

MASSACHUSETTS SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary submits the following brief summary of the League's activities during the past year.

LEAGUE MEETINGS

Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 1912 - - FELLS FUND CONFERENCE

The League made preliminary arrangements for the conference and assisted in carrying it through. A full report of the conference will be found in the early numbers of the Fells Fund Bulletin and in the Public of Dec. 6, 1912.

Dec. 20, 1912 - - SINGLE TAX DINNER

Ninety-one members and guests were present at a dinner in a Cambridge restaurant. John Z. White was the speaker. Literature was distributed and several new members joined the League.

March 15, 1913 - - SINGLE TAX DINNER

About ninety members and friends met at dinner in a Boston restaurant. John Z. White was again the speaker. Literature was sold and given away and several new members joined the League.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the League has increased during the past year from about one hundred to two hundred eleven. In addition to the membership of the League, about two hundred have signed enrolment cards indicating substantial approval of the immediate ends for which singletaxers are striving.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has gradually increased its membership from ten to twenty-seven, the average being twenty-four. Sixteen meetings have been held with an average attendance of ten, or 42%.

Through the agency of the Executive Committee, its officers and sub-committees, a great variety of singletax work has been carried on.

A stock of literature was procured early in the season. Several hundred each of the "Stop Taxing" leaflet, Henry George's "The Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It", the Grenell pamphlet and the Rusby pamphlet have been distributed at meetings and by mail in response to requests. About a hundred copies in the aggregate of "Progress and Poverty", "Protection or Free Trade", "The Shortest Road to the Single Tax" and Post's "The Land Question" have been sold or given away on request.

SPEAKERS

Last fall a circular letter was sent to civic organizations, church clubs, trade unions, business men's associations, etc., offering to supply speakers on the singletax. This was supplemented later by another circular announcing that John Z. White was available for addressing meetings. About twenty-five of the meetings held may be considered as directly resulting from these circulars.

This fall a similar circular has been sent out to a larger list of organizations including the Granges, and it was sent earlier in the season than last year. A correspondingly larger number of replies is expected.

The Secretary has records of forty-one meetings in all held last year, arranged, for the most part, through officers of the League. The attendance varied from 2 to 250, with an average of 65. John Z. White was the speaker at twenty-four of these meetings. The others were addressed, with one exception, by members of the League. At many of the meetings literature was distributed and sometimes books were sold.

PUBLICATIONS

Besides the "Stop Taxing" leaflet which the League published, the Executive Committee has recently authorized the publication of a small pamphlet called "Taxation Blunders and Their Remedy", a reprint from an article by L. J. Johnson in the July 12 number of Harper's Weekly. The League has also undertaken to compile and publish the open letter of Gov. Foss attacking the singletax plank in the Progressive Party platform together with the letters and editorials in reply thereto which appeared in several newspapers. Both of these will be valuable additions to our supply of literature.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The other activities of the League have been carried on largely by the officers and members as individuals. Space does not permit the enumeration of many details, but a few kinds of work may be mentioned as they carry suggestions. These include

Writing timely letters to the newspapers and to individuals. An instance of this occurred when Gov. Foss attacked the singletax (referred to above). Letters replying to Gov. Foss appeared in several papers, some written by officers and members of the League.

Securing new members and enrolments.

A few officers of the League were instrumental in placing a plank in the State platform of the Progressive Party opening the way for classification of property for taxation and for home rule in taxation in order that cities and towns may have power to tax land at a higher rate than improvements thereon.

What is perhaps the most important work to be done at the present stage of the movement in Massachusetts, viz: spreading singletax doctrine through personal explanation to friends and acquaintances at opportune moments, and getting them lined up for service as members of the League. A large enrolment is of the greatest importance as a measure of our own strength and as a source of funds and moral support in furthering our campaign of education.

Two members of the Executive Committee, with the occasional assistance of others have conducted open air meetings on Boston Common every fair Sunday during the past summer.

Three members of the Executive Committee have been connected with city governments and have rendered valuable service in urging the adoption of a scientific system of land valuation.

In all these individual activities the League aims to assist by supplying literature and moral support and in any other way that it can be of service.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Plans for the coming season include an increasingly vigorous continuation of present work and contemplate several new lines.

The exhibit which the League planned to make at the N.E. Industrial and Educational Exposition this fall and which was postponed when the Exposition itself was postponed, will some day materialize.

By way of building up the organization, the League hopes for the development of local singletax clubs and intends to provide a plan for their affiliation with the League.

It seems desirable in the near future to employ a permanent paid Secretary; how near depends upon the rapidity of the League's growth.

It is hoped that a sort of news service can be instituted which will supply members of the League with information as to the latest progress of the singletax movement in this country. It will include for instance, mailing to members copies of campaign literature from the states where singletax is a political issue. Other means of informing members will be utilized from time to time.

FINANCIAL

Some of the League's activities require no funds. These are mostly the individual activities and they will be carried on to the extent that the members can give time and energy to them. Others require printing, stationery and postage, or involve the expenses of speakers and halls and these are limited only by the contributions of members of the League. The annual dues are placed low at a dollar in order that none may be denied membership on account of expense. But many contribute in addition to their dues to the extent that they believe the work is worth while and their purses afford. Hereto is appended the Treasurer's report which will make clear the sources of the League's revenue and the distribution of its expenditures.

JOHN R. NICHOLS, Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT of the TREASURER
of the
MASSACHUSETTS SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

For the year, October 1911 - 1912.

Cash on hand Oct. 1911	\$30.79	<u>Totals</u>
Receipts:		
Dues (to Oct. '13)	79.00	
Contributions	99.00	
From L. J. J. for bills paid	32.77	
Fels dinner	<u>56.00</u>	
		\$297.56

Expenses:	
Postage and Stat.	\$14.25
Rent of halls	45.27
Literature	20.55
Printing	103.95
20th Cent. Club	60.75
Balance	<u>52.79</u>

\$297.56

For the year, October 1912 - 1913

Cash on hand Oct. 1912	\$52.79	
Receipts:		
Dues	163.10	
Contributions	212.29	
Sale of lit.	22.75	
Refund from Exhibit	22.50	
Dinners	9.20	
White's lecture	10.00	
Redeemed envelopes	<u>3.28</u>	
		\$495.91

Expenses:	
Postage and Stat.	\$61.91
Printing	115.51
Books and Pamphlets	102.45
Badges (Fels Fund Conf.)	20.00
Space in Exhibit	22.50
Henry George Lecture Asso.	25.00
Lecture	1.42
Balance	<u>147.12</u>

\$495.91

C. A. ADAMS,

October 17, 1913.

Treasurer.