

Death of Sir William P. Byles

IN THE *Arena* of a long time ago the editor of this paper wrote as follows of one who has just passed away (British Radicals and Radicalism—*Arena* March 1900):

"W. P. Byles, proprietor of the *Bradford Observer*, of which his father was the founder, is a man of singular independence of character and is thus not popular with the party managers, though looked up to with admiration and respect by the people and especially by the laboring people, whose cause he has so loyally championed. He is the only employer of labor in Bradford who appeared on the platform during the engineers' strike to defend the union's position. In 1892 he won his seat in Parliament. He is a strong advocate of international arbitration and the reduction of armaments. Mr. Byles is a brave, consistent friend of freedom, one of the many who are helping to bring the English people and all mankind up out of the darkness of social slavery into the light of liberty."

We now read in *Land Values* of the death of Sir William P. Byles in his 79th year. As a member of the Land Values Group in Parliament he rendered efficient service to the principle of the Single Tax as it is known in this country. Twenty years ago he presided over a conference of the advocates of land value taxation, when he declared:

"He would attempt no eulogy on Henry George, but he could not utter the name without reverence, nor without acknowledgment of the debt that he owed to that writer for enlightenment and for inspiration. How many persons could truly say that the reading of Henry George's great book had marked an epoch in their lives and altered their angle of vision to all economic questions, and social and industrial problems? And what was the solution he had taught them? That the bounties of nature were the heritage of all; that artificial arrangements which reserved them for the few must inevitably result, as they had resulted, in the impoverishment of the many; that we must return to a policy which, while it secured to the individual the product of his own ingenuity or labor, should deny to him the ownership of the land on which, and out of which, all men lived, and which he could neither create nor destroy, diminish or increase."

Annual Report of James F. Morton, Jr., Field Lecturer, New York State League

THE total number of lectures delivered during the ten months was 79, covering 46 cities and towns. Preliminary work was done in other places, which will be heard from later. The total number of persons addressed was about 6300. The variety of organizations and audiences is indicated by the following list:

BUFFALO: Men's Club, Grace Episcopal Church; Graphic Arts Club; East Side Labor Lyceum; Men's Class, Emanuel Lutheran Church; Socialist local; Men's Club, East Presbyterian Church; Deputy Assessors' Club; Retail Grocers' Association.

ROCHESTER: Women's League; East High School; Ad Club; Civic League; Jewish Young Men's Association; Single Tax Club; Jefferson Club; Rochester Business Institute; Young Men's Democratic Club.

BINGHAMTON: District League of Women's Clubs; Building Trades Council; Mechanics' Union; Odd Fellows; High School; Men's Club; Universalist Church; Rotary Club; Printers' Union; Community Betterment Forum; Central Labor Union.

ALBANY: Forum; Young Men's Hebrew Club; Trinity Church Young Men's Club; Elks' Club.

NEW YORK CITY: Land Party dinner; United Hatters.

JAMESTOWN: Saturday Night Club; Public lecture course, Eagle Temple.

TROY: Socialist headquarters; Rotary Club.

HAMILTON: Board of Trade; Class in Economics, Colgate University.

OXFORD: High School; Public meeting.

Men's Club, Bushwick Reformed Church, Brooklyn; Students' Assembly, Agricultural College, Syracuse University, Syracuse; Men's Club, Congregational Church, Rensselaer; Public meeting called by mayor and attended by mayor and city officials, Utica; Social Ethics Class, Universalist Church, Auburn; Community Club, Silver Creek; Study Club, Bemus Point; Friday Club, Portland; Tuesday Club, Sinclairville; Men's Club, Westfield; Men's Bible Brotherhood Class, Dunkirk; Women's Club, Sherman; Men's Club, Ashville; Mason School, Tarrytown; Farmers' Wives' Club, Yorkshire; Political Equality Club, Arcade; Mothers' Club, West Falls; Women's Club, East Aurora; Public meeting, Clyde; Grange, Sodus; Grange, Penfield; Grange, Rose; Community Club, Henrietta; Grange, Spencerport; Literary Club, Newfane; Study Club, Middleport; Liberal Club, Alden; Women's Civic Club, Lancaster; Utopian Club, Ransomville; Study Club, Corfu; Grange, Somerset; Study Club, Lewiston; Study Club, Leicester; Fortnightly Club, North Tonawanda; Wednesday Club, Castile; Grange, Brockport; Chamber of Commerce, Perry; Agora Club, St. Lawrence University, Canton.

During a brief side trip to Toronto, Canada, it was my privilege to meet a number of the live Dominion Single Taxers, and to speak at a dinner arranged by the Political Education League. The attendance was large, and the reception given the Single Tax message most cordial.

JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE MASS OF MEN ARE DISINHERITED FROM THE EARTH

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Mr. J. F. Cowern in his article in the last issue of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW seems, like so many others who have wandered from Henry George's definitions, to be playing peek-a-boo with the Single Tax; for in his labyrinthine argumentations you sometimes catch a glimpse of the Single Tax, but oftener you don't.

Personally, I positively refuse to be held responsible for what "Single Taxers have attributed poverty to." I have not met many who can make a clear and definite statement of their views.

But there are three good, reliable, clear-speaking, clear-thinking authorities on the Single Tax: Henry George, the SINGLE TAX YEAR