

## CHICAGO'S PROGRESS AND POVERTY SOCIETY

## EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Single Taxers would do well to study the history of successful movements which from small beginnings grew to size and power.

The secret of their success lay in the fact that they applied themselves to building up a membership, at first in a small way, later when they could afford it through paid organizers. There is a cause for everything, and if some movements have a large following while others, less appealing perhaps, have a small and insignificant one, then the explanation of the difference must be sought for in the methods pursued by each. Until the Single Tax has the backing of large numbers it will not be a compelling force to bring the principle into operation.

In order, then, to have influence we must have numbers. These can be secured in only one way—by going out and getting them. This means work. Either we must do this ourselves or hire organizers to do it, as the Salvation Army does, as labor unions, fraternal orders and churches do. The Single Tax propaganda is only a form of human activity governed by the same laws as other forms.

If we will appreciate that truth we will build up our membership until no city of half a million or more is without a Single Tax Club of less than three to five thousand members.

We have organized the American Progress and Poverty Society here in Chicago. Single Taxers would do well to consider whether it would not be wiser to take the name of the great work which gave birth to our movement rather than the phrase "Single Tax." The latter name appears but once in "Progress and Poverty," while the book makes converts all the time.

Chicago, Ill.

J. WEILER.

## SHOCKED AT OUR CRITICISM OF MR. FERGUSON

## EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I was much shocked in reading your article on the "Strange Case of Mr. Ferguson," for I thought Single Taxers at least had some idea of what Mr. Ferguson is working at.

The strangest thing about the article is that after writing such a scathing criticism of Mr. Ferguson, the writer should have admitted that he did not understand what Mr. Ferguson meant.

Mr. Ferguson is trying to make clear a general principle, of which the Single Tax is a particular instance. I should strongly advise all Single Taxers not only to read Mr. Ferguson's "The Revolution Absolute," but to study it carefully; also, to study his book, "The Great News," written two years earlier.

A careful study of these books will show that Mr. Ferguson has a clearer insight into what is going on in the world, and the causes therefor, than any other who has written on the subject. He finds that many of the lamentable consequences of our present methods are due to a wrong aim; that most of them would be avoided if we, as a nation could realize that the rendering of service was a strengthening, and the taking of profits a weakening, process, and that the business system which aims to render service will surely outlast that which has as its primary object the taking of profits. This fact is so self evident, that it is hard to see why it should be so generally missed.

He is trying to present the obvious fact that progress in the world must be through the leadership of men *who know what to do and how to do it*, rather than through that of those who have contrived to get legal title to a large amount of the world's goods. Many people fail to understand Mr. Ferguson because they believe that what he is striving for already exists, but inasmuch as Single Taxers know better, it should not be difficult for them to understand him.

The effect of this change, when it comes, will be revolutionary, for an economic system built on this principle will be so much stronger than one controlled by the proxies of stock and bond holders, that the latter will not be long in the running.

New York City.

H. L. GANTT.

## REPLY

We are sorry that Mr. Gantt is "shocked." He "thought Single

Taxers had some idea of what Mr. Ferguson is working at." He is of course mistaken. Nobody has any idea of what Mr. Ferguson is working at. Neither Mr. Ferguson nor Mr. Gantt takes the trouble to explain. Some may have illusions about Mr. Ferguson, as mysterious as the gentleman himself.

Mr. Gantt says, "He is trying to present the obvious fact, etc." Why waste time trying to present "obvious" facts in volumes of 400 pages and upward? But are they obvious? At least the obvious is never mysterious.

Can't Mr. Gantt see that the proposition to "put leadership into the hands of men who know what to do," is only a phrase which is not clear at all, and could not be done even if it were decided to do it. For who are those who are to know who are the men who know what to do and how to do it? Mr. Gantt is quite as mysterious as his teacher.

He says that we have written a "scathing criticism" of Mr. Ferguson and then we admit we do not understand what he means. We do not. And that is why we wrote a "scathing criticism."

But, honor bright, if the criticism was severe it was because of our belief that Mr. Ferguson is doing the cause of social readjustment positive injury. If language is given to conceal thought, as the cynical Frenchman maintained, then Mr. Ferguson is succeeding beyond all expectations. And if he can persuade some excellent persons (even though few in number) of honesty and ability like Mr. Gantt, who might be useful in helping the real work of the world, he is doing, let us repeat, a real injury to the work that serious minded reformers have in hand.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

## FROM A REAL CRUSADER

## EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

At every election for the past four years, I have been a candidate for office on the Single Tax ticket. I have known all this time that I not only had no chance of being elected nor that any of the candidates upon that ticket would be elected, and yet, I have never before, in all my voting life of 39 years, felt so pleased and satisfied with my voting action or felt more thankful for the privilege of voting, than within the last four years. It has become a sacred duty.

It seems to me, that in the eyes of our fathers (who gave to us this symbol of democracy) came a vision of a people, living on a fruitful, well stocked earth, becoming rich and powerful through their researches into Nature's laws—making it easier and easier for the individual to acquire and possess his "inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The fathers must have taken it for granted that the voters of the nation would, in their casting of their ballots, give not only the expression of their patriotic desire, but would, in a sense, record on their ballots the prompting of their hearts and consciences. This is what I do every election day. My patriotic desire is to make this land a beacon light of Liberty, offering plenty, as well as peace and prosperity, to the other nations of earth—through our understanding and acceptance of Nature's laws.

My heart is troubled because of the poverty that exists in a land where only labor of human beings is required to assist the land in bringing forth abundance. My heart, stirred with the knowledge that God or Nature is no niggard, and that poverty and the fear of poverty are of human manufacture alone, prompts me to stand up—even though alone—for what I know is a remedy for foul conditions. My conscience tells me to remain steadfast to principle, to refuse to be led away by the specious arguments of those who may promise much but perform little or nothing. It tells me that the great Intelligence, the grand Arbiter of human action, will not be satisfied with a puny, half-hearted devotion or a wavering, secretive adherence, but that he demands the strongest, most whole-hearted, open and above board adherence that I am capable of displaying.

In voting or standing as a candidate of the Single Tax Party, I am obeying—regardless of what others may do—the dictates of a high patriotic desire and my heart and conscience. Am I not to be congratulated in reaching such a happy state?

Philadelphia, Pa.

OLIVER McKNIGHT.