

We, The Citizens

The group known as We, The Citizens, incorporated by the State of Illinois, is dedicated to the promulgation of the economics of freedom. They have as their main objective the abolition of all taxes, and the collection by government of the rent of land. In their approach, they emphasize that the government earns ground rent, but collects only a fraction of it.

To spread this idea, We, The Citizens circulates literature, arranges speaking engagements with civic and industrial groups, and contacts business men. They offer to cooperate with any other group that has the same aim as they have. In addition to this work, they conduct a School of Citizenship and Economic Science. This School offers a short four-lesson course in economics, using Otto Cullman's "Twenty Million Dollars Every Day" as a text-book. An Expositor's Manual for this course has been prepared, as well as question papers for students. Mr. Cullman's book of eighty-nine pages presents in a concise way, and in terminology likely to appeal to business men, a picture of our economic structure today, and a proposal for the basis upon which it should rest.

The School and its course have been well received. Classes are now either functioning or in process of organization in ten states. In addition, correspondence courses are being offered. Those interested may write to We, The Citizens, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

People's Tax Relief Program for Mass.

There is a specific reason for this new organization, the People's Tax-Relief Program. "Whether or not the time has come" says one announcement, "to attempt any legislative action in Massachusetts, we feel that we should no longer allow unsound ideas on taxation to go unchallenged in the press and before the Legislature. We should prepare ourselves to expose fallacies and to suggest just and workable alternatives."

At the next Legislative Session there will be a proposal to amend the Constitution of Massachusetts to limit the tax on real estate to some definite figure, and to make up the loss of revenue by income and sales taxes. Active and unflinching work will be needed to combat these proposals.

In order to be better equipped for their work, the Tax-Relief group, in cooperation with the Boston Extension of the Henry George School, have given a course covering the current questions relating to State and Municipal revenue. The course, conducted by John S. Codman, had twenty graduates.

The Chairman is Francis G. Goodale, and the address is 138 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

Henry George University

REPORT OF HARRY W. OLNEY

The idea of this University began with Western Starr. When he was stricken blind and invalided some years ago, to cheer him up, I asked him to dictate some of his ideas, to be set down in writing. The advertisement on the back cover of this issue gives the gist of Mr. Starr's ideas on economics.

From time to time, Mr. Starr suggested that there should be a Henry George University at the Nation's Capital. So we formed it, at first as a paper organization. Now, though Western Starr has passed away, I am unwilling that this idea should die with him, so I am running an advertisement about it in some magazines.

My present aim is to circulate the works of Henry George, together with abridgments of other famous classics. It seems to me that these latter will do well as "pot boilers."

Depending upon results I propose to go on as far as my means and other support will permit. It is a great and worthwhile work.

Old Age Pension—Fair Taxation League

In Kansas City, Mo., this League is preparing to launch a State-wide campaign for the Fall, to amend the State Constitution. The purpose is to provide—through land value taxation—not only for an old age pension, but also for other eleemosynary and constructive purposes. The old age pension is emphasized doubtlessly to take advantage of the present popularity of the idea, in order to attract attention. But the drafters of the Amendment do not neglect the opportunity to also present a brief instruction in economics. Their message to the people of Missouri tells of the effects of the present system of taxation, and the probable effects of the proposed system.

The Amendment provides for the removal of taxes on industry, homes, agricultural equipment, and other labor products, and an increase in the tax on the value of land and natural resources. Great care has been taken to draft the measure so that it will be in full accord with the present Constitution. Each section in the Amendment stipulates specifically what items are to be exempted from taxation, what amount is to be collected from land values, and for what purposes the revenue is to be expended.

Mr. Vernon J. Rose writes of the League's efforts: "We are getting quite a wide response, but are confronted with the job of getting our petitions filled with the required number of signers in time to get on the ballot at the coming Fall election. I believe we can make it."

The address of the Old Age Pension-Fair Taxation League is 804 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Mo.