

The Economic Education League with headquarters in Albany, New York, is a Georgist organization working in cooperation with the Henry George Foundation. Gilbert M. Tucker is its president. Under its auspices W. Wylie Young was engaged to help promote the program of the above foundation. He reported on his efforts at the conference sponsored by the Henry George Foundation in Detroit.

REFERRING to the law in Pennsylvania giving legislative approval for any or all of the forty-seven cities of the third class to shift all or part of the municipal taxes from buildings to land value, W. Wylie Young called it "one of the most exciting developments in the Georgist movement." He told delegates to the recent conference how he selected Franklin, Pennsylvania as a likely city and simply moved in with a general campaign of citizen education. Six months ago no one in Franklin had ever heard of land value taxation. Now, says Mr. Young, there are hundreds who know about it, and a large segment has read extensively on the subject.

He said he began by talking to important individuals. One of the obstacles that hinder effective communication elsewhere has been happily removed in Pennsylvania. In other places many people will say "so, what can anybody do about it?" Now the answer is "get your city council to adopt the Graded Tax Plan and all sorts of things will begin to happen." With a law at his disposal Mr. Young said he got immediate listener response. Since responsible legislators in Harrisburg had authorized the law this took the issue out of the ivory tower class of theorizing and laid the matter squarely on the table for immediate consideration. After having tried to sell land value taxation to people for many years and having been met with the arched eyebrows of suspicion, he

agreed with Dr. Brown that having a law already in effect made a big difference.

Mr. Young has been in Franklin for six months. He has won the support of leaders in the local Chamber of Commerce, has had a sympathetic hearing from all city officials, and is about to enter upon a new stage of the campaign in which he will distribute circulars in quantity to all home owners and business leaders. He has also held seminars, written a series of letters to 400 business and professional leaders, participated in radio broadcasts, and distributed much printed matter. Local newspapers have featured reports of his work on numerous occasions.

Other towns in Western Pennsylvania are beginning to show interest. Sharon is making preparations for a trial of the plan. The mayor of Meadville is very sympathetic. A study of the plan is under way in Oil City. These are projects that have been opened up cooperatively as Mr. Young has worked with the Henry George Foundation and the Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania. Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown has engaged in a "softening-up process" as he has gone from one town to another on speaking engagements.

Mr. Young reported that there were days when he despaired of ever winning the battle. These were always followed by "breaks in the wall" which gave renewed hope.

