

**Walter I. Swanton**

To the Henry George News:

The news of the death of Walter I. Swanton, on June 22, at Newton, Massachusetts, will be read with regret by Single Taxers throughout the country. Especially has this been the case in Washington, D. C., where, with voice, pen and money, he championed the cause of Georgism.

Mr. Swanton's attention was first directed to the Single Tax by a Miss Ross whom he afterwards married. He was impressed by Henry George's reasoning in "Progress and Poverty," and this developed into a conviction that the greatest evil of mankind was denial of his right of access to the earth. Not content with the Single Tax as a belief or philosophy, Mr. Swanton spoke, wrote, conducted classes and attended gatherings for it and contributed financially. Other causes—enlisted his interest, but he gave first place to the Single Tax. Saddened by the slowness with which the cause was accepted, he never doubted its ultimate triumph.

Mr. Swanton took an interest in civic affairs in Washington, where the people are without the ballot, their only recourse being the formation of citizens' associations which formulate petitions, to enlist the interest of the Board of Commissioners and Congress. Mr. Swanton represented his community in the Federation of Citizens' Associations and the Citizens Advisory Council. His interests were taxation, the public schools and proposed legislation. He was a charter member of the movement whose aim is selfgovernment for the District of Columbia. When the Federal civil service was reorganized, Mr. Swanton was named an engineering member of the staff charged with this task. When government workers were permitted to indicate their choice to the governing board, Mr. Swanton was elected. When the American Federation of Government Employees was organized, Mr. Swanton joined it and remained a member until he retired in 1940.

Mr. Swanton was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1869, but lived in New England and came to Washington in 1903. He was edu-

cated at the Gardiner (Me.) high school, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the National University Law School. He did private engineering until he entered the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and then the Department of the Interior Reclamation Bureau, becoming Assistant Engineer.

Mr. Swanton is survived by three children, Mrs. Sheldon Clark, of Columbus, Ohio; Miss I. Edith Swanton, of Quebec, Canada; a son, Walter F. Swanton, of New York, and two brothers, Henry A. Swanton, of Newton, Massachusetts, and Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist at the Smithsonian Institution.

GEORGE A. WARREN.

Washington, D. C.