

As to education, there is the giving of talks and the writing of letters. To these are to be added the more specific means of spreading the light afforded by the H. G. Schools of Social Science which have been or are being established in a number of our larger cities. These are slowly but we think surely increasing in interest.

The legislative field is not to be entirely neglected or overlooked, as the legislature is now in session for the introduction of bills and some miscellaneous work. In a few days it will take a recess till the first of March when its real legislative work will begin. Before it will be, among other matters, a bill presented by a section of the Commonwealth Club of the state which looks to such a correction of the Initiative laws of the state as will prevent hereafter such conditions as enabled the Supreme Court to rule us off the ballot.

It is interesting to note that there will be several bills before the legislature which seek to modify or get rid of the sales tax. While too early to predict the fate of these undertakings it seems highly improbable that in any material way changes of importance will be accomplished—in other words, the sales tax will not be abolished and at the utmost will be slightly reduced or taken off on some present objects. The general picture will not be changed. Our campaign can therefore be renewed as before. A reason for this is that the State administration is against any loss of revenue which would come from the abolition of the sales tax and against anything savoring of a direct tax upon any kind of property. While a majority of the lower house would go a long way toward abolishing the sales tax, the governor holds a large majority of the upper house and thus controls the situation.

As before indicated, it is too early to discuss in detail the measure to be placed before the people at the election next year. We may say that it will in substance be like that heretofore offered, affected possibly by legislative action, and also by study of the events of the last campaign. These will be no essential modification of principle.

A recent trip to the state capital disclosed the perfect unity of our support and cheerful confidence in our future success. This was general among labor circles and the members of the legislature who were with us, as well as such newspaper men as give us support. We are certainly in the fight to win.

We have to chronicle one very severe loss. David Woodhead of Los Angeles recently left us by death. We counted upon him as one of our best and clearest headed advisers and thinkers. His departure will be deeply felt.

Palo Alto, California.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS.

THE Free Homestead League has been organized in Seattle, Washington, and Messrs. Fleming, Warren, Freeland, Falvey, Booth, Erickson, Matthews, and Doubleday are a few of the familiar names we note in its literature. The League is sponsoring an act relating to the disposal of lands which have been acquired by cities or counties for non-payment of taxes and the restoring of idle lands so acquired to the tax rolls.

JOHN C. ROSE of Pittsburgh urges that the Henry George School might widen the sphere of its activities by establishing a department of research. There are great possibilities in this suggestion. Ultimately the results of such research could be embodied in a pamphlet which would serve as an excellent companion for the Teacher's Manual.

F. W. LYNCH of San Francisco writes: "I want to record my objection to the term Georgeist. I heartily approve the letter of W. G. Stewart of Reading, Pa., in favor of the Single Tax as a political name.

RURAL Electrification and Farm Land Taxation is a pamphlet containing an address delivered by William E. Clement. There is

much in this pamphlet on the practical application of our principles. Mr. Clement is director of the Electrical Association of New Orleans.

E. B. GASTON, editor and publisher of the *Fairhope Courier*, and one of the founders of the Single Tax colony at Fairhope, Alabama, recently celebrated his 75th birthday.

MR. S. TIDEMAN who died Nov. 5th at the age of 84, was born in Sweden and emigrated to the United States in 1882. He was a machinist and toolmaker by trade. He read "Progress and Poverty" in 1888 and his wife who survives him tells how both of them familiarized themselves with the use of English by the reading of George's works. In 1931 at the age of 79 he published a book in which he linked the present control of finance with the monopoly of land. He was a frequent contributor to LAND AND FREEDOM. He leaves three sons, two daughters and numerous grandchildren. He was successful in transmitting his philosophy to his children with the result that the name they inherited has become well known throughout Single Tax circles. It is gratifying to record that in the fifteen years of his later life spent on a farm near Fisk, Missouri, he retained his faculties and his interest in world events and the progress of the cause he loved.

HON. JOHN J. MURPHY, former Tenement House Commissioner of this city under the Gaynor and Mitchell administrations, and active in the Single Tax movement for many years, passed away on December 6. Mr. Murphy was born in Ireland seventy-one years ago, and came to America at the age of seventeen. For a time he was Secretary of the Citizen's Union of this city. He made a fine record as Tenement House Commissioner and was praised by Mayor Gaynor as having conducted his office "with the maximum of efficiency and the minimum of friction." He was interested in Irish-American relations and was president of the American Irish Historical Society. He was Secretary of the American Single Tax League. He was one of the directors of the Schalkenbach Foundation, having been named for such office in the will of Robert Schalkenbach who left a substantial sum for the publication and circulation of the works of Henry George. He was the author of "The Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin." He was a charming after-dinner speaker and his ready wit and Irish humor—more French than Irish—made his speeches a delight. He was a wonderfully interesting companion and it is hard to realize that he is gone. He is survived by two daughters, Teresa and Deirdre, and a son Brendon Murphy.

STEPHEN BELL has an excellent letter in the *New York Times* of recent date. He says among other things: "Consumer demand is the mainspring of all production. How can the restraint of consumer demand encourage production?" There is no writer living today who tells the truth about the tariff so clearly and persuasively as Stephen Bell. We are glad to announce that Mr. Bell has completed his life of Father McGlynn.

FEW papers have published more Single Tax letters than the *Bridgeport, Conn., Post*. They must average well over a dozen a month. The man back of all this is William J. Lee of Stratford, helpfully abetted by Dr. Hayes of Waterbury, Dr. Sage of New Haven, Joseph R. Carroll of Norfolk, and other Henry George men at a distance, Messrs. Beckwith, Swinney, Noren and Rose among the latter. We thank the *Bridgeport Post* for the hospitality of its columns.

WILLIAM A. WARREN, acknowledging receipt of LAND AND FREEDOM adds this encomium: "It is a pleasure to have such a paper to read."

FRED PEASE writes us that the Henry Georgeist of Milk River and they are all Georgeists there, sponsored a very successful carnival