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Current Comment

THERE died on March 10 one of the last great New England figures. His death is a distinct loss to the Single Tax movement, and to the Single Tax Party, of which he was a member. His death was a loss, too, to the Anti-Imperialist movement, in which he had been for many years one of the foremost leaders. Probably his work was done, for he had attained the advanced age of 82, though he was active almost to the last. This was testified to by his letters to the REVIEW, his pronouncements on public questions, and his many printed communications to the *New York World* and other metropolitan newspapers.

ERVING WINSLOW was a great American. We think of him when we think of William Lloyd Garrison, Single Taxer and son of the great Abolitionist, for they were alike in the possession of literary ability of a high order and moral courage that would brook no attenuation of the principles in which they believed. It was characteristic of him that he should have espoused the Single Tax Party as the most uncompromising embodiment of his convictions.

MR. WINSLOW'S literary achievements were many and varied. For years he was one of the chief editorial writers on several Boston newspapers. He was translator of Maeterlink's "Pelleas et Melisande" and Legouvé's "Madonna of Art." His "Epitome of Historical Events" is another work which engaged his ripe scholarship. Others of his works, "A Loyalist in the Siege of Boston," "Arcadia in History and Poetry," "Apologia pro Vita Sua," and "Every Custom House a Fortress," are but a few of the works of a life crowded with achievement.

UNITED with these literary activities went an untiring and ceaseless devotion to great causes, in which he took a foremost part. He was a publicist whose work for American ideals singled him out for special prominence. When America deserted the great principle of government by the consent of the governed in the treatment of the Philipinos, it was Erving Winslow who uttered the voice of protest and stood forward as a leader of the ideals of Jefferson and Lincoln. Great, however, as was his devotion and untiring energy, his influence was insufficient to arrest the tendency of the United States to abandon the old principles of liberty which had won for our country the respect of the democratic peoples of the world. He must have seen with keenest sorrow our entrance upon a career of imperialistic adventure in San Domingo, Hayti, and the Philippines. The New England spirit of protest against this tendency, of which brave Senator Hoar was the chief representative and which even Tom Reed had helped to keep alive, passed away with its last great protagonist in the death of Erving Winslow.

WE commented a few issues ago on Secretary Hoover's statement that "Happily for the business situation the cotton crop had risen in price." Of course, this was one of those "theories" that do not work out in practice, and was therefore a bad theory. Now the *New York Evening Post* has this to say:

"The jump in cotton last Fall from 12 to 20 cents boded ill for the manufacturers. They bought the staple and marked up the price of their goods. Consumers, however, were not responsive. The planters took in a good deal of money and marked up the price of their goods. Their troubles were transferred to the mills, and the latter are now wrestling with them. This undoubtedly explains why cotton mill wages have been precipitously reduced."

AN attempt to end the expression of political and economic views through political parties by groups of American voters who may seek such opportunity, has been made in Albany in the introduction of a bill providing that on and after Jan. 1st, 1923, no political party shall be entitled to a place on the ballot that receives less than 50,000 votes. In this the enemies of liberty might well have borrowed a leaf from the legislation of North Carolina which provides that no group of citizens shall be called a party that cast less than 20,000 votes in the campaign of 1876. The Albany Bill is recommended by the Joint Legislative Committee on Recodification and Revision of the Election Laws.

It is characteristic of the apathy and supineness of the American voter and the press of the State, that this iniquitous measure has failed to arouse the storm of opposition it merits, and that those who introduced it have not been given notice at the hands of their constituencies that they are slated for retirement to private life.

SINGLE TAXERS may well pause in their support of the dominant parties, and ask themselves if they desire any longer by their votes to give aid and comfort to the political trust, for this bill is of course designed to make existing parties perpetual and render it impossible for a new party to gain a foothold. It gives the two parties a monopoly of political ideas, as well as the offices and the emoluments of office. What has become of the independence of the American citizen, about which we utter our silly boastings, and what of the recent talk by dilettante political philosophers regarding the futility of third parties? It may be that the only thing that will save American political liberty, along with economic liberty, is a third party that will threaten the political trust now reaching out, as indicated in this impudent attempt at Albany, to establish itself in perpetuity.