

Samuel Polak.

The death roll lengthens. One month to the day after Tom L. Johnson's death, there died in New York one of the oldest of the little group that came in touch with Henry George in New York immediately after the publication of "Progress and Poverty." Born in Holland in 1833, a resident of Paris in the stirring times of 1849, and of London for several years in the 'fifties, a wide traveler and fluent of speech in several languages, Samuel Polak came to New York just before the Civil War. While in London he had taken an active interest in the labor movement, and when this movement began to express itself crudely in American politics through the Greenback party, with Peter Cooper as its leader, he became a Greenback candidate for the New York legislature. In the semi-socialistic labor movements in the city of New York in the 'seventies, in one of which John Swinton was candidate for Mayor, Mr. Polak ran twice as their candidate for the legislature. In 1881 he read Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" serially as it appeared in Truth, the penny daily of the period from 1879 to 1884, through which Labor Day was established, first by the labor unions and then by law. This book captivated his imagination, and gave to his radicalism definite principles and a practical method. When the first Henry George campaign for Mayor came on, Mr. Polak plunged into the fight, abandoning his business for the time, and making a house to house canvass of the extensive but sparsely settled region of the Bronx. In the parade preceding the election, a labor demonstration that fairly terrorized Tammany Hall, Mr. Polak led a large delegation of his Bronx neighbors, and in the speaking campaign in the Bronx he canvassed the region, with Mr. George when he was there and independently at other times. His first connection with what is now known as the Single Tax movement was as a member of the Free Soil Society, organized in New York in 1883. Although not so active when age crept upon him, Mr. Polak lost no sympathetic interest in progressive affairs until a few days before his death at the age of seventy-eight years.

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**AN OPEN LETTER TO SPEAKER
CHAMP CLARK.**

The ways and means committee has no doubt received resolutions purporting to come from the Chicago Live Stock Exchange protesting against the passage of the Underwood bill (H. R. 4413),

introduced in the House April 12, 1911. The closing clause of these resolutions reads as follows:

Resolved, By the Chicago Live Stock Exchange, an organization of upward of seven hundred members, engaged in breeding, raising, feeding, shipping, selling, buying, slaughtering, and exporting, all kinds of live stock, that it insists upon a fair and just duty upon live stock and its products and upon all products of the farm and ranch, and is unalterably opposed to placing the same upon the free list. That we are opposed to the enactment of the said Underwood bill because it is unjust and discriminatory as against our membership and its constituency among the live stock and farming interests of the United States.

Please note here that this resolution purports to express the opinion of an organization of 700 members and to represent a constituency of all the live stock and farming interests of the United States. Allow me to advise you of the facts, in order that members of Congress, whose duty it is to pass upon the Underwood bill, may know just what weight to give that resolution.

The Chicago Live Sock Exchange is a corporate body (not for profit) which exists for the purpose of looking out for the immediate interests of its members, and no one is eligible to membership unless his interests center in the Union Stock Yards of Chicago. It is governed in routine business matters by a board of directors consisting of nine members. Seven members of this board constitute a quorum. The board has no legal right to take action upon any matter of politics or legislation without submitting it to a vote of the members of the Exchange, who elect the board. But the above resolution was passed by the board without submission to the members. Most of the members of the Exchange knew nothing about it until its adoption by the board was published in the newspapers. Probably few of the constituents whom it professes to represent know anything about it yet. In truth it represents nothing whatever except the opinions of the seven or nine men who attended the board meeting at which it was passed.

GEO. V. WELLS.

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FOR A GATEWAY AMENDMENT.

At the present time the absurd difficulties encountered for the ratification by the States of the income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution and that for the direct election of Senators has received a needed scrutiny of Article V of the Constitution which provides the method of amendment. Had this Article a reasonable basis at its adoption?