

peated from Time to Time, until the Poor Man was well-nigh stark naked and about all in. Whereupon a Sense of Delicacy and a Feeling of Utter Helplessness prompted the Three Old Ladies to retire.

Just then Justice appeared on the Landscape. He saw the Awful Predicament of the Poor Man, and, without any Ado, took an Acre of Land from an Agent who was holding it for speculation, put the Poor Man on it and told him to scratch. And behold! in a Season's Time the Poor Man was strutting about in the Pride of Self-Respect and a new Suit of Clothes.

"You are an Anarchist!" cried the Speculative Land Agent. "You have confiscated the Property of my Client."

"Oh piffles!" replied Justice. "Wake up! Come to! Go to! The Title was vitiated when the first Man was separated from his Inheritance of a Place to live, move and have his being."*

"Why didn't you do it long ago?" said the On-looker.

"Well," said Justice, irreverently, "that Bunch of Fussy Old Women wouldn't give me a chance."

HERMAN TIEDJENS.

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LAWSON PURDY.

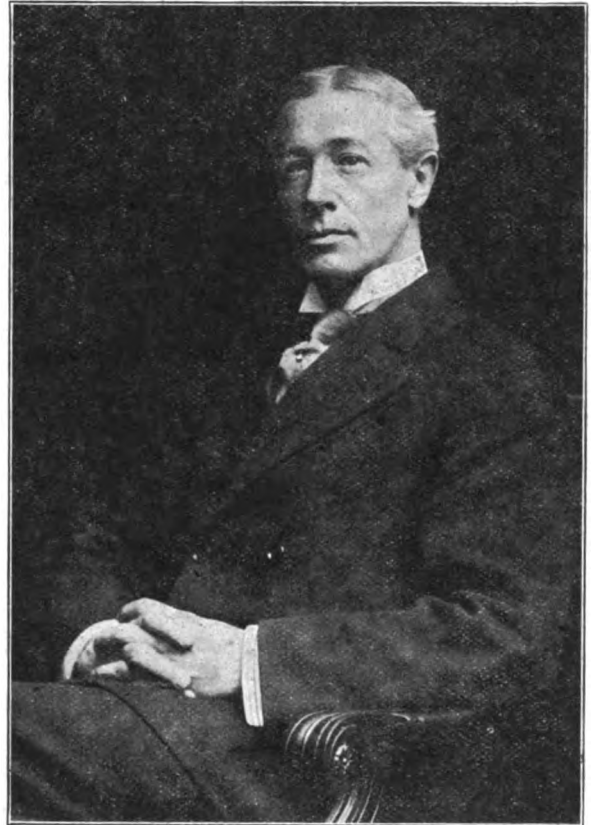
Among all the officials of the United States whose careers have been directed and their efficiency promoted by the influence upon them of Henry George's teachings, none has served better or achieved a wider and firmer reputation than Lawson Purdy. Under reappointment by Mayor Gaynor, he fills the office of president of the Department of Taxes of the city of New York, to which he was originally appointed four years ago by Mayor McClellan.

Mr. Purdy was born in Dutchess county, New York, September 13, 1863. He prepared for college at St. Paul's school, Concord, N. H., and graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. In 1885, the year following his graduation, he married Mary J. McCrackan, sister of William D. McCrackan, the author of "The Swiss Republic." Down into the early nineties Mr. Purdy was in business as treasurer of the New York Bank Note Company; but he left this connection to study law. He devoted himself at the same time to the management as secretary of the New York Tax Reform Association, a position he continued to hold after beginning the practice of the law and until his appointment as the head of the tax department.

Meanwhile he had perfected himself as a lego-economic expert in taxation. It was his superior qualifications in this respect that led to his appointment by Mayor McClellan, and, he having

*"Of course, whilst another man has no land, my title to mine, your title to yours, is at once, vitiated."—Emerson.

made his administration of the tax department conspicuously successful, to his reappointment by Mayor Gaynor. He has well earned his right to be regarded as an expert, not only by his present official service but also by the fiscal monographs he has written, and by his service on the New York Advisory Commission on Taxation and Finance in 1905, and on the Special State Tax Commission in 1906. Both the legislature of Minnesota and the constitutional convention of Michigan have had him before them as an expert adviser on fiscal principles and policies; and he commands the



highest degree of public confidence in his own city and State.

It was through Mr. Purdy's leadership that the law was secured from the New York legislature under which land valuations and improvement valuations in New York City are distinguished for purposes of taxation and the results officially published in detail. This law has appropriately fallen to him more than to any other one official for execution, and the annual reports of the tax department of which he is at the head testify convincingly to the excellence of the work. One of its impressive revelations is the fact that the privately owned site of New York city is worth about twice as much as the privately owned buildings and other improvements within its boundaries.