

visit of White was a success, and the leaven of truth which he introduced among us must be felt for good during an indefinite period.

The task of preparing the way for the speaker's eloquence and logic to reach the people was chiefly assigned to Mr. Wm. H. Danford and myself, though some assistance came from a few others. Mr. Danford, like the writer, was formerly a Chicagoan, and knew White there. We succeeded in making arrangements for the delivery of six lectures in this city and two outside places. The first one was on the evening of June 14th. It was in Blanchard Hall, one of the largest and best auditoriums in the city. It was well filled, and the audience was very attentive and deeply interested. Rev. Benjamin Fay Mills presided, and did so very efficiently. Of course numerous questions were answered after the lecture proper, and of course White was equal to the opportunity. The eyes of most of those present was considerably opened, and the applause was frequent and hearty.

At noon the following day, by invitation Mr. White delivered a masterly address before the Los Angeles Realty Board, and dined with them after the speaking. He made a fine impression upon his hearers—speculators in plots of God's earth though most of them are.

His addresses thereafter were given before the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, next at The Working Men's Club of San Pedro, (the coming seaport of the southern portion of California), the general public of Long Beach; and lastly Sunday afternoon in this city, before a very appreciative gathering of exceptionally intelligent hearers.

I regret to say that the newspapers of this city and a few nearby places did not give Mr. White a tenth—no, not a hundredth—part as much courtesy as he richly deserved. In one instance a socialist who tried to hold his own with our champion, as a debater, was the recipient of eulogistic lines to the extent of nearly a column while White received scarcely a good sized paragraph. This occurred concerning the debate at Long Beach.

Of course the Socialists were on hand at every one of White's meetings, and of course they attempted to "wind him up" during the periods when questions were permitted. But the ease and rapidity with which the speaker swept away the cobwebs from before their eyes was amusing to all except perhaps those who ought to have been most benefited.

RALPH HOYT.

Los Angeles.

The account of the lecture tour of John Z. White arrived too late for publication in this issue.

## MASSACHUSETTS.

HOW THE MASSACHUSETTS LEAGUE HAS INFLUENCED PUBLIC OPINION—LIBERAL ATTITUDE OF THE BOSTON PRESS.

The idea that Henry George stood for is making rapid headway here in many directions. William Lloyd Garrison, now secretary of the American Free Trade League, has recently sent out two "broadsides" that fairly ring with moral enthusiasm for truth and justice. The selections are choice, gathered from the best authors. These, together with Mr. Garrison's excellent editorials, give the papers a permanent value. The "Broadsides" are sent to all the leading journals and newspapers, and through them free-trade doctrines are being widely disseminated. This League is now national in its work and membership. Any one can join by paying one dollar, for which each member will receive all the literature sent out by the League for one year. These are well worth the dollar, and it is worth another dollar to be a member of this League, and yet another to feel that one's small mite is assisting in so grand and broad a work. Here is an investment where "moth and rust doth not corrupt." May a white shower of letters, each containing one dollar or more, be sent at once to *The American Free Trade League*, 6 Beacon street, Boston, Mass., for the League needs more funds and more members.

The Massachusetts Single Tax League is not idle. During the year it has carried on three important lines of work. First, it has sent to teachers and to those interested a choice collection of single tax literature, much like that sent out by Mr. Swinney of Brooklyn. Second, it has sent out 10,500 pamphlets to college professors, clergymen, officers of labor organizations and others, containing a report of the address of Prof. Seligman on taxation, given before the Economic Club of Boston, in which he made clear the soundness of the proposition that purchasers of land, already subject to a tax, own it free of that tax, and hence are exempt from taxation on their investment. Brief extracts were given from other prominent speakers at this dinner-discussion. The report contains also a letter from Charles Francis Adams, in which he states his conviction that the necessary expenses for municipal purposes, town and city, should be drawn exclusively from ground rent.

Henry George once said that next to knowing the right way was to see clearly the wrong, and all the speakers at the Economic Club dinner agreed that our present system of taxation was wrong. The press the next morning declared quite generally the same, and the Boston *Transcript* talked much like an old-time Single Taxer, saying: "A land Tax cannot be evaded. \* \* \* It cannot be shifted. \* \* \* A tax on land becomes imperceptible after it has been in operation some time. \* \* \* Unquestion-

ably the adoption of this plan by any city would powerfully promote its industrial growth by encouraging business enterprises of every kind."

Did not Henry George say the same? The editorials from the *Transcript*, the *Post*, the *Springfield Republican* are all reprinted in this small pamphlet, 10,500 copies of which have been sent out by our League to those who would not believe when Henry George said these things, but who will listen when told these truths by well-known conservative men and leading newspapers. Does not this fact show the wonderful progress of our movement? Does it not prove the stability of those breastworks that Single Tax men and women have raised against revolution—against the time when monopoly shall have become too lawless and aggressive? These conservative business men, these loyal citizens, will yet flee behind this breastwork of the Single Tax to save themselves from the extremes of Socialism on the one hand or from the despotism of an oligarchy of wealth created by special privilege on the other.

The third important propaganda work which our league has recently done is that of emphasizing some of the reform work that is now being done by our first-class magazines. Use has been made of two articles that have appeared in *McClure's* and *Everybody's*, to point out more emphatically the real cause for the present inequitable distribution of wealth.

We have sent out 9,600 of these magazines to clergymen, college professors and others. Before sending them a printed circular was sent, calling attention to these articles: "The Astor Estate of New York" and "The West Coast Land Grafters," soliciting a thoughtful reading; and to prepare the readers somewhat to accept our view of the intimate relationship which exists between the subject of taxation and that of vast fortunes, the circular ended with Section II, Chapter XIII, of Thomas G. Shearman's "Natural Taxation," in which he says:

"The enormous wealth of British dukes, and of our own—or lately our own—Astors, is of course due entirely to the comparative exemption of ground rent from taxation. But all the excess of wealth gained by railway kings, above a liberal compensation for shrewdness, sagacity and foresight is due to precisely the same cause. It has been shown that the chief value of railways consists in exclusive and peculiar privileges upon land, and the greatest part of this value arises from its comparative exemption from taxation.

"The great monopolies which have grown with such startling rapidity into such overshadowing power, owe all their wealth and power to the manipulation of railways and of duties on imports. Under natural taxation [the Single Tax] there would be no import duties to manipulate, and railways could not afford to be manipulated."

In view of the fact that the two chief

issues in the next Presidential election are likely to be the tariff and the railroad monopoly, this propaganda work now being done by the American Free Trade League seems both timely and important.

ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL,  
Secretary of the Massachusetts  
Single Tax League.

## WISCONSIN.

SOME NEW TAX LAWS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION—REAL PROGRESS UNDER THE LATE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR, LA FOLLETTE, WHO IS MORE DEMOCRATIC THAN THE DEMOCRATS OF WISCONSIN.

The Wisconsin Legislature adjourned ten days ago, after a session of five and one-half months—the longest in the history of the State. This has been popularly pronounced a "good" Legislature, as distinguished from the last two, which were called "bad," the difference being that on bills affecting the interest of the public-service corporations this Legislature on the whole favored the interests of the people, while the former ones tended to favor the interests of the corporations. This seems to be the chief difference the country over between "good" and "bad" Legislatures.

Among the large number of laws passed were several relating to taxation, and these generally pointed in the right direction. The progress of Single Tax principles in Wisconsin is indirect. The economic truths peculiar to the Single Tax philosophy are steadily gaining ground, and are constantly affecting the general scope of legislation; and this, of course, without the knowledge of the legislators.

The taxation of street railways, inter-urban railways and telegraph lines was changed from the present license system to the ad valorem method, to go into effect after two years. The license fees of telephone companies was increased. The State Tax Commission has been reorganized and its powers increased.

The most important act of the Legislature is the creation of the State Railroad Rate Commission. The three commissioners provided for by the law have recently been appointed by the Governor. They are empowered to equalize and fix rates, to prevent rebates and generally to supervise railroad rates in the State.

The Statute of Limitations has been extended in actions by the State against railroad companies for the purpose of recovering back taxes which the companies are said to have been dodging.

The course of legislation was largely shaped by Governor La Follett, supported by the half-breed wing of the Republican party, which is much more Democratic than Republican. The Governor himself, as is well known, was elected to the United States Senate, displacing Senator Quarles, a