

SINGLE TAX REVIEW

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

Will our readers bear in mind that our offer of a cloth bound copy of "Progress and Poverty" (the \$1 Doubleday, Page edition) will be sent for every two new subscribers secured. Surely there is no Single Taxer anywhere who cannot with a little effort induce two Single Tax friends to subscribe.

This is the first number of another new volume, and no effort will be spared to make the *Review* better in every respect both in point of original articles and the fullest foreign and domestic news of the progress of the movement.

Some of our readers are disposed to criticize the introduction into the columns of the *Review* of controversial matter on points not vital to our movement. We want to say that it is not possible to please everybody. The idea of what a Single Tax organ should be will be found to differ according to the bent of mind of the critic. Certainly the question of private property in land—or rather the terminology involved in our method of treating of property and ownership—the question of compensation, the vulnerable points of Fairhope as a Single Tax colony—even the shortcomings of our advocacy and our alleged failure to rise to the full height of our opportunity—all seem to us legitimate subjects for discussion in the *Single Tax Review*.

Those who because of the introduction of such controversial letters from men whose Single Tax convictions have been known for years refuse their support to the *Review*

are of course at liberty to do so. The *Review* is, however, not run for any profit there is in it—it is not a money making venture. It is conducted with due regard to the opinions of the great Single Tax body—all and every one alike, and is a free forum for agitating their convictions, subject only to the editorial judgment of the balance to be maintained and the exercise of a due measure of courtesy and brotherly consideration. In the pursuance of this policy the *Review* has lost none of its friends worth retaining.

DEATH OF DR. GAFFNEY.

The death of Mathew T. Gaffney, M. D., at his home, 211 Plain St. Newark, N. J. on Monday evening, April 16th., 1906, marked the close of a lamentably brief but exceptional career. He was born March 11th, 1870, and received his early educational training in the Christian Brothers School and in a local business college. Later he took a course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, graduating in 1897.

Although but 35 years of age he had achieved prominent success in two difficult fields. The first of these was art, in which as a painter in oils he won distinction when still little more than a boy. His paintings won prizes at exhibition contests upon more than one occasion.

Love of science lured him away from art as a chosen field for his chief activities, and attracted him to the study of medicine. He completed his studies in Europe and returned to Newark, where in an almost incredibly short time, he built up a very large practice. Careful application and thorough scientific methods were responsible for his success, which consisted in a large practice. Dr. Gaffney was constantly called upon to serve as medical expert in cases that had been carried into the courts.

It was, however, a rarer quality than that of success in a chosen vocation, that made Dr. Gaffney a distinguished character and an exceptionally useful member of society.

Love of justice was the predominating trait of this man. It is still fresh in the memory of the people of Newark, how Dr. Gaffney championed the cause of Mrs. McCarren, who had in his opinion been unjustly arrested, imprisoned and fined upon the charge of mendicancy.

So aroused was Dr. Gaffney over the evident injustice of the charge and its accompanying sentence, that at his own expense, he employed counsel, and carried the case from court to court; from the highest tribunal of the State a decision was recently rendered reversing the sentence by which Mrs. McCarren had been unjustly punished, and thus vindicating the Doctor. It is fortunate that he lived long enough at least to learn of the outcome of this case, taken up by him out of pure love of justice,

which made it impossible for him to rest in the knowledge of an injustice done a poor and friendless woman. The legal expenses, which were heavy, were borne by the Doctor himself alone.

It was this same predominating trait in Dr. Gaffney's character, coupled with that exceptional degree of moral courage which in certain individuals makes it possible for them to live up to their convictions, that formed the basis of one of the chief epochs in his life. The chapter referred to was that in which he became a devoted admirer and staunch supporter of Dr. McGlynn at the time of the latter's controversy with his church, growing out of McGlynn's determination to publicly preach the economic reform advanced by Henry George.

Gaffney was but a boy at that time, and fresh from the Roman Catholic school in which he had been pursuing his studies. His attention was naturally drawn to the McGlynn case and his heart was won by the courage of this Priest, who dared to defy without fear of consequences, the most powerful church of history in its demand that he desist from preaching the economic truths enunciated by George. Warned by the priest of his own parish that prompt excommunication awaited anybody and everybody who might attend a McGlynn meeting, young Gaffney took the first train for New York to attend a meeting of the anti-poverty society that same evening, at which McGlynn was the principal speaker. Gaffney's admiration for McGlynn increased with time. Copies of every sermon and of every address, together with everything bearing upon the historical features of the McGlynn case were carefully collected and treasured. These were afterwards systematized and used as the basis of a book entitled "Priest, Orator and Martyr. Life and Sermons of Dr. Edward McGlynn".

When in the study of Henry George's philosophy, Gaffney discovered that in the application of the Single Tax lay the remedy for present unjust social conditions, he became devoted to one great life's ambition to advance that reform. How active and loyal he has been in pursuing that ambition is now made painfully obvious to those who have been associated with him in the work, and who must proceed without his ever ready assistance.

At the time of his death Dr. Gaffney was Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey Single Tax League, the Convention of which, Tuesday night, March 20th, was the last occasion of the Doctor's activities. The next day he was taken sick and never again left his home. His sickness began with quincy sore throat, followed by kidney trouble, and finally heart-failure. His life was an inspiration to those who strive toward high ideals and his unceasing activity in the advancement of a chosen cause was a rebuke to the lukewarm and the half-hearted. He was a man of strong con-

victions, and an exceptional degree of courage in expressing the same, and was governed by one over-whelming desire to assist in making the world better. He was one of those the loss of whom must leave the world appreciably poorer.

GEO. L. RUSBY.

DEATH OF REV. S. H. SPENCER.

Rev. S. H. Spencer became acquainted with the teachings of Henry George in the year 1887. This makes his enlistment in the ranks of those who stand for the Single Tax coincide very nearly with the wave of enthusiasm which culminated in the Wilmington, Delaware experiences, with which the readers of the Review are familiar. I distinctly remember his indignation at the fact that in these days of enlightenment it should be possible for men to be deprived of liberty for the expression of their socio-economic convictions. At the time when Mr. Spencer came into the knowledge of Henry George, quite a number of those who are believers in the doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg also became interested.

At that time Mr. A. J. Auchterlonie, a sturdy Scot with a love of justice never equalled in my experience, gathered about him an enthusiastic group of "New Church People", as they are called. He founded and published a paper, called the "New Earth" to which Mr. Spencer also became a contributor. This paper was to represent the leading thought of this group of believers, who found in the doctrines of the New Church a basic structure upon which to rest their convictions of the truth of Single Tax. For there is one doctrine enunciated by Swedenborg, which Father McGlynn in his day formulated by his cry "Back to the land", but which in Swedenborg's more abstractly philosophic language was called "from first principles by ultimates". For Swedenborg's idea of the relation of man to his Maker is one depending entirely for its efficiency upon what use man makes of his ultimate opportunities. It has been illustrated by a trolley car, which is in contact with the continuous force of electricity carried on the wire by means of its trolley wheel. But the energy that sets through the motor on the car depends upon the fact that through the wheels there must be contact with the track, or the lowest, the ultimate. If such contact there be not, then the car will not run, even if the upper wheel be in touch with the wire. So the highest reaches of the human soul touch the infinity of God, and of His eternal Life. But if man does not carry out that life into the actual stammering of his lips in speech and the efforts of his hands, then there is no life from God setting onward, and man has no life worth while. Aspiration is necessary, but so is ultima-