

The Passing of Fiske Warren

FISKE WARREN, founder of a dozen Single Tax colonies, "enclaves" as they are called, and an attendant at nearly all the Henry George Congresses which have met from year to year under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation, was born at Waltham, Mass., in 1862. He graduated from Harvard in 1884 and later studied law at Oxford, England.

He was a fighter for Philippine independence in 1899 and was intimately associated with the Filipino leaders, knowing many of them personally. He was proud of the title bestowed upon him, "Champion of the Unpopular."

His particular service to the Single Tax cause was the founding of the "enclaves" by which he hoped to demonstrate the advantages of paying all communal expenses out of land values while exempting all improvements from taxation. He founded the enclaves at Tahanto, and Ayer, Mass, Halidon at Westbrook, Maine and Sant Jordi in the Republic of Andorra. He also founded the Georgian Trust Fund for the promotion of the Georgeist cause.

Mr. Warren was prominent socially and was a member of many clubs. He was national amateur court tennis champion in 1893.

His friendship with Erskine Childers is an interesting incident in his career. Fiske Warren and Erskine Childers married sisters, daughters of Dr. Hamilton Osgood of Boston. Childers was a veteran of the Boer War and the author of a novel warning against Germany. He became interested in the Irish fight for independence and used his yacht to convey guns to the Irish rebels. He was taken and died wearing the green before a firing squad.

In an interesting sketch of Fiske Warren life the *Boston Globe* in its issue of Feb. 6 says:

Both men operated on the principle that the highest patriotism is to prevent your own country from dominating a small nation. Both were "lone wolves"; Warren resigned from the Anti-Imperialistic League so as not to embarrass it, before campaigning for Philippine Independence on the spot at Manila. Childers separated himself from his English friends to carry on the fight in Ireland. Both men appeared to have failed in their objectives, but in both cases these seem to be approaching achievement.

The Philippines have become a Commonwealth and are on their way to independence. A British Prime Minister recently had a friendly discussion at London with President Eamonn de Valera regarding the details of Ireland's newer, more independent status in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Those who remember the quiet, soft-spoken man that was Fiske Warren will have some difficulty in visualizing him for what he was, a heroic fighter, willing to take up any cause that appealed to him. In this he was like his friend Childers. It is difficult to feature him as the

daring advocate of a cause that aroused the utmost bitterness.

As illustrative of the intensity of the bitterness aroused by the controversy over Philippine independence we may mention the address delivered by the Rev. Dr. Rossiter before a gathering of American veterans at Manila, at which the Reverend gentleman said, that if William Howard Taft, then Governor General of the Philippines, would give the word they would duck Fiske Warren in the Pagis River. It never happened, but Mr. Warren later carried on a newspaper controversy with William Howard Taft while that gentleman was Governor General and Secretary of War.

It was not until 1909 that Mr. Warren read "Progress and Poverty." It was an indication of his venturesome character—always the "lone wolf" as the *Globe* has called him—that in place of cooperating with existing activities he sought to establish through Single Tax colonies the principles which he had eagerly espoused. And it must be said that these "enclaves" have been measurably successful. While colony experiments have come and gone the Single Tax "enclaves" have continued to flourish. They are not sufficient in their scope to produce any great economic effects, but they may be said to be working examples not without their value as partial demonstrations.

When the history of the movement is completed the name of Fiske Warren will occupy a high and prominent place in its annals. He was a brave soldier in the war for human freedom.

A Tribute to Fiske Warren

THE sudden passing of Fiske Warren in Boston was a shock and sorrow to his many friends. He was in the full tide of his usual even and athletic health; he walked, he bicycled, and he even ran over hill and dale with ease and zest of a youth up to the moment when an aural operation intervened.

A childhood of delicate health had robbed him of the heritage of open-air activity enjoyed by most American boys. This he battled with and conquered, becoming one of the earliest national champions in tennis. Later his crusade, almost single-handed and at risk of life and limb, to stem imperialistic trends by a long trip through the Philippine Islands made vivid and picturesque history, known to but few.

Travel, faithfulness to his business activities (in an inherited paper-making concern of high repute), study in delving deep into the scholarship of the early English language, a felicitous marriage to a most rare and understanding mate (who, with their three children, shares his aims and purposes to introduce Single Tax), rounded out a distinguished career, though withal a most modest one, of amazing energy, concentration and earnestness.