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A Profile of Peter William Schwander

Peter William Schwander was born in Houston, Texas, December 12th, 1864. His father was a native of Bavaria and his mother a Louisianian. Mr. Schwaider's mother died when he was eight years old and his father some years later. Under these circumstances he was compelled to begin working at the early age of fourteen, with the limited education which the schools of that period in Texas had given him. He became interested in economic subjects by reading "Looking Backward" while still a young man, and later—in 1890—became a Single Taxer, since which time he has been an earnest and persistent advocate of the cause. He early joined the Letter Writing Corps, which at that time was directed by C. Estella Bachman. and in 1894 organized the Texas Letter Writing Corps.

This latter Corps was divided into ten circles, with ten members in each circle, each circle having a secretary who sent the targets to each member, and after it had gone the round sent the same target on to the next circle. Each target under this system would receive nearly a hundred letters. So well was this carried out that the Houston Post refused to answer a question propounded by one of its subscribers on an economic subjects, giving as its reason that an answer would provoke more letters from Single Taxers than the editor could find time to read.

When the decision to "concentrate" on Delaware was reached Mr. Schwander was one of the first to respond, sending literature to every business man in Delaware whose name was in Bradstreet's. Mr. Schwander is a student and a thinker; a logician and a writer of verse; a musician, a philosopher and a bachelor, all of which attributes he has acquired by his own efforts. His title as poet laureate of the Houston Single Tax League was earned by the poem to be found in this issue of the Review entitled "The Single Tax."