

WILLIAM L. PRICE
(See frontispiece)

ON THE SUBJECT OF A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

William L. Price, founder with Frank Stephens of the Single Tax Colony of Arden, and one of the leading architects of Philadelphia, died Oct. 14 at the age of fifty-four.

Mr. Price was one of the oldest active Single Tax workers in Philadelphia, where he was born and educated. He had many friends in the movement and was devoted to those ideals he had learned at the feet of the master.

The following verses to his memories are the tribute of his old friend, Frank Stephens:

WILL PRICE.

Good by! a little Empty now and strange
The once familiar places that we knew,
Empty the day's dull round, the season's
change,
Thru which till now the sunlit hope could
range
That it might bring one—you.

It was so beautiful, that Land-we-Dreamed
Toward which we toiled together, you
and I,
So very near at times its hilltops gleamed,
So near and fair that pleasant country
seemed,
And now—good by—

That City of the Blest to which our feet
Trode the rough way, white-spined it rose
and high,
Such joyous, pleasant folk we looked to
meet
As we should wander thru its street by
street,
And now—good by—

Good By, but where to find you? may it be
Now, even now while darker grows the
way,
That you have found that Country-of-the-
Free,
And in the Wondrous City wait for me?
Good by—until Some Day—

Since the decision of the Niagara Single Tax Conference to effect a national Single Tax organization, two friends of the movement, H. P. Boynton, of Cleveland, and William Lustgarten, of New York have submitted to a few correspondents type-written plans of organization.

It is one of the tendencies of the human mind when projecting schemes of this sort to overload them with details, to seek provision for every possible contingency, and invent contingencies where they do not appear as ever having happened before. Even to provide for every reasonable need is manifestly impossible. The work of every organization develops as it goes along and in obedience to needs that arise from day to day.

Because of this, and other reasons contained in the very nature of our movement, a national organization should consist of as few parts and as few governing laws as possible, with work and responsibility apportioned to select committees, but with little or none of the complex regulations to which we are prone in our love of detail.

Because our chief work must be done through the States, which may include forty-odd different kinds of activity and policy, there is little for a national organization to do beyond the following: Maintain a national headquarters, with a national secretary whose duties shall be to take charge of lecture work and the distribution of literature, to answer correspondence, and to take cognizance of such national legislation as may affect, favorably or unfavorably, the movement to untax industry and secure equal rights to land. He should avoid rigidly all interference with affairs that are the concern of States, leaving State activities, whether these be of the political or propoganda kind, to the State organizations. If it were thought desirable to help with funds of the national organization some State-wide movement, that should be decided by postal card vote of all members of the national organization.