 1897. From the New Bedford Standard, February 24, 1897:

"... Meanwhile, we note that our friends, the single taxers, are carrying on an active, though not obtrusive campaign of education. They have adopted the clever plan of giving dinners to groups of men especially interested in taxation, and of devoting the after dinner speeches to advocacy of the single tax. Already representatives of the grangers and of the boards of assessors have been subjected to this process. It is not likely that there have been any marked conversions; yet it is impossible that there should be no modification of views. At any rate, the agitation must set many people to thinking, and thinking is the most useful occupation concerning the tax question that can be indulged in at the present time."

Third Banquet. To the Massachusetts Labor Organizations, April 27, 1897. From the Boston Advertiser, April 29, 1897:

"The banquet of the Massachusetts Single Tax League at the Quincy House last Tuesday evening, with the lengthy, powerful and brilliant address by Father McGlynn, the pungent opening speech of the president of the League, Mr. W. L. Garrison, the courteous but quick and sharp answers by Mr. C. B. Fillebrown to the questions of objectors and doubters, and the presence of nearly all the prominent leaders of local labor organizations as special guests of the evening; were circumstances which could not fail to make a strong impression upon the mind of a thoughtful observer who sat there looking and listening, neither as a friend nor a foe to this movement, but as an interested student of current opinion and passing events. ... It is no more than fair to say that thus far, certainly in greater Boston, the single tax movement seems to have fallen into excellent hands. Those who most strongly dissent from their economic doctrines must admit, if brought into close quarters with the members of the league, that they are delightful people. (Their zeal, warm as it is, is wholly free from what so often, in connection with other subjects, makes zeal repugnant; that is bitterness. The single taxers hereabout are in the true sense | ladies and gentlemen.) They are more than willing to try to convert the economic sinner from the error of his ways; but they are the kindest and sweetest-tempered of proselyters. And they have brains."

Fourth Banquet. To the Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association, November 6, 1897. From the Woman's Journal, November, 1897:

"The Single Taxers are fertile in ingenious plans for propagating their doctrine—plans which might be copied with advantage by other societies. The Massachusetts Single Tax League is now giving a series of banquets to influential associations, inviting the officers and some of the prominent members to come and hear the subject presented. ... It is a novelty for one Association to invite another to dinner, and we hope that there will be a large attendance, both those who believe in the Single Tax, and those who do not."

From the Boston Herald, November 7, 1897.

"... The Massachusetts Single Tax League began last Saturday for the year 1897-8 the kind of campaign which this remarkably virile organization has carried on in its own unique fashion during previous years,"

From the Boston Globe, November 6, 1897:

"It is clear that the Massachusetts Single Tax League means to have the public understand that 'the Henry Georgeism,' as it is sometimes called, did not die with Henry George.

"Today it begins a campaign, so to speak, of lunch and banquet. This program carries with it the best evidence that the members of the Single Tax League in this State are alive and eager for opportunity to defend 'the faith that is in them.' There is no sort of doubt that their new campaign will be followed with a good deal of interest by the public'

Sixth Banquet. To the Massachusetts Clergy, February 7, 1898. From the Boston Advertiser, February 8, 1898:

"The banquet given last evening at Hotel Vendome by the Massachusetts Single Tax League to representative clergymen, was the latest illustration of the very noteworthy method which the organized advocates of Henry George's chief economic doctrine are taking to commend that doctrine to the approval of the leaders of thought in various departments of activity. We have heretofore described this method and pointed out its interesting character as an innovation in propagandism. We shall not dwell upon that point of view now. It is sufficient to add that wholly irrespective of any one's agreement with or rejection of the single tax theory, the method of the single taxers in this league certainly challenges respect for its courtesy, and admiration for its sagacity. The general way has been for promulgating new ideas in any field of reform for its zealous advocates to gather themselves together and rehearse their own chosen arguments to audiences chiefly composed of those already convinced; welcoming, however, all others willing to come; the hope being that now
[bottom of page 13]

Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Mrs. Ripley, Miss Widdrington Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitmore.

12. 1900, October 8, Hotel Brunswick, Real Estate Men. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

Guests: John Mason Little, President Real Estate Exchange; Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and Mrs. Ayres, Prof. and Mrs. F. S. Baldwin, Boston University; P. B. Corbett, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Carlton, Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Carl H. Chandler, William Bassett, Alfred Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Birtwell, Rev. Howard A. Bridgman, Managing Editor *Congregationalist*, and Mrs. Bridgman, Walter Colby, C. S. Drake, Joseph A.

Campbell, F. Ernest Cabot, Richard H. Dana, President Anti-Double Taxation League; Rabbi Charles Fleischer, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Goodrich, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hunting, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Jackson, Col. Thomas L. Livermore, Vice President Calumet & Hecla; Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Nunn, Davis L. Shannon, William H. Sayward, William L. Sayer, James H. Stark, Edwin S. Small, Leslie C. Wead, Andrew G. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitmore, M. W. Wright, J. D. K. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Woods.

13. 1900, December 3, Catholic Union Hall, The Catholic Clergy. Speaker, Rev. Robert J. Johnson.

Guests: Very Rev. William Byrne, D.D.V.G, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Ayres, Mr. Frank Anthony, Hon. William J. Burke, John D. Berran, Rev. George Batchelor, Rev. Thomas F. Brannan, Harrison D. Barrett, Henry B. Blackwell, Alice Stone Blackwell, Editors *Woman's Journal*; Rev. Francis J. Butler, Rev. John D. Colbert, M. P. Curran. Editor *The Republic*; Hon. and Mrs. P. A. Collins, Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor *Boston Evening Transcript*, and Mrs. Clement, Hon. John W. Corcoran, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Blake, James V. Devine, Rev. T. J. Danahy, Rev. A. E. Dunning, Editor *Congregationalist*, and Mrs. Dunning, A. C. Dowse, P. J. Flatley, Rev. James F. Gilfeather, Hon. and Mrs. Thomas J. Gargan, Rev. Thomas I. Gasson, S. J., now President Boston College; P. Frank Hennigan, Rev. T. J. Mahoney, Rev. Thomas C. McGoldrick, Rev. William P. McQuaid, Mr. John B. Martin, Hon. and Mrs. William S. McNary, and Mr. and Mrs. William J. O'Reiley, Rev. J. J. O'Brien, Rev. Richard Neagle, Rev. Peter Ronan, Dr. John R. Slattery, Charles H. Slattery, E. N. Sullivan, D. P. Toomey, Rev. A. J. Teeling, Rev. Charles A. Ullrich, George M. Whitaker, Rev. D. J. Wholey.

14. 1901, October 22, Hotel Brunswick, Members of the Boston Merchants Association. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

Guests: Mr. Amory A. Lawrence, President of the Association; Mr. Erwin H. Walcott, Secretary; Mr. M. C. Ayres, Editor *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and Mrs. Ayres, Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor *Boston Evening Transcript*, and Mrs. Clement, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Cordingly, Prof. T. N. Carver, Harvard University, and Mrs. Carver, Mr. John M. Campbell, Mr. Harry W. Cumner, Mr. John C. Cobb, Mr. James R. Carter, Mr. Charles F. Dowse, Prof. Davis R. Dewey, Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Mrs. Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Drake, Mr. S. Waldo French, Mr. Leonard Fowle, Mr. John Hopewell, Mr. John C. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jamieson, Mr. Jerome Jones, Mr. Benjamin C. Lane, Mr. M. Larrabee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Leonard, Mr. Elwyn G. Preston, Secretary Boston Chamber of Commerce; Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Patterson, Mr. H. Staples Potter, Mr. William C. Safford, Mr. Solomon Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Simmons, Mr. Wingate P. Sargent, Mr. Oscar H. Sampson, Mr. Charles U. Thomas, Mr. Paul Thomas, Mr. John G. Wright, Mr. F. S. Williams, Mr. M. W. Wright, Hon. E. B. Wilson.

15. 1902, January 10, Hotel Brunswick, Political Economists. Speaker, Prof. E. R. A. Seligman; paper read by Prof. Charles J. Bullock.

Guests: Prof. Charles J. Bullock, Harvard University, and Mrs. Bullock, Prof. A. Piatt Andrew, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Leon M. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Ayres, Mr. George F. Arnold, Rev. Edmund J. Burke, S. J., Prof. John Bascom, Williams College; R. L. Bridgman, C. E. Burbank, Prof. Emily G. Balch, Wellesley College; Prof. Borden P. Bowne, Boston University, and Mrs. Bowne, Prof. Marcus D. Buell, Boston University, and Mrs. Buell, Prof. F. Spencer Baldwin,

Boston University, and Mrs. Baldwin, Prof. J. M. Barker, Boston University; Rev. and Mrs. George Batchelor, Rev. Francis J. Butler, Prof. G. S. Callender, Bowdoin College; Prof. T. N. Carver, Harvard University, and Mrs. Carver, Prof. Judson B. Coit, Rev. Thomas I. Cole, President E. H. Capen, Tufts College, and Mrs. Capen, Mr. E. H. Clement, *Boston Evening Transcript*, and Mrs. Clement, Mr. Charles H. Adams, Prof. Katharine Coman, Wellesley College; Rev. William R. Cowardin, Mr. A. P. DeCamp, Prof. Davis ft. Dewey, Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Mrs. Dewey, Rev. M. J. Doody, Dr. Thomas Fillebrown, Professor Harvard University; Rev. Samuel Richard Fuller, Mr. Frederick Fosdick, Prof. James Geddes, Jr., Hon. and Mrs. Thomas J. Gargan, Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart, Harvard University, and Mrs. Hart, Dean William E. Huntington, Boston University; Mr. Osborne Howes, *Boston Herald*; Mr. Augustus H. Hews, Mr. E. Hews, Rev. John Hogan, Prof. F. M. Josselyn, Jr., Rev. Robert J. Johnson, Mr. J. B. Jamieson, Mr. Jerome Jones, Prof. Thomas B. Lindsay, Boston University, and Mrs. Lindsay, Hon. Robert L. Luce, Mr. August Lewis, New York; Prof. Charles W. Mixer, Harvard University, and Mrs. Mixer, Prof. and Mrs. M. DeMoreira, Mr. James P. Munroe, Prof. Henry C. Metcalf, Tufts College; Mr. and Mrs. George F. Mosher, Hon. J. J. Myers, Mr. Edwin D. Mead, President Twentieth Century Club; Rev. W. G. Read Mullan, President Boston College; Mr. D. Webster King, Alexander S. Porter, Dr. Morton Prince, Mr. John C. Packard, Prof. Marshall L. Perrin, Boston University; Josiah P. Quincy, Prof. William Z. Ripley, Mass. Inst. of Technology; Rev. Henry W. Rugg, Rev. William S. Singleton, Mr. A. Shuman, J. O. Spencer, Prof. A. H. Soule, Mt. Holyoke College; Mr. and Mrs. Sanford E. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Viaux, Hon. A. J. Warner, C. Everett Washburn, Frederick A. Wood, Dr. Horace G. Wadlin, Chief Massachusetts Bureau Statistics of Labor, and Mrs. Wadlin, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Willis, William F. Warren, President Boston University; Charles G. Whiting, Hon. E. B. Wilson, Rev. John D. Whitney.

16. 1902, December 8, Copley Square Hotel, Professional Economists. Speaker, Prof. Charles J. Bullock. Commentaries by Professors Baldwin, Burke, Callender, Fisher, Mixer and Plehn. Resume', by Prof. T. N. Carver.

Guests: Mr. William A. Alexander, Editor and Mrs. M. C. Ayres, Dr. John Brainerd, Prof. Borden P. Bowne, Boston University, and Mrs. Bowne, Mr. A. E. Burton, Mass. Inst. of Technology; W. E. Butler, Prof. F. Spencer Baldwin and Mrs. Baldwin, Mr. John Balch Blood, Mr. James F. Bliss, Prof. William M. Burke, Albion College, Mich.; Prof. T. N. Carver, Harvard University, and Mrs. Carver, Prof. G. S. Callender, Bowdoin College; Mr. Philip Cabot, Mr. Edward H. Chandler, Secretary Twentieth Century Club; Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cox, Prof. J. B. Coit, Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor *Boston Evening Transcript*, and Mrs. Clement, Mr. James L. Cowles, Dr. E. Dana Durand, Prof. Davis R. Dewey, Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Mrs. Dewey, Rev. A. E. Dunning, Editor *Congregationalist*, and Mrs. Dunning, Mr. A. C. Dowse, Mr. A. W. Elson, Prof. Willard C.; Fisher, Wesleyan University; Prof. H. B. Gardner, Brown University; Mr. Alfred S. Hayes, Mr. Charles B. Hunting, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Fall, Mr. F. L. Howard, Richard M. Hurd, President Lawyers' Mortgage Liability Company, New York; Frank R. Hall, Prof. George H. Haynes, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Dr. Edward M. Hartwell, City Statistician; Prof. Freeman M. Josselyn, Boston University; Mr. John Koren, Pres. Henry Lefavour, Simmons College; Brother James, Manhattan College, New York; William E. Murdock, A. A. Merrill, Prof. C. W. Mixer, Harvard University, and Mrs. Mixer, Samuel A. Merrill, George F. Masher, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Mehaffey, Prof. H. A. Miller, Prof. Allyn L. Merrill, Z. W. Pease, Editor *New Bedford Mercury*; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Packard, W. E. Putnam,

Prof. Carl C. Plehn, University of California; Robert Treat Paine, James B. Niver, Prof. J. J. Skinner, Dr. O. M. W. Sprague, Harvard University, Mr. Charles S. Skinner, W. L. Sayer, Editor *New Bedford Standard*; Vernon B. Swett, Prof. A. M. Soule, Mt. Holyoke College; Arthur W. Tarbell, Sturgis H. Thorndike, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Prof. N. W. Tyler, Mass. Inst. of Technology; Mr. and Mrs. George F. Washburn, Mr. C. A. Watts, Dr. Horace G. Wadlin, Chief Massachusetts Bureau Statistics of Labor, Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Warren, Mr. George M. Whitaker, Editor *New England Farmer*, and Mrs. Whitaker, Pres. William F. Warren, Boston University; S. H. Woodbridge.

17. 1903, April 13, Hotel Vendome, Landlords of Boston. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

Guests: Editor M. C. Ayres, Prof. and Mrs. Borden P. Bowne, Boston University; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bridgman, Rev. George Batchelor, Editor *Christian Register*; Councilman and Mrs. William M. Curtis, Mr. George G. Crocker, Boston Rapid Transit Commission; Mr. Joseph Dillworth, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot R. Evans, Jr., Mr. Eugene N. Foss, Mr. A. C. Farley, Treasurer Boston Merchants Association; Hon. L. F. C. Garvin, afterward Governor of Rhode Island; Mr. Julius Garst, Mr. B. H. Irving, Mrs. Henry Jewett, Mr. Augustus P. Loring, Prof. S. M. Macvane, Harvard University; Mr. and Mrs. William P. McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Mosher, Mr. Robert Treat Paine, Mr. Henry Parkman, Prof. George F. Swain, Mass. Inst. of Technology; Alderman Charles H. Slattery, Hon. George E. Thayer, Miss Mary E. Speakman, F. H. Viaux, Prof. and Mrs. C. W. Mixer, Harvard University; Mr. and Mrs. George M. Whitaker, Mr. W. Wallace Waugh.

18. 1905, April 27, Exchange Club, The Economic Club of Boston. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

This being a regular Dinner-Discussion of the Economic Club, they were hosts instead of guests.

19. 1907, October 14, Lorimer Hall, Tremont Temple. Speaker, C. B. Fillebrown.

Guests: Hon. and Mrs. John L. Bates, Rt. Rev. William Byrne, D. D., Miss M. E. Adams, Henry S. Ames, Mr. M. C. Ayres, and Miss Ayres, Prof. Charles J. Bullock, Harvard University; Prof. F. S. Baldwin, Boston University; Prof. and Mrs. Borden P. Bowne, Boston University; Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Editor *Woman's Journal*; Mr. E. H. Clement, *Boston Evening Transcript*; Col. Albert Clarke, Secretary Home Market Club; Prof. T. N. Carver, Harvard University; Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Dyer Sharon; Prof. and Mrs. Garrett Droppers, Mr. Frank A. Day, R. L. Day & Company; Dr. S. L. Eaton, George W. Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Howland, Mrs. Henry Jewett, Hon. William H. Lincoln, President Economic Club of Boston; Robert L. O'Brien, Rev. and Mrs. George L. Perin, J. E. Peckham, Mr. Elwyn G. Preston, Prof. George F. Swain, Mass. Inst. of Technology; Hon. Alonzo R. Weed, Ex-Mayor of Newton.

These banquets awakened great interest, and the Boston press, especially the *Herald*, *Globe*, *Advertiser*, *Post* and *Transcript*, and the *Springfield Republican* were most liberal in their news reports, most of them being cautiously hospitable also in an editorial way. A few brief excerpts, such as refer specifically to the spirit and method in which the reform was promoted, are here reproduced from a voluminous body of editorials covering the ten-year period.

First Banquet. To the Patrons of Husbandry, January 7, 1897. From the *Boston Herald*, January 8, 1897:

"It was a happy arrangement which the managers of the Massachusetts Single Tax League made in inviting to their dinner on Thursday evening representatives of the State Grange and of other farming interests which have hitherto stood in the way of the adoption of a better system of taxation." . . .

Second Banquet. To the Association of Massachusetts Assessors, February 20, 1897. From the *New Bedford Standard*, February 24, 1897:

"... Meanwhile, we note that our friends, the single taxers, are carrying on an active, though not obtrusive campaign of education. They have adopted the clever plan of giving dinners to groups of men especially interested in taxation, and of devoting the after dinner speeches to advocacy of the single tax. Already representatives of the grangers and of the boards of assessors have been subjected to this process. It is not likely that there have been any marked conversions; yet it is impossible that there should be no modification of views. At any rate, the agitation must set many people to thinking, and thinking is the most useful occupation concerning the tax question that can be indulged in at the present time."

Third Banquet. To the Massachusetts Labor Organizations, April 27, 1897. From the *Boston Advertiser*, April 29, 1897:

"The banquet of the Massachusetts Single Tax League at the Quincy House last Tuesday evening, with the lengthy, powerful and brilliant address by Father McGlynn, the pungent opening speech of the president of the League, Mr. W. L. Garrison, the courteous but quick and sharp answers by Mr. C. B. Fillebrown to the questions of objectors and doubters, and the presence of nearly all the prominent leaders of local labor organizations as special guests of the evening; were circumstances which could not fail to make a strong impression upon the mind of a thoughtful observer who sat there looking and listening, neither as a friend nor a foe to this movement, but as an interested student of current opinion and passing events. ... It is no more than fair to say that thus far, certainly in greater Boston, the single tax movement seems to have fallen into excellent hands. Those who most strongly dissent from their economic doctrines must admit, if brought into close quarters with the members of the league, that they are delightful people. (Their zeal, warm as it is, is wholly free from what so often, in connection with other subjects, makes zeal repugnant; > that is bitterness. The single taxers hereabout are in the true sense I ladies and gentlemen. , They are more than willing to try to convert the I economic sinner from the error of his ways; but they are the kindest and sweetest-tempered of proselyters. And they have brains."

Fourth Banquet. To the Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association, November 6, 1897. From the *Woman's Journal*, November, 1897:

"The Single Taxers are fertile in ingenious plans for propagating their doctrine—plans which might be copied with advantage by other societies. The Massachusetts Single Tax League is now giving a series of banquets to influential associations, inviting the officers and some of the

prominent members to come and hear the subject presented. ... It is a novelty for one Association to invite another to dinner, and we hope that there will be a large attendance, both those who believe in the Single Tax, and those who do not."

From the *Boston Herald*, November 7, 1897.

"... The Massachusetts Single Tax League began last Saturday for the year 1897-8 the kind of campaign which this remarkably virile organization has carried on in its own unique fashion during previous years,"

From the *Boston Globe*, November 6, 1897:

"It is clear that the Massachusetts Single Tax League means to have the public understand that 'the Henry Georgeism,' as it is sometimes called, did not die with Henry George.

"Today it begins a campaign, so to speak, of lunch and banquet. This program carries with it the best evidence that the members of the Single Tax League in this State are alive and eager for opportunity to defend 'the faith that is in them.' There is no sort of doubt that their new campaign will be followed with a good deal of interest by the public'

Sixth Banquet. To the Massachusetts Clergy, February 7, 1898. From the *Boston Advertiser*, February 8, 1898:

"The banquet given last evening at Hotel Vendome by the Massachusetts Single Tax League to representative clergymen, was the latest illustration of the very noteworthy method which the organized advocates of Henry George's chief economic doctrine are taking to commend that doctrine to the approval of the leaders of thought in various departments of activity. We have heretofore described this method and pointed out its interesting character as an innovation in propagandism. We shall not dwell upon that point of view now. It is sufficient to add that wholly irrespective of any one's agreement with or rejection of the single tax theory, the method of the single taxers in this league certainly challenges respect for its courtesy, and admiration for its sagacity. The general way has been for promulgating new ideas in any field of reform for its zealous advocates to gather themselves together and rehearse their own chosen arguments to audiences chiefly composed of those already convinced; welcoming, however, all others willing to come; the hope being that now and then an 'outsider' would join the ranks. The new way, of which the single tax league has furnished thus far the most conspicuous, if not the sole example, is to spread a good dinner—which, as has been so wisely said, 'lubricates business'—invite thereto as guests chiefly not believers but unbelievers, or at any rate presumably non-believers, and bid them eat, drink, be merry and afterward be free to believe as much or little as they might see reason for of the single tax argument which is furnished to follow the coffee and equally free to cross-examine and dispute."

Seventh Banquet. To the Young Men's Christian Associations, October 25, 1898. From the *Boston Advertiser*, October 26, 1898:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League has begun operations again. It works in the spirit and power of good old Lyman Beecher's motto, 'All at it and always at it.'"

Tenth Banquet. To Representative Business Men, October 5, 1899. From the *Boston Evening Record*:

"The single taxers take a very neat way of making their point, at all events, when they figure out Winter street's advances in valuation, and along with it the way it has or has not been taxed. The average man who even up to this time comes to think of the single taxer's position as something very intricate, gets a new light on the campaign by this kindergarten method.'

From the *Boston Post*, October 7, 1899:

"At the meeting of the Single Tax Association, Thursday evening, some concrete examples of the working of the single tax system were given, with startling figures. Mr. Pillebrown's statistics regarding the assessment and taxation of property on Winter street in this city were most impressive. The demonstration in this and other instances is theoretically complete. Why should not an opportunity be given to make a practical test of the theory?"

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, October 6, 1899:

"A decided new departure was made by the Massachusetts Single Tax League at its first banquet of the season, held at Hotel Vendome last evening. For the first time the guests were chiefly 'business men,' using that term in its somewhat restricted sense as applicable especially to merchants, bankers and manufacturers, rather than to professional men, employees and capitalists. For the most part, the league has aimed on former occasions of a like nature to reach especially classes of people having common interests outside of business as thus defined; for example, clergymen, lawyers, teachers, legislators and political leaders, social reformers, charity workers and members of religious organizations. Last night the single taxers made their appeal in a very graphic and concrete way to business men strictly so-called; and more particularly to merchants, as being a class of business men who are almost always confronted by the rent problem in its most forcible aspects.

"We give elsewhere this morning some account of the exceedingly clear-cut introduction of the after-dinner speaking, by the league's new president, Mr. C. B. Fillebrown. President Fillebrown was at home last night in a double sense; which may account in part for the striking effectiveness of his share in the proceedings. Besides being and having long been the most indefatigable and efficient single tax champion in the Commonwealth, he brought to his task last evening the advantage of being himself a leading wholesale merchant in this city. It is not likely that any other man could have so skilfully adapted single tax arguments to meet the precise business situation from the Boston merchants' point of view. . . Whether these magnificent and certainly ingenious arguments will bear examination, every man must judge for himself. In order to judge, the best way is to examine them. We do not think that anybody will dispute the statement that the Massachusetts Single Tax League deserves credit for putting its case so clearly, and furnishing in such a convenient form facts and figures which should make it all the easier to refute its arguments if it be in error."

From the *National Single Taxer*, November, 1899:

"Mr. Shearman, of New York, was the principal speaker of the evening, but Mr. Fillebrown, the president newly elect, anticipated the address by a presentation of an 'Object Lesson in Taxation,' which has awakened an unusual degree of interest upon the part of the press. The dailies of Boston, to which we are so largely indebted, devoted not less than 30 columns to their reports of the meeting, and to editorial comment, which without exception and without reserve favored the local option idea as a means of testing the practical value of the plan proposed.

"The special success of this meeting was thus realized in the splendid advertisement and discussion of the subject throughout the broad field of their circulation."

From the *New Bedford Mercury*, October, 1899:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League has gained the attention of Boston, and in a week when the yacht races and Dewey celebrations have crowded out other news of the day the Boston newspapers have found it worth while to give up the best part of a page to the address of President C. B. Fillebrown, and to illustrate his text as liberally as it has pictured either of the great news events referred to. It is good to see an interest in a matter of serious importance, and we congratulate the single taxers in having inspired it."

From the *New England Homestead*, Springfield, October, 1899:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League certainly made a powerful presentation of its case at the banquet in Boston last week. This exhibit was not based on theory, but rested on a careful analysis of taxation on real and personal property on Winter street for many years."

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, October, 1899:

"The single tax banquet at the Vendome last evening was a decided novelty in one respect. It was unlike any other of the numerous single tax banquets that have been given in Boston by the remarkably enterprising and hospitable league during the past several years.

"What made last evening's occasion peculiar was the fact that its main purpose was not the single tax propaganda, *per se*. Of course the doctrines which the league represents were very much in evidence. They always are. They always have to be. The members of the league are a great deal too much in dead earnest ever to do anything of the sort without furnishing line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a great deal, of argument and persuasion to get people to think, as the league does, that the path of the millennium is the one blazed out in Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty,' and T. G. Shearman's 'Natural Taxation.'"

From the *National Single Taxer*, April, 1900:

"... Mr. Fillebrown stands forth pre-eminently as a man who, not content with contributing largely from his ample means, feels that he must also render personal service, and large as his pecuniary contributions have been and are, it is not doubtful that the cause could better afford to

spare them than his business ability and his methods of organization. . . . Tolerant of methods at variance with his own, Mr. Fillebrown only asks that he be permitted to carry out that line of work which he feels he can do best, and the splendid results he has attained are proof of the _ .efficacy of his methods. Among the militant single taxers of the country ; Mr. Fillebrown takes high rank, and the outcome of his work will be ! anxiously watched for from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If singleness of purpose, intelligence of method and skill in generalship can win against j the forces of conservatism, single taxers everywhere may await the result |^with perfect confidence."

Twelfth Banquet. To Real Estate Men, October 8, 1900. From the *Boston Herald*, October 1, 1900:

"The managers of the Single Tax League evidently believe that, if they can by degrees educate those who represent the various financial and business interests to an admission of the soundness of their reform, it will be a comparatively easy matter to move, in the direction which they wish, the great mass of the people. As the brains direct the body, so it may be said that an intellectual interested few are those who in a general way, direct the affairs of a community."

From the *Boston Herald*, October 10,1900:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League had what may be termed a field day on Monday evening, when it gave a dinner to a large number of representative real estate men of Boston, for the purpose of thus affording the latter an opportunity to listen to a carefully prepared statement concerning the effect of an application of the single tax system in and around Boston, a statement which they were invited to criticise and question. The main address of the evening, that of President C. B. Fillebrown of the league, has been printed in full in *The Herald*, with illustrations indicating what, in his opinion, is the effect of our present unscientific system of taxation."

From the *Springfield Republican*, October 9,1900:

"*Single Tax Earnestness.* That the advocates of the single tax, or exclusive tax on land values, are in possession of a large nugget of important truth would seem to be evidenced in the persistency with which under the most discouraging circumstances, they force their doctrine upon public attention. We do not know that the movement is any stronger now than it was when Henry George was alive, or^as strong, but there has been no abatement in the zeal of the disciples he left behind. Theirs is the spirit that intends to command a hearing at whatever cost of effort, and that is the spirit which usually overcomes."

From the *Boston Beacon*, October 13,1900:

"The Single Taxers offer a plan of taxation which is complete, feasible and at least plausible. Moreover, they have studied the subject so thoroughly that they can explain in detail the scope of their system. This they do with absolute frankness, and with a degree of sincerity and conviction that is reassuring."

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, October 9, 1900:

"President Fillebrown began his after-dinner speech with the remark that the league was happy in having, for the twelfth time, a table spread in the presence of its enemies. . . . But we suspect that his audience last night cherishes anything but sentiments of enmity toward him and toward the organization under whose auspices twelve hotel banquets have been given during the past four or five years to prominent representatives of various industrial, financial, professional, educational and philanthropic bodies of people in Boston and vicinity. Whatever the real estate men, who, with then- ladies, were the league's principal guests last evening, may think about the merits of the single tax question, they can have, we suppose, but one opinion with regard to the altogether genial, courteous and fair-minded way in which the case was presented at the Brunswick last evening. . . . President Fillebrown has been heard, to a limited extent, on former occasions of a like nature; for the function of answering questions and meeting objections as they arise from one guest and another, has usually been assigned, at these single tax dinners, to this most devoted and winsome of the New England apostles of the new gospel according to Henry George. But not until last night has C. B. Fillebrown appeared in the role of a lecturer on political economy, as practically applied to the problems of taxation."

From the *Boston Post*, October 9, 1900:

"Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, president of the league, has conducted his campaign for the single tax in a quiet, picturesque and effective way, presenting to one group after another, and one interest after another, the claim which the plan for laying the burden of taxation upon land values alone has upon the consideration of intelligent, practical men. Last evening his address set forth a vivid object lesson of the results of applying the single tax theory to the property on Washington street from Adams square to Eliot street, and the ensuing discussion or exchange of questions and answers has a highly educational value."

From the *Boston Globe*, October 10, 1900:

"President C. B. Fillebrown of the Massachusetts Single Tax League is to be congratulated on his instructive and interesting speech Monday night. Indeed, the league deserves the compliment of having presented through its banquets a method of exchanging views on vital subjects most strikingly in contrast with the prevailing methods of politicians.

"The single tax movement has doubtless passed through its fighting stage as well as its stage of ridicule which confronts all new reforms. This is no doubt due largely to the good sense which, instead of getting up a 'pounding match' where rhetorical gladiators meet to level shafts of ridicule and opprobrium upon each other's views, invites inquirers to meet at a friendly Banquet with their ladies, listen to a carefully-prepared paper on the subject under discussion and ask such questions as may occur to them.

"One does not need to indorse completely the single tax theory to become aware that unequal and inequitable taxation is among the most crying evils of society. Mr. Fillebrown certainly presented a great mass of information with much clearness, and the single tax men are to be commended for the progressive spirit which they bring to the discussion.

"At the same time they are holding up a most valuable object lesson of refinement in the discussion of great truths which might well shame many political methods. H the single tax women are often found as well informed as the men on the Henry George theories, it is because their presence at the discussions is not forbidden by the rude and riotous proceedings that characterize too many political meetings."

From the *Boston Evening Transcript*, October 9, 1900:

"The seductive method of post-prandial propagandise! which the Massachusetts Single Tax League has adopted was applied again last evening, when the league entertained representatives of the real estate interests in Boston. The single taxpayer has unlimited faith in the principle which he advocates. He believes that all that is needed to gain converts to his theory is to get people to thinking about it. The inevitable outcome of a fair discussion of the single tax, he is convinced, must be to make supporters for the policy. In this spirit of supreme confidence he states his case and challenges, question and criticism."

From the *National Single Taxer*, December, 1900:

"This number is given up to a consideration of the work in Massachusetts. President Fillebrown's speech at the banquet given by the Massachusetts Single Tax League to the representative real estate men of Boston, and the letter of the Hon. Charles Francis Adams to the league should be read with the greatest of care, and filed by every single taxpayer for future reference. The editorials, which we reproduce in full from Massachusetts' most influential newspapers, testify eloquently to the great interest the work of the league has aroused throughout the Massachusetts Commonwealth. All the Boston daily papers gave extended reports of the banquet, and our report is republished verbatim from the *Boston Daily Herald*. Illustrations in the Boston daily papers were mostly two and three columns wide. Representative men throughout Massachusetts receive copies of this number, and similar work should be done throughout the country. Editors at least should receive a copy."

Thirteenth Banquet. To the Catholic Clergy, December 3, 1900. From the *Boston Sacred Heart*, December, 1900:

"Father Johnson proceeded to examine the national platform of the Single Tax League in the light of the Church's teaching as expressed in Leo's comprehensive sentence: 'The right to possess property is from nature, not from man; and the state has only the right to regulate its use in the interests of the public good, but by no means to abolish the right to possess it altogether,' and concluded: 'It follows from this declaration that if the single tax theory as presented by its advocates aims at no more than to "regulate" the right of property in land "in the interests of the public good," and not "to abolish it altogether," or to take away from the private owner of land, "in the name of taxation, more than is just," surely such a proposal is not condemnable on ethical grounds.' . . . There is a great difference between deciding that a theory is not contrary to the Church's teaching and that the Church herself teaches such a doctrine. The single tax theory, as an economic theory, is a free doctrine. People may adopt it or reject it, if they choose to do so, without incurring the displeasure or the rebuke of the Catholic Church."

From the *Boston Post*, December, 1900:

"The propaganda which the Massachusetts Single Tax League is conducting was further advanced at the dinner given last evening to a number of invited guests, including representative clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church in this vicinity. The address of the Rev. Father Johnson, of South Boston, on this occasion was an important contribution to the discussion of the question."

From the *Boston Advertiser*, December, 1900:

"Catholics and Single Tax. The banquet given last evening by the Massachusetts Single Tax League was in one respect a very noteworthy new departure, by that singularly genial body of radical 'reformers,' from its beaten track. . . . For the first time, the Massachusetts Single Tax League gave a dinner to representatives of the clergy of one single religious denomination. . . . President Fillebrown stated the case in a few words last evening at the end of his opening address, in which he set forth with his usual clearness, fairness, forcefulness and geniality, exactly what it is that the Massachusetts Single Tax League stands for. With regard to the reasons for making an exception to the League's usual custom of recognizing no denominational differences, President Fillebrown said:

"It has obtained to some extent in both Catholic and non-Catholic minds, and especially those uninformed regarding this particular subject, that the doctrine of the single tax is directly, or by implication, under the ban of the Roman Catholic Church. In our propaganda zeal we have sought diligently for a way to dispel, if possible, the shadow of this real or fancied disapproval of a great reform."

Fourteenth Banquet. To members of the Boston Merchants Association, October 22, 1901. From the *Boston Post*, October, 1901:

"The propaganda of the Massachusetts Single Tax League is continued this year on the same persuasive lines as before. It is a campaign of information on which the league has entered, and the banquet given last evening to members of the Boston Merchants' Association was made the occasion of presenting another object lesson in the application of the single tax method to property in familiar localities in the heart of the city of Boston.

"President Fillebrown's address was illustrative rather than didactic and for that reason the more forcible. It dealt with the conditions prevailing in the locality bounded by Cornhill, Brattle street, Scollay square and Adams square; and if we admit the postulates of the argument, we must also concede the validity of the conclusion that here, at least, the application of the principle of the single tax on ground rent, in place of the varied tax, as at present, would result in a development of that valuable section to an extent which we cannot expect for a generation to come under existing conditions. The programme of the single taxers is in no sort revolutionary, however firmly they may believe in the eternal justice of their plan."

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, October, 1901:

"Last night the single taxers inaugurated another year of their peculiar propaganda. The occasion was marked by the same remarkable shrewdness which has characterized all the single tax banquets in all the preceding years. There were the same judicious selection of influential citizens, belonging to a distinct business or professional interest in the community; the same generous and bountiful hospitality; the same scrupulous care to avoid the very appearance of committing any guest to the single tax doctrine, by his acceptance of the invitation; the same broad, clear, frank setting forth, by the principal speaker, of the Henry George doctrine, as it actually is held and pushed today, here in Massachusetts, by the Single Tax League; and, above all, the same freedom given everybody to ask questions or to make objections; and the same courtesy and unruffled good temper in replying thereto.

"We call this method shrewd. It is so, because it makes no enemies, whether it makes converts or not. It is impossible to feel any bitterness toward a man, however cranky you may think him to be in his notions, who entertains you at a good dinner, and smilingly invites you to have a chat with him after the coffee—cigars being barred because of the ladies at table—concerning your notions of his notions. And it will be strange, indeed, if you do not, even against your will, rather more than half suspect *f* that he is rather more than half right. At all events, there is a wonderful ! contrast between this genial way by which these single tax reformers, as I they regard themselves, try to make converts, and the ungenial way in I which so many reformers try to drive the wedge of their argument, by blows I of assertion and denunciation, into the gnarled oak log of popular indifferI ence and dislike."

From the *Rockland Free Press*, October, 1901:

"President Fillebrown, of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, has evidently decided that to reach a man's good will, efforts should be made through his stomach. Mr. Fillebrown is a genial entertainer, and deserves credit from all for his untiring efforts in behalf of the single tax. His is a campaign of argument and education, and if the present wisely directed efforts continue, must make an impression in time.'

Fifteenth Banquet. To Professors of Political Economy, January 10, 1902. From the *Boston Advertiser*, January 13, 1902:

"At the single tax dinner in Hotel Brunswick, last Friday evening, President Fillebrown, opening the post-prandial exercises in his customary genial way, gave thanks to a number of college and university professors in Boston and vicinity—whom he did not mention by name in that connection, but nearly or quite all of whom were sitting there at table as his guests—for having co-operated with the Single Tax League in arranging for the meeting. With reference to them he used this noteworthy expression: 'None of whom, I am happy to say, are believers in the single tax.'

"This remark naturally caused an audible smile, because it might be construed to mean that the opposition of those learned and eminent gentlemen was deemed to be, in itself, a good thing for the success of the single tax movement. But of course that was not at all President Fillebrown's meaniug. Nobody really thought it was. Everybody knew he meant that the cordial readiness of

opponents to assist in bringing this question up for full, free, fair and friendly debate was something to be thankful for.

"So it was. That is the way to find out truth and show up error. That is the way to get rid of the hard feelings which, more than differences of opinion, array in opposite hostile camps the forces which are equally seeking to learn and tell the truth. When those who cannot yet think alike will join hand in hand, and sit face to face in courteous and kindly intercourse, they will stand a very good chance, sooner or later, to see eye to eye.

"Last Friday evening the Massachusetts Single Tax League gave its fifteenth banquet, in pursuance of its unique plan of propagandism. At all of them, opponents as well as supporters of the League's object have been bidden as guests, and many such opponents have accepted the invitations in the same generous, tolerant spirit in which they were given. On all former occasions, the same as on this latest one, the fullest freedom has been accorded for objections and for the sharpest questions by unconvinced critics."

From the *Boston Transcript*, January 11, 1902:

"The enterprise of the Massachusetts Single Tax League in polling the political economists upon certain definitions and principles relating to tax reform is a most commendable one. The intelligent discussion of taxation problems will be greatly aided by a definite formulation of fundamental points upon which experts are generally agreed."

From the *Boston Post*, January 11, 1902:

"The propaganda in which the Massachusetts Single Tax League has been engaged for some five years past has unquestionably produced educational results of a very practical sort. The general public has come to understand more clearly the application of the theories of the economists to the solution of the puzzling problem of taxation, and the experts themselves have been getting into line for the support of some definite scheme of reform. The banquet given last evening to 'college professors and political economists was another step in this direction. Although Professor Seligman of Columbia University, who was to deliver the address of the evening, was absent on account of illness and represented only by a written essay, the gathering was representative and the discussion was enlightening."

From the *Boston Advertiser*, January, 1902:

"As we understand, the sole immediate purpose of last evening's banquet was to demonstrate that there is a broad and solid ground of agreement on which economists stand substantially together, however much they may differ about the single tax or other questions. That endeavor seems fair and wise. It will make future discussions of disputed points clearer, kindlier, and more truth-revealing.

"It was to be noticed last evening at the Brunswick that the Single Tax League had for its guests an extraordinarily large proportion of college and university professors. In fact, nearly all of them were of that description. Even people who most distrust and dislike the single tax

movement can hardly withhold a tribute of admiration to the sublime audacity with which the League hunts big game."

From the *Cape Ann News*, January 11, 1902:

"One of the most unique gatherings ever held in Boston was the banquet of the Single Tax League held at the Hotel Brunswick, Jan. 10th. It was unique because it was not as such occasions usually are, an evening devoted to preaching the doctrine of the cult, but rather to the attempt to evolve a common ground upon which the single taxers and their opponents could stand and from which a discussion could start without wasting time in disagreeing about points upon which all economists should be agreed. . . The Single Tax League, in which this reform movement is centered, is doing an educational work rather than promoting a controversy. . . And the diffusion of knowledge thus induced must inevitably result in a liberal degree of tax reform which, if it does not fulfil the ideas of the followers of Henry George, will at least be more scientific than the present slipshod method. So the League is doing good all the time, actual good to our State and city governments, and it is at the same time increasing the number of believers in the single tax gospel."

Sixteenth Banquet. To Professional Economists, December 8, 1902. From the *Boston Transcript*, December, 1902:

"The second dinner to professional economists, given last evening by the Massachusetts Single Tax League, brought together a noteworthy group of speakers representing leading universities from Maine to California. The primary object of these gatherings is, of course, to advertise the Single Tax; but this particular method of advertising is broadly educational. It is the hope of President Fillebrown of the League, in arranging these gatherings, to promote agreement among leading teachers of political economy regarding definitions and principles that bear on the problem of taxation."

From the *Boston Herald*, December, 1902:

"The recent meeting of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, at which the question of the nature, operation and office of ground rent was discussed by several professors of political economy from different colleges and universities, furnished an illustration of the value of an organization such as the league as a means by which professional opinion can be concentrated, crystallized and, to some extent at least, popularized."

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, December, 1902:

"Quite irrespective of the merits or demerits of the single tax doctrine, congratulations are certainly due to the league for this latest example, of the many which it has furnished, showing how a radical movement, conceived in an enthusiasm for humanity, but opposed to widespread, and deep-rooted customs and ideas, may be carried on in a spirit of perfect good fellowship between the friends and foes of the movement."

From the *Boston Post*, December, 1902:

"The campaign of education on which the Massachusetts Single Tax League entered several years ago was advanced by the discussion following the dinner last evening at which a number of professional economists expressed their views of the nature, operation and office of ground rent.

From the *Springfield Republican*, December, 1902:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League, under the direction of C. B. Fillebrown, is still hammering away at the problem of bringing its aims within reach of the popular understanding. Its dinner at Boston last evening is noteworthy for the number of scholars in economics brought together for an exchange of views on the disputed question in economic theory of the nature of ground rent."

From the *Boston Beacon*, December, 1902:

"It is rare that one finds in this country a band of reformers so persistent and enthusiastic in their advocacy of an idea and yet so uniformly broad minded and good tempered in carrying on their agitation as the members of the Massachusetts Single Tax League. One rather fancies that this agreeable combination of earnestness and optimism arises very largely from the mental attitude of the president of the League, Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, who has been for years a pioneer in economic reform and I who has won to his side a group of vigorous thinkers made up of men of quite varied callings. The methods of the Single Tax League are educational and not revolutionary. Its members are sincere believers in the mechanical power of the wedge as being in the long run superior to dynamite, and they believe in getting in the small end of the wedge first. Notwithstanding the tendency of college professors to lend their support to the single tax idea, it will not do to call the movement academic. ... It has been, as we understand it, the purpose of Mr. Fillebrown and his associates of the Single Tax League, to secure through friendly discussion such an elimination of unessential differences and such an emphasis of essential agreements as will bring something like harmony out of confusion and secure a generally conceded basis of thought and action. For this worthy endeavor, which seems to have been very successfully carried out, the league deserves the thanks and endorsement of all those who realize the importance of an early and scientific solution of our economic problems."

"Social Settler" in the *Boston Transcript*, December, 1902:

"President Fillebrown of the Massachusetts Single Tax League played the host again Monday evening in his usual hospitable fashion, the lions of the occasion being certain 'professional economists.' The latter held the boards at the post-prandial entertainment and dealt out three hours' worth of cut-and-dried wisdom on the subject of 'Ground Rent.' The subject was not a juicy one, and the treatment that it received was appropriate. No speaker is to be blamed, however, for failing to extract afterdinner sunbeams from an economic cucumber. The Settler is proud to say that he was among the few indefatigables who were in at the finish. . . . Seriously, however, President Fillebrown is to be congratulated upon his success in getting representative economists to express substantial agreement concerning a number of important points and principles. This in itself is no mean achievement. Whether the agreements will directly help the single tax cause is another story. But, however this may be, the results thus far reached in the

agreement business testify eloquently to the diplomatic strategy of the tactful propagandist who directs the policy of the Massachusetts single taxers."

From the *Congregationalist*, December, 1902:

"The best way to promote any particular reform is to bring light from all quarters on the condition to be remedied. Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, president of the Single Tax League, appears to be the kind of reformer who welcomes all available help in the work to which he devotes himself. At the dinner of the league, held at Copley Square Hotel last week, which was attended by a large number of educators and business men, he secured addresses from half a dozen instructors and professors of economics from Harvard and other universities, bringing one as far as from the University of California. The program was carefully arranged and the papers read were prepared after opportunity to see the outlines of arguments of the other speakers."

From the *Morning Star*, December, 1902:

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League is looking after the 'cause' with much graciousness and persistence. Banquets are a favorite method of propaganda. One was held at Copley Square Hotel in Boston, December 8, at which the professors of economics in the colleges and universities were guests of the league, and did the principal part of the after-dinner speaking. Leading colleges from Maine to California were represented, and the addresses were thoughtful and interesting."

From the *New England Farmer*, December, 1902:

"We have received many invitations to attend the meetings of the Massachusetts Single Tax League. Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, the president, has been for years a pioneer in economic reform and these people are persistent and enthusiastic in their advocacy of an idea and yet uniformly broad minded and good tempered in carrying on their agitation."

From the *New England Grocer*, December, 1902:

"The Single Tax League, under the direction of C. B. Fillebrown' shows more intelligent skill and persistency in pushing its cause than; any other association with which we are familiar. It is continuously! hammering away at the problem of bringing its aims within reach of» the popular understanding. Its dinner at Boston Monday evening was noteworthy for the number of scholars in economics brought together for an exchange of views on the disputed question in economic theory of the nature of ground rent. The discussion constitutes a real contribution to the science.'

From the Editor of the *Boston Beacon*, February, 1903:

"It gives me pleasure to think that *The Beacon* is of some service keeping up the propaganda upon which the success of the single tax movement must in the last analysis depend. There is some satisfaction at any rate in fanning the flame, and if we do not produce a conflagration at the start perhaps the results will be all the more satisfactory. Persistent and good-tempered discussion is a great disintegrator of tradition and prejudice!"

Seventeenth Banquet. To Landlords of Boston, April 13, 1903. From the *Boston Transcript*, April, 1903:

"*The Landlords and the Single Tax.* The president of the Massachusetts Single Tax League proved last evening that he possesses the courage of his convictions by expounding the single-tax proposal to a company of Boston landlords. The occasion was the seventeenth of the interesting series of dinners which the league has given during the past seven years to representatives of various interests, business and professional. The league deserves only commendation for its enterprise. The gatherings have unquestionably helped to arouse and educate the public on the subject of tax reform. The dinner of last evening was, in one respect, a most ambitious undertaking. The single tax is commonly supposed to be sharply opposed to the interests of the land-owning class. From their point of view the plan to transfer the entire tax burden to the land looks, at first sight, like a scheme of sheer confiscation. To invite representatives of this class to listen to a presentation of the case for the single tax was, therefore, a novel and daring stroke of propagandism. It is impossible at this time to comment upon all phases of President Fillebrown's elaborate and encyclopaedic discussion of ground rent."

From the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, April, 1903:

"*Single Tax Education.* The Massachusetts Single Tax League is now preparing to send copies of its pamphlet report of last Monday evening's Hotel Vendome banquet to the presidents and professors connected with colleges and universities. This report will contain the address of President Fillebrown, together with newspaper editorials treating of the occasion. ... It appears that no fewer than 1,268 copies of each of the two reports of the 'ground-rent' discussion will have been distributed among teachers in 44 colleges and universities, two of which institutions are Oxford and Cambridge in England. . . . Mr. C. F. Adams, whose statement that 'the single tax would make Massachusetts the paradise of manufacturers'... has lately said that it must be the work of the Massachusetts Single Tax League 'to teach the teachers.' It appears that it is endeavoring to do it."

From the *Boston Record*, April, 1903:

"*An Effective Sentence.* The most effective single sentence of the single taxers at their latest appeal declares that if Boston's tax of \$18,000,000 for 1902 were to be paid by the landlords out of their estimated ground rent of \$42,000,000, they would still have left \$24,000,000 a year of ground rent, besides the exemption of \$384,000,000 on buildings, and the exemption of all their personal property. None of the Boston land lords present when Chief Priest FilleDrown made them this generous offer were moved to agree to settle as proposed. Instead, R. T. Paine replied: 'I am going to ask the chairman if he thinks single tax will work. Are you ready to have it tried now?' 'I live in Newton,' smilingly replied Mr. Fillebrown, 'and I am ready to have its operation begun in Boston at once.' The applause was hearty and unrestrained. If single tax could be coaxed along by a gentle sense of humor it would have invaded the city, to stay, long ago.'

From the *Worcester Post*, April, 1903:

"At the single tax dinner in Boston last evening the volley of questions fired at the president of the league, Charles B. Fillebrown, would have disconcerted either a less able defender of that theory of taxation, or him who undertook to answer for a weaker doctrine. . . . The theory has been gaining recruits for years and there have been no backsliders. Like an avalanche, steadily increasing in force, it seems as if it would one day sweep all before it. If it would accomplish half of the good claimed for it, it would be a boon to humanity."

From the *Springfield Republican*, April, 1903:

"*The Land Tax in Boston.* The president of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, C. B. Fillebrown, recently addressed a company of Boston landlords on the nature of ground rent, and more particularly the volume of such rent existing in the city of Boston at present. . . . The single taxers are fighting from high motives, on strong economic grounds, and with a persistence that excites admiration. . . ."

From the *Boston Beacon*, April, 1903:

"*Ground Rent as a Social Product.* Rarely if ever has the subject of ground rent as a social product been treated in so luminous a way as by President Fillebrown of the Massachusetts Single Tax League at the banquet to some of the landlords of Boston last Monday evening. For seven years Mr. Fillebrown has been conducting an active propaganda in behalf of the single tax, and this banquet was the seventeenth in a series of symposiums that have been productive in the economical sense of a great deal of good."

From the *Christian Register*, April, 1903:

"The delightful dinners given by the Single Tax League in Boston have come to an end. The last banquet was held at Hotel Vendome in Boston, with President Fillebrown in the chair. No social and political propagandism has been more genial and persuasive than this. The method has been to invite on each occasion some selected class of ladies and gentlemen, to give them an hour or two of pleasant social intercourse, including a good dinner, then to submit to them the propositions which the League is prepared to defend, asking for questions, corrections, and general discussion. Seventeen dinners have been given in this way, of which the total effect, if one were to judge by the apparent disposition of those in attendance at this final banquet, was to bring them to the place where, without being certain what the result would be, they were entirely willing to see the experiment tried in the gradual way proposed by the president of the league. ..."

From the *San Francisco Call*, May 6, 1903:

"Single-taxers in Boston are making a reputation for hospitality by their banquets. Everybody says the dinners are delightful, and we may yet hear of some epicure joining the party and upholding the creed just for the sake of dallying with the viands."

From the *Single Tax Review*, January, 1906:

"The metaphysics of the controversy are tempting, but we refrain from combatting Mr. Fillebrown's position so forcibly, and, on the whole, so clearly stated. Those who venture to take exception should bear in mind that Mr. Fillebrown is to-day the most successful protagonist of the measure to shift taxation from improvements to land values in the whole length and breadth of the land. We know of no one—not even the Hon. Tom L. Johnson—who has so impressed the influential elements of a great community with the ethical quality and practical value of the Single Tax, as well as his own 'sweet reasonableness.'"

Nineteenth Banquet. Lorimer Hall, October 14, 1907. Finale. From the *Boston Transcript*, October 15, 1907:

"The unique campaign of post-prandial propagandism, which the Massachusetts Single Tax League has been conducting for more than a decade, was brought to an end last night with a dinner at which the president of the League, Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, expounded the proposition that the selling value of land is an untaxed value. In this proposition he believes that he has found the proper starting point for the student of taxation and the agitator for the single tax. Whether one assents

to this proposition and to the principles of the single tax, or not, one must concede that the sort of educational work which the Single Tax League has been doing in recent years is highly commendable. The president has devoted himself particularly to the task of securing definitions and statements of fundamental economic principles underlying the science of taxation that would command the authoritative approval of economic experts, and of promoting popular recognition and understanding of them. Such work, in so far as it is really successful, helps to furnish a needed common basis for discussion and legislation. ..."

From the *Boston Herald*, October 15, 1907:

"... The Massachusetts Single Tax League still dines, and supplements the menu with instructive oratory and argument. Last night the league gave its nineteenth dinner. President Fillebrown was as persuasive and as logical as ever, as thoroughly in earnest and as ready with his illuminating facts. ..."

From the *Fitchburg Sentinel*, October 17, 1907:

"On Tuesday evening in Lorimer Hall, occurred a meeting of the Single Tax League of which the public may well take notice, because it is the last public meeting to be held for an indefinite time. . . . Whatever one may think of the doctrine, he cannot but respect President Fillebrown, if he has a personal acquaintance with him. One of the most thorough and conscientious of gentlemen, he is filled with his subject and he advocates it with all the earnestness of an early Christian apostle. He has given 10 years of devoted service to the cause. He has spoken in public many times. He has written for a great many publications. He has pleaded for the cause near and far. For the present he feels as if he were about talked out and therefore he has decided to bring to an end for the present the public dinners. But he is still devoted to the cause and says that he shall be working for it eight hours a day and six days in the week. He has not wearied his hearers, nor made himself *persona non grata*, whatever be the fate of his doctrines."

Mr. Fillebrown started out firm in the inherited belief that the essentials of any reform lie in its morals, to which fiscals are only incidental and of secondary importance. Armed with this conviction his early efforts were along the line of "The Ethics of the Single Tax." Moral enthusiasm was never wanting to these occasions, but the demand invariable and inexorable was, "Show us just how your fiscal plan is going to do the great moral things claimed for it." Consequently effort was gradually centered upon study of the single tax pursued as a special elective, and not as one of a whole curriculum of co-ordinate reforms—an explanation of the method proposed for reducing flagrant inequalities in the division of wealth by curtailing the encroachment of special privilege in its distribution, keeping always in mind the moral standpoint of right and justice.

In order to anticipate any possible charge of indifference to the moral aspect of the case, the peroration of this address on "**The Ethics of the Single Tax**" is here produced substantially as presented upon thirty-four occasions, designated by a star, out of the one hundred and seventy-five previously named.

INDUSTRIAL SLAVERY

The industrial slavery of today resulting from the monopoly of land, the Single Tax holds to be worse than the chattel slavery of a generation ago. Even the Simon Legree of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was concerned by his selfish interest to feed, to clothe, to house, and to nurse not only his field hands and his house servants, but their whole families as well, for 365 days in the year. The tenement house sweater, or the East Side contractor, or the master of a soulless corporation buying in the cheapest market, displacing the earner of the living wage with the idle labor knocking at the door, does not stop to ask whether the slave of untoward circumstance and condition, himself or his family, is warm or cold, hungry, or thirsty, or sick. Henry George would cure this one condemnable wrong by opening up those opportunities that are the direct product of society as a whole to all men instead of to a select few.

"And the times of this ignorance God overlooked but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." It is hard to see how an all-seeing eye can longer overlook the dense ignorance that prevails today of the true diagnosis of the social ailment, its real cause and cure. The mote in the eye is so small that the physicians, to wit, the great public, the legislature, the congress, do not see it. It is so small that Labor whose eye gives pain doubts if really there is anything in it. The fact that neither the sinner nor the sinned against is conscious of offence, does not mitigate the heinousness of the sin. Though up to now this ignorance has been the saving of the sinner, now he is called to repentance.

THE PROFESSOR

The political economist sometimes tells us that "It is right but too late to undo a palpable vested wrong," that "It is sometimes inexpedient to be rigorously just."

You know, though you may not have seen it, that away yonder in the west there rolls toward the south a river broad and deep, the yellow, muddy, roilly Mississippi. The soldiers in the army on its banks in Louisiana had a fashion to sink an empty barrel in the sand, fill it at night with the tepid, undrinkable waler, drop into the barrel a teaspoonful of saleratus, put on- the cover, and lo, in the morning, presto, there was the mud all precipitated, gone to the bottom of a clear, cool, sweet well of drinking water.

What does the professor of political economy too often do today? Is it not this though he does not realize it? He puts his thirsty flock into position upon the levee of the great Mississippi and says to them, " Here you see flowing past in figure the great broad stream of history, roilly with the errors of the ages, turbid with the mistakes, the speculations, the theories, the vapors of every school of political economy from Adam down. Behold the tide of knowledge that maketh vain, everything but the right thing. Drink it all in, if you can, this product of the centuries, and flounder in it as they and I have done" (no specific for the removal of the evil can be suggested). This they, the flock, having no corner stone, but only this floating debris whereon to build, proceed to do and go out to take their places in the different schools and practices of monopoly and special privilege.

BARREL OF TRUTH

At this crisis comes along a soldier of the people, a wise man, who says: "Rivers are for navigation and to bear off impurities to the sea. You are thirsty, what you want is to drink," and so he leads them to this simple barrel in the ground to which his alchemy has supplied the missing ingredient, justice. The student looks into its clear, transparent depth from which all error and wrong have been eliminated, and behold truth "at the bottom of a well," though that well be only a barrel.

LAY SERMON

The average layman loses no opportunity to preach to the preachers. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," but until these ministers, dear men of God, instant always to help their fellows, take the stand that right is right and wrong is wrong, and make their welkin ring with the cry, just so long the poor will pass by on the other side and the well-to-do will doze in their pews or stay at home and read the Sunday papers, criticize, carp and condemn and sigh, "Oh, for a different minister, one not imbued so much from on high, one paid to bring the Kingdom of Heaven down to us, to our level."

When you ministers say to these "pillars" of the church, "Go home to your Sunday papers, the Lord has no use for such," then not only will the common people come to hear you gladly, but better, these same rich men will all wake up and come back again, such is the adhesive, cohesive power of clear, unadulterated truth.

How many a shepherd and teacher of today, leading his flock to the waters, complains that they will not drink. Is it not, perchance, because he does not offer them for a first draught the pure water of the whole truth, the unalterable principle of justice?

Into the shelter of this principle of right and justice it is safe always to retreat. For this there stands the precedent and example of the one great Schoolmaster in political economy. He was about His Father's business, the declaration and insistence upon principles. He never allowed Himself to get entangled in the detailed application of these principles to other people's affairs, but every time directly or by parable brought His questioner back face to face with the principle, to work out his own salvation.

All the cunning of the Pharisees, however subtle, could not decoy Him out from His stronghold into the wilderness of money politics, or the letter of the law, nor did He ever evade, or equivocate, but to the Sabbatarian quibble about the plucking of the ears of corn, or the falling of the ox into the pit, He answered, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Upon the money question He said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." Always His answer was in substance: Do not ask me to adapt my principles to your conditions, but adapt your conditions forthwith to my principles. This is not optional, it is obligatory.

But that which I am declaring is not the whole gospel, it is a minimum gospel. The gospel of love is voluntary, the most that love can do. The gospel of justice is mandatory, the least that equity compels. The triumph of simple justice will leave a Christian socialism relieved from a perplexing and misplaced burden free to occupy its own higher and peculiar field.

Your preacher tells you that if sons of God, then are you heirs, equal heirs to the boundless and bounteous celestial acres on the farther bank of a river we are all soon to cross— those acres the creation and gift of a divine hand. Our preacher, Henry George, tells us that we are just as equal heirs to equally boundless and bounteous terrestrial acres on the hither bank of that same river— these acres the creation and gift of that same divine and equally thoughtful hand. We refuse to let the dazzling riches of a world to come blind our eyes to the teeming superabundance of a bounty that now is, and to the rights of man therein, and we single taxers have dedicated ourselves to the work of making room at the Father's table for all His children, not sentimentally but scientifically.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

We pray that the kingdom of heaven may come down upon the earth (we do this with sincerity, no doubt, so far as our understanding goes) that heavenly conditions may prevail here. If we are in doubt whether God's ways are better than our ways, or whether we have room for the kingdom of heaven here, or whether the kingdom of heaven is adapted to our climate and institutions, or if we have trouble in bringing this kingdom of heaven down to the earth beside our kingdom, even if only for a brief comparison, why not reverse the process, and as you hope for heaven, imagine yourself transported, land system and all, and set down by the river of life, or in the golden streets, only to find the rich bottom lands and the riparian rights pre-empted, the corner lots all taken and yourself a tenant of those more fortunate because earlier saints whom you find already installed by right of preoccupation. Can you name a more pertinent illustration? Can you imagine a more unavoidable reduction to absurdity?

RELIGION AND POLITICS

We are told that religion and politics do not go together. This is too true. You are perhaps a Republican and do not want to hear your minister preach Democracy, or you are a Democrat and do not care to hear Republicanism in the pulpit—and why? Because you do not think them the right kind of politics; or, being neither a Republican nor a Democrat, your politics may be of the independent, eclectic, composite order, and you shun this church or that church because you do not think it goes well with your politics. It stands, you say, too much upon the form and manifests too little of the spirit; it lays too great stress upon differences, more than upon agreements; stands still over dead issues instead of advancing to its own ideal. It caters to the taste of its flock instead of "hewing to the line," it clusters too much about the aristocratic quarter instead of providing an even distribution of the gospel to every creature.

Why should not politics support the pulpit and the pulpit preach politics? Do I need to remind you of the two all accounting pretexts—

1st. We do not get the right kind of religion.

2d. We do not get the right kind of politics.

Right politics is the realization and manifestation of true morality. The two will mix; more than this, they reinforce each other, and like the two mystical vials, each of itself muddy, even opaque, when the two are poured together in vital chemical union all cloudiness and shadow and mistiness give place to a crystal transparency through which we have unobstructed vision of the sky and heaven and God beyond.

POLITICAL PREACHERS

Who have been the greatest and truest political preachers? Were they not Isaiah and Jeremiah and their glorious line, who down to the present day have stood for simple equity and justice, denouncing oppression, injustice and wrong? If it is the recognized office of Government to "see to it that justice is done," how much more is it the office and duty of the church to insist that this office shall be performed? "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem!" What for?" Who shall never hold their peace?" When? Day nor night! How often these prophets have stood, as the servants of God do now, His image and reflection, reflecting His spirit and life by being alive and abounding in spiritual things. Seeing justice in every line of God's countenance, they turn to the people and tell them what they see—justice, insisting upon its enactment and practice and enthronement into law, otherwise they are not the ministers of God.

How often have these prophets stood isolated and alone, and how we do honor the shepherd of today, who, like the prophet of old, without fear or favor, hearkening to the indignation of the Lord and understanding the voice commanding him to speak, declares the whole counsel of God, says insistently not, "Oh my people, vote for this party that freed the chattel slaves, or vote for that party that promises to free the industrial slaves, or be ye idolaters of gold or silver, or of a dead past," but who says, "Oh my people, 'fiat justitia ruat ccelum,' let justice be done though the heavens fall." Who says, "Hearken—inform your judgments, stop the wrong which you know

and admit to be wrong; sleep not until you find a way to do it, but first, last, and always, stop the wrong, right the conditions, and God will take care of the rest."

The single tax is the manifestation of a religion that places justice above art, that places justice above culture, that places justice above seestheticism, above sects, above creeds, that places justice above everything except love.

We cannot refrain from expressing the conviction that the single tax stands for that something without which a profession of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man is a mockery. Henry George not only offers a political philosophy that will stand the gospel test, but an ethical philosophy also that removes a great beam from the philanthropic eye, enabling it to see clearly where now it confesses blindness, and adding to its light a warmth and a radiance which the indifference of the world can not resist.

We ask you to think on these things; we ask you to follow our standard (not the standard of an elusive theory), to follow it not as the hound follows the fox winding and redoubling upon its own trail, but we ask you to follow it, fly to it, as the bee flies, as the carrier pigeon flies, by the instinct of principle, in the straight line that lies between right and wrong.

In view of his activity in the field of a pet reform the following account, published in the *National Single Taxer*, April, 1900, may be of interest, showing how his attention was turned in this direction:

HOW I BECAME A SINGLE TAXER

"In 1886 Henry George received 68,000 votes for mayor of New York, and was not elected. Theodore Roosevelt received 60,000 votes, Abram S. Hewitt received 90,000 votes, and was elected. Previous to this I knew of Henry George only from casual newspaper mention, but I now said to myself, 'The man that can, all of a sudden, command 68,000 votes for mayor of New York, I cannot afford not to know something of.' I immediately subscribed to and read *The Standard*, which was, of course, prominently mentioned as the single tax organ, under Mr. George's editorship. With the reading of the first few numbers I was instantaneously converted to the doctrine of the right of all men, instead of a few, to the use of God's continuing bounty, and have never since had a backslide or a misgiving. It was enough for me that this doctrine was right. *The Standard* suspended in 1892.

"For six years, from 1886 to 1892, I plodded along alone, too busy to cultivate the acquaintances of single taxers, except to be doubly confirmed in the faith by Mr. William Lloyd Garrison's introduction and Henry George's address before the Typographical Union, and a Tremont Temple full of people on February 22, 1889. In 1892 Mr. W. Burhenne, an upholsterer by trade, an intelligent and ardent man, called to know if I would stand for the office of treasurer of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, Mr. Garrison having then been president for one or two years. Having attended one annual dinner of the league at the American House my appetite was strong, and I accepted the honor.

"After another three years there Degan a period of growing activity. In February, 1895, came the Wakefield campaign with its week of protracted meetings.

"Monday evening, Mr. William Lloyd Garrison; Tuesday evening, Rev. Samuel Brazier; Wednesday evening, Mr. Brazier; Thursday evening, Mrs. Eliza Stowe Twitchell; Friday evening, Dr. W. Symington Brown; Saturday evening, Mr. Brazier.

"Wakefield, instead of being a glorious victory, was a sort of drawn battle. Most of the warriors were more or less injured by the recoil of their own guns, but all lived to fight another day, and are looking for many more days to come.

"In the fall of 1895 came the Delaware campaign. Mr. Garrison went on and spoke in the series of Sunday evening opera house meetings at Wilmington, and the Massachusetts League sent \$1200, the proceeds of two dinner collections. In the season of 1896-7 the Boston banquets began, and will, it is hoped, close their fourth season with one more banquet, the twelfth, in the coming spring.

"In 1896 I tried to read 'Progress and Poverty,' but did not do it until several years later. I would not now recommend any one else to begin with this book, which is so exhaustive in more senses than one to the average mind. Meantime, 'Social Problems' had finished whatever *The Standard* might have left undone, but the climax came, to my mind, with 'The Condition of Labor' in 1891. 'The Perplexed Philosopher' interested me greatly—good as a novel for its raciness, and for diction a spellbinder. 'The Chapter on Compensation,' answering the charge of confiscation, which had been to me, as to many others, a cause of stumbling, I read and re-read.

'The Land Question and Property in Land' added fuel to the fire of conviction. Then came Mr. Shearman's book to show 'how it would work,' and to clear away many objections. Most of my thought ever since has been given to meeting objections, sure-footed always in the spirit and the principle, if not always in the letter.

"Why is it that when the right of a thing comes like revelation, the application should come with doubt and misgivings, and that objections endless, but always superficial, draw their slow length along? Why can we not trust the right and commit our ways thereto? Not only with enthusiasm, but coldly, judicially, I can say that to me the single tax is the universal solvent of all questions involving the mutual relation between God and man, so far as this relation bears upon the material wellbeing of mankind and the Creator's responsibility therefor.

"As wrong begets wrong, so the righting of a great, institutional, unconscious wrong will do more than all else to drive selfishness and the injustice born of selfishness, from the individual heart, and make men conscious of their brotherhood."

The spirit that pervaded Mr. Fillebrown's personal work from first to last was foreshown in a paragraph spoken at the Jefferson Dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club in 1897:

"Our plea is for a solid union for practical progress upon the line of our agreements, not upon the line of our differences; that we subordinate for the time being our socialism, our nationalism, our

populism, our anarchism, our prohibition, our woman's suffrage, our initiative and referendum, our proportional representation, our money, our gold, our silver, our bimetallism, our Republicanism, our Democracy, our Protection, even our Free Trade — all those things important though they are, but whereon we are largely disagreed, and raise our voices all as one in an appeal to men of all politics and all parties to unite with us upon a platform with one plank whereon we are all agreed, 'ground rents for public expense, and no taxes at all'. . . Let us not waste our strength storming one another's earthworks. . . Instead of charging upon this long line of intrenchments I which I have catalogued, let us quietly pass to their rear and centre and there plant the white flag of truce. General Lee spent years in making the fortifications of Richmond invulnerable. When General Lee marched to Appomattox let us not forget that he did not take with him his parapets, his counterscarps, his bastions and his redoubts, which stand today in innocuous desuetude, and for several good and sufficient reasons which I beg you to particularly note—one reason was, he could not take them; another reason was, he had no use for them; another, he had no time to take them; and another reason, better than all, he was absorbed in other issues—a new war cry—"back to the land!" I hope the moral is plain— that we give our differences to the winds and that whether in club or at dinner, all our divergent roads shall lead to Appomattox—to the surrender of our exhausting differences—the peaceful triumph of our agreements."

Whereupon, later in the evening, Mr. George beckoned the Boston delegate to a seat beside him, and said, "I don't know but that you are just the *kind* of a man we want," a sentence which has always been cherished as a sort of approval of the spirit of the remarks.

Mr. Thomas G. Shearman, who aided and abetted as speaker at the first two, and one later, in the series of league banquets, was a devoted counsellor always, ready almost, as it seemed, to leave a jury, in order to give the few moments of his time necessary to clean up the fortnightly docket of his Boston pupil, to whom his death in 1899 seems even today an irreparable loss. Mr. Shearman left in his private correspondence a good word for the Boston work, that is highly treasured, together with a stricture upon the "movement" which appears as applicable today as it was in 1900:

"In all times it has been the misfortune of reforms that some of their advocates have made it impossible for others to do any effective work for them, for considerable periods. . . . At this time the professed friends of every reform, in which I am much interested, have insisted upon muring it with retrograde movements or have adopted a policy of bitterness and vituperation or have thrown it entirely overboard. There is no one left except Mr. Fillebrown, with whom I can cooperate. I have told him that I will do anything for and with him that a New Yorker can do for Bostonian."

Mr. Fillebrown's more important contributions to this subject are preserved in book form in "The A B C of Taxation," Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909. Following are samples of the many warm commendations of this book from reviewers, professors and personal friends.

From editorial in *Boston Evening Transcript*, March 15, 1909, by F. Spencer Baldwin, Professor of Political Economy in Boston University.

"Mr. Fillebrown's contribution to the literature of single tax will undoubtedly take rank beside Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty,' and Thomas G. Shearman's 'Natural Taxation,' as one of the authoritative works in this field.... The broad basis of Mr. Fillebrown's argument will, doubtless, withstand assaults. . . . This three-fold support of the single tax is the stoutest that has been erected by any champion of the policy. Any one who will take the pains to study the economic principles involved, and their application, as laid down by Mr. Fillebrown, must concede the substantial validity of his arguments.'

From editorial in the *Dry Goods Economist*, March 13, 1909.

"In 'The A B C of Taxation,' C. B. Fillebrown, of C. B. Fillebrown & Co., Boston, has embodied a lucid and compact presentation of facts concerning the chief remediable cause of injustice in the distribution of wealth—to wit: unscientific taxation, and its twin governmental vice, the granting of uncompensated privilege—such privilege being tersely defined as 'the law-given power of one man to profit at another man's expense.'

"The author is a hard-headed, practical merchant, rather than a doctrinaire, and is, therefore, not content to rest his conclusions on authority or even on logic; but he has dug out of the official records of Boston and of all Massachusetts the facts to illustrate and prove nearly every statement he makes. These statements and their proof, which are no less than startling, will, we think, make clear to every reader that the diagnosis is correct, the remedy feasible and effective; and that the results of its application will be of far-reaching beneficence."

From the *New Bedford Evening Standard*, March 9, 1909.

"Of all the energetic advocates of the single tax who have sought to influence public opinion, none—not even Henry George or Thomas G. Shearman—has been more energetic than Mr. Fillebrown. . . . Mr. Fillebrown states the single-tax argument in all the various ways in which it has been stated by the best thinkers on the subject, and usually in terms which are easily comprehensible. . . . The modern single taxer is ready 'with propositions for short and small steps at the beginning. This is a wisdom which reformers do not always exhibit. It is a wisdom which is exhibited in Mr. Fillebrown's book, which we readily commend to those persons who want to know the conclusions of a sincere and competent student of this important matter."

From the *Economic Bulletin*, of the American Economic Association, September, 1909.

"Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, the long-time president of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, and disciple of Henry George, is known to most American economists, through his persistent and always genial efforts to bring about 'agreements in political economy.' . . . The book seems to the reviewer to serve three distinctly important purposes, and will be equally welcome for each. ... In the first place it gives us an authoritative statement, in condensed and interesting form, by a loving disciple, and brilliant writer, of what the Georgian single tax theory ultimately meant to its own creator. Mr. Fillebrown says: 'When referring to Henry George's views, I have taken pains to give what I believe to have been his final judgments, making the writer of mature age the interpreter of his own earlier masterpiece.' This is distinctly useful because few of us have had the time to follow throughout his voluminous writings, the changes which maturity, travel,

and wider knowledge of men and of the economic world wrought in the views of that brilliant author. . . . The reviewer has read most of Henry George's later writings. Yet he finds Mr. Fillebrown's restatement interesting, and decidedly useful. Moreover the literary style of these essays, while different, is in its way as brilliant as that of 'Progress and Poverty.' The second of the three main purposes which the book will serve is that it makes a permanent and easily available record of Mr. Fillebrown's intensive statistical studies of real estate values and rentals in Boston. These are valuable in many connections other than in problems relating to taxation. The third purpose served is to furnish a record of Mr. Fillebrown's efforts at 'agreements in political economy.' This is a sort of symposium by correspondence participated in by over 135 professional economists and others. The accomplished results are given in a few pages, but being the outcome of years of effort and the work of many minds are distinctly important. Aside from those mentioned there are many other matters of no little interest in this small collection of brilliant essays."

CARL C. PLEHN, Professor of Political Economy, University of California.

Among all these good words he prized none more highly than the following unsolicited letter from the late William Lloyd Garrison, president of the American Free Trade League:

"Lexington, Mass., Mar. 2, 1909.

"Dear Mr. Fillebrown:

"I have delayed thanking you for your book on Taxation until I could read it carefully. This I have done with pleasure and profit. The case is put with clearness and force, and must appeal to thoughtful readers. I find myself in accord with practically all your points. I might take exception to chapter seven, but our difference would be more a matter of terms than of principle.

"You have done a distinct service to the cause, and I trust the work will be widely distributed and read. Accept my thanks for your kind remembrance, and believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON."