

—and it is probable that most careful students of the subject to-day would accept them as valid,—it would seem that the traditional American practice of general property taxation fails to secure that ideal and even-handed justice which it was intended and is thought to secure, but rather results in throwing the whole weight of the burden upon the enterprising and industrious, the users of produced forms of wealth.

THOUGHTS ON THE LECTURE WORK.

(*For the Review.*)

BY FREDERICK H. MONROE,

Pres. Henry George Lecture Ass'n.

It is now four years since several able lecturers, a number of energetic organizers, and a large number of willing financial contributors agreed, in a rather informal manner, to co-operate to promote the Single Tax throughout the United States and Canada in the various forms under which it was forcing itself upon the public mind.

By mutual understanding these associated workers assumed the trading name, so to speak, of the Henry George Lecture Association, F. H. Monroe assuming the title of president.

More than 1,500 men and about 40 women have co-operated under this plan. Lecture work has been conducted in more than 150 of the leading cities of the United States and Canada. About 1,500 lectures have been delivered before the most influential organizations of these cities to an aggregate of 150,000 men and women. About \$37,500 has been raised and expended in this effort, so that it has cost twenty-five cents to present the Single Tax in an oral manner to each person we have reached during this period.

While the speakers have been enabled to impress thousands with the truths presented, their addresses have been quite freely published in the daily and weekly papers of all save the largest cities. The publication in a paper of a half a column or more of an address is equal to the circulation of a tract to every reader of that paper. If we consider the wide circulation

of literature thus stimulated by these addresses we can claim as incident to this work the circulation of several million tracts.

It is difficult to estimate how far reaching this work has been. It has stimulated many old-time friends of the Single Tax movement to renewed activity. It has, in a number of instances, created local movements for civic reforms along fundamental lines. Without making any pretence at organization, it has brought together in many communities the leading men of reform tendencies, made them acquainted with one another, and suggested plans of practical work. These plans in some instances have been followed with desired results.

It would seem, in looking back over the four years now closing, considering the energy, money and activity expended in the work, that the results obtained have been well worth the outlay.

One will be influenced in considering work of this character by his business training, together with his conception of human nature.

It is absolutely impossible to measure in units the value of the moral force accompanying personal work of the character promoted by this association.

Those who have co-operated in this work have been impelled by the theory that the average man desired to do right by his fellows, that he had the intelligence to fully grasp the proposition we had to present, and that if he did not grasp it the fault was ours, not his. It remained for us to strengthen our presentation by the association of new arguments and new illustrations until the philosophy could be presented to his satisfaction as well as our own.

During the first two and one-half years the lecturers were entirely free. In February, 1906, an effort was made to promote four of our lecturers in a course introducing what lyceum methods were practical, and offering the group of speakers to various cities for a stipulated price. The first course organized consisted of the late Ernest Crosby, Herbert S. Bigelow, J. W. Bengough and John Z. White. About twenty courses were arranged on a very satisfactory basis.

As considerable effort had been required,

however, to place the courses, owing to their being entirely economic, it was planned in the fall of 1906 to meet this objection by making the course consist of six members, to include three economic lectures and three entertainments. This plan was not satisfactory. Those who purchased tickets mainly on account of the economic lectures were dissatisfied that there should be any entertainments, and those who purchased for the entertainments were dissatisfied that there were so many economic lectures.

For 1907-8 we are, therefore, promoting an exclusively economic course. The indications at this writing are that the season's work will be successful.

We are placing our course with the strongest of the non-economic organizations in the country—it being accepted strictly on its merits.

In a few instances groups of Single Taxers have organized local committees and are now working to place the course in their respective cities with good prospects of success in most cases.

Single Taxers can be of real practical value by using their influence to have our speakers placed on the regular lecture courses in their home towns. In an ordinary course of six lectures and entertainments one of our speakers could easily be placed on the local course by approaching the management in ample time. This suggestion also applies to Chautauquas. The Chautauqua managers will begin making up their programs for next summer between now and January 1. You should, therefore, obtain your local information and get into communication with the officials at once. Then do not let the matter drop.

If your time is extremely valuable you are not likely to suffer any deprivations if you give a little of it to the Single Tax movement. If it is not extremely valuable this co-operation is probably the best service you can render us.

With proper activity on the part of our Single Tax friends one speaker, like Mr. John Z. White, could be kept busy throughout the year, speaking during the winter to lyceums and during the summer to Chautauquas. In this work he would be paid for his time and expenses outside the movement, reaching thousands of conservative men and women.

WILL YOU DO YOUR BEST TO SECURE MR. WHITE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE YOUR LOCAL LYCEUM OR CHAUTAUQUA, OR BOTH?

There is no doubt but that the general work of the Henry George Lecture Association will continue until better plans have been devised and demonstrated.

In the meantime, we solicit criticisms and suggestions.

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DEATH OF THOMAS LECKIE.

A recent number of the *New Church Messenger* chronicles the death of Thomas Leckie, who departed this life in Detroit, Mich., on May 27th. He was a near kinsman of Leckie, the historian, made and lost a fortune as a lumberman at an early period in life, and demonstrated in bankruptcy his sterling qualities by paying back dollar for dollar every indebtedness. He was an ardent Single Taxer, a friend of Henry George, Louis Post and John Filmer. He passed away, peacefully and serenely, of old age in his ninety-first year.

THE Manhattan Single Tax Club, which has been active during the last few months, for here as elsewhere the new spirit which has been aroused by the coming conference and the prospect of organized work is being manifest, is exhibiting stereoptican pictures outside its club rooms to passers by. The club wants mottoes, and we extend to our readers the invitation to send in such as occur to them. Avoid as much as possible all economic terms, and make the number of words about fifteen, and never more than twenty. Let them be striking and snappy, something that people passing by will stop and talk over.

It will be interesting to Single Taxers that according to Horace M. Traubel in October *McClure's* that Walt Whitman was favorably impressed with Hamlin Garland. He thought he had a good voice—"is almost Emersonian," said "the good gray poet."