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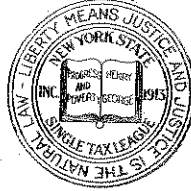
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*Horace Sague clearly received
miss youngman's address
report of what was being done in
1916.*

The New York State Single Tax League

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REPORT TO JUNE 1ST., 1916, OF JAMES F. MORTON, JR., FIELD SECRETARY

AND LECTURER TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

I am pleased to report that my second field trip has left me in a more optimistic frame of mind than ever regarding the future of Single Tax propaganda in New York. The growing receptivity on all sides to the message is unmistakable. All that is needed on our part is a higher courage and a deeper hopefulness, with more systematic efficiency in following up the work. In my final report at the close of the year, I expect to make some definite recommendations and suggestions relative to modes of cooperation, which are now being well tested by the workers in some of our cities.

My first tour ended with a fortnight of fruitful work in and around Albany, during the latter part of February. During the interval spent in New York in work around headquarters and in preparation for the next trip, I accepted an invitation to address the Millbrook grange, and was well satisfied with the result. It is my firm conviction that no more crying need exists than that of energetic propaganda among the farmers, who oppose the Single Tax simply from a misconception of its real nature. When once clearly informed, they may be expected to become its most ardent advocates.

Leaving New York about the middle of March, I began operations in Olean, where the zeal and energy of Mrs. Katherine E. Bradley were manifest in a number of engagements. An African Methodist church, a lodge of the Maccabees, the local high school, a W. C. T. U. meeting, a woman's church club, the chamber of commerce, all afforded good hearings, besides which meetings of a general nature were arranged. The persistence of extraordinarily bad weather and bad roads occasioned small audiences at the majority of the meetings; but considerable was accomplished in the conversion and enrollment of individuals; and the generous publicity afforded by the local press was of inestimable benefit. A side trip to the town of Cuba involved a Single Tax talk to the high school and a chance to address one of the finest audiences of business men anywhere encountered. The meeting, held under the auspices of the chamber of commerce, was extremely large and representative, and one of the most responsive and enthusiastic I have yet known.

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Several weeks were spent in Buffalo, where the local Single Taxers worked nobly, the heaviest share, as usual, falling to the lot of Tom Work, who never seeks to be relieved of the burden. Single Tax is distinctly on the map in Buffalo, and coming more and more into the foreground of public consciousness. A number of successful meetings were held in churches, schools, labor unions, business men's associations and clubs of divers kinds, with a response which was gratifying in the extreme. As one result, new openings have presented themselves in totally unexpected quarters, from which there is reason to hope much.

On invitation of Bert Hubbard, I was privileged to address a meeting in the Roycroft chapel at East Aurora, where the Single Tax story seemed to meet with general favor. A lecture was also given in the town of Hamburg, one of the liveliest and most attractive suburbs of Buffalo.

A week-end trip was taken to Cleveland, O., to debate with the eloquent Socialist lecturer, W. F. Barnard. In this city, I also lectured at a meeting arranged by the Cleveland Single Tax Club. The Cleveland Single Taxers are wide awake, and eager to develop methods of effective work. They were much interested in the Activities of the New York State Single Tax League, and warm in their expressed admiration of its methods. The work of the field secretary seemed to them of especial importance; and it is probable that the Ohio State League will shortly move along similar lines. A day's stop-over in Erie, Pa., enabled me to meet the local workers of that city, and to address a meeting arranged by them.

Several days were spent in Jamestown, at which I addressed a large and receptive meeting of a church men's club and the local business college, and spoke twice in the high school. Jamestown has some especially zealous workers, and may be expected to do much for the Single Tax in the near future. A successful meeting was also held in Chautauqua.

In the town of Ellicottville, I had the pleasure of addressing an audience which was thoroughly appreciative, though small in numbers. In Auburn, a meeting was arranged at too short notice to draw more than a few, since a misunderstanding for which nobody was to blame deprived it of the necessary publicity. But a few workmen were present, with whom I had a heart to heart talk on the meaning of the Single Tax to them. There will be more to do in Auburn later. The final stop of the trip was in Poughkeepsie, where I had the pleasure of conferring with President Horace Sague and of meeting other good Single Tax workers, and of lecturing to a little company of interested men and women.

June is not the best month in the year for meetings; but I am on my way to visit the northern counties, and to speak in a few places. As to the problem of the summer months, in which the ordinary methods of propaganda are largely at a standstill, I am convinced that there are many localities in the State where this is the very time for presenting the subject. At summer resorts, where rest and light amusements are in order, many hotels would be only too glad to open their parlors for a casual lecture on a live subject; and many of the guests would welcome the same for a change, so that some good seed could be sown. But the initiative must come from somebody on the spot as a guest. This would take the least possible effort, and can be done by anybody residing at any summer home or hotel. I shall be glad to fill engagements of this kind during the summer, and hope that a number may be made. Not only hotel parlors, but veranda and lawn parties and picnics could well be featured by a talk on the Single Tax. How many will try this? As dates have to be arranged well in advance,

now is the time to become active in the matter. Any who will undertake to arrange such meetings or opportunities for presenting the subject are requested to write to me at 68 William St., New York City, as soon as possible.

All who receive this are probably aware that the next annual conference of the League is to be held in Syracuse as soon after the November election as possible. It seems wise, therefore, for me to spend the best part of September and October in central New York, reaching places in the counties around Syracuse, and seeking to stir up special interest to attend the conference. In order to plan ahead to the best advantage, I should be very glad to hear at once from Single Taxers in these counties, with suggestions as to the best time to visit them and with information as to local conditions. To accomplish results, we must learn to pull together; and I hope that not all will wait to be first approached, but that I shall receive invitations from many who are eager for a stimulation of the work in their own communities.

James F. Morton, Jr.