

THE LATE W. W. KILE.

W. W. Kile, who died in July of this year at Dayton, Ohio, known as "the first Single Taxer" of that city, was born in 1839. He served for two years as private in the Fourth Ohio Volunteers. For many years he kept a book store in Dayton, which became well known to book lovers. Many meetings of radicals and Single Taxers were held in the back of the store. In 1907 he went to Fairhope, the Single Tax colony on Mobile Bay, and spent three years with his wife and daughter.

Any tribute we could pen to the memory of this devoted spirit would be less adequate than the following from the pen of a man who knew him well—Marshall Beck, of Moline, Ill.

"On a certain Sunday, early in 1888, Mrs. Beck and I found ourselves in Dayton, cut off from receiving our current copy of *The Standard*.

"In our unguided wanderings in search of a 'News stand,' we suddenly found ourselves before the 'display window of 'Kile's bookstore,' and which window was given up to the 'display' of a single article, viz.—*The Standard*, many copies, deliberately disposed at each and every angle best calculated to catch the attention of those who should pass, whether friend or foe. The time was 'out of business hours,' but we knew in our hearts that we had found the central haunt of the Dayton Single Taxers; and, promptly on the Monday morning following, we renewed our disturbed connection with *The Standard*.

"When Mr. Kile had accepted our credentials as Single Taxers, we found, to our grateful joy, that such recognition carried with it, also, the great privilege of meeting and cooperating with every true-hearted man or woman in Dayton or in that section of the State, who desired and hoped for, and worked for a better social justice, through the one true means, economic reform; for they all came, and went, to and from his master station on the 'underground railway' to economic liberty.

"As the accepted pioneer and leader, he gave, in his earnest, unostentatious way,

more than all of his spare time and strength and means to the cause, in comparison with which, in his view, nothing else counted as an immediate social necessity. He brushed aside all proposed readjustments of rights which were not fundamental and final, for, perceiving the whole social truth so clearly as to make the vision the pole-star of his dedicated life, he knew, in advance, what discouraging waste of time and energy must befall from half measures and skulking deceptions.

"In season and out, he forced the all-including issue. Wherever he was, the thing had to be assented to or contested. Anything to keep it at the front, for the healing of the nations. Like an uplifted religionist, a true Samaritan, a passionate champion of the inalienable right of universal human happiness and goodness, like one high-called to the altar of truth and justice and love in human life, he unceasingly interviewed, interrogated, wrote, privately and publicly, spoke, privately and publicly, appealed, besought, counseled, and, when the apologists of plutocracy rushed to arms, leaving the field of fair discussion, they felt the unerring thrusts of attack from his ever drawn and flashing sword of reason and truth.

"But notwithstanding this almost lifelong shock and turmoil, his personality was such as to hold him almost wholly immune from attacks upon himself, personally, and from wasteful breaches and bitternesses in his personal relationships.

"His unselfishness and modesty, and inbred civility, and ingrained kindness and moral courage, and dedicatedness were so great, in themselves, and so harmonized in the man, that even those who most bitterly opposed his economic views and his uncompromising crusade for their realization, still respected and honored him as a citizen and a man.

"Although death has fixed a limit to his personal activities as a pioneer of a broader human justice, the life-work of W. W. Kile is not ended. Thousands of men and women whose economic convictions and reform activities were awakened and determined and quickened by his ceaseless appeals and resolute reasoning, are, today, in succeeding steps

and stages, grandly advancing the work for humanity in which he lived and died. It is impossible to compute the sum of influence for good of such a man, as, like the waves in the pond, from the thrown pebble, it spreads and widens to all the shores.

"His best prototype, to my mind, especially in American life, is the sainted Benjamin Lundy, of the 'abolition movement;' though the abolition movement to which our saint and hero gave a life as unselfish, as zealous and as sincere, is far deeper and wider and more saving than even the noble dream of Lundy.

"Next to the upraised, perceiving seers of our race, come the torch-bearing pioneers, each in his own place, in the spread and application, to life, of newly perceived truth; and every true man and woman who knew the work and character of W. W. Kile, while he lived, will write his unstained name and enshrine his beloved memory on this glorious honor roll of unsundering, pioneer 'Soldiers of the Common Good.'

"This letter has far outrun the limits of my original intention, though I have included but a beginning of all the things which ought to be set down in 'appreciation' of this true man."

THE Conference on the High Cost of Living, at Washington, D. C., on July 31, was made notable by significant addresses from Frederick C. Howe, Louis F. Post and others. The Conference adopted resolutions favoring a tax of one per cent. on the assessed value of all land and a tax of two per cent. on the assessed value of land not improved. Copies of the resolutions were sent to all Congressmen, Senators and Governors of the States.

THE Special Number of the *Nonpartisan Leader*, organ of the farmers' movement in North Dakota, and published from Fargo, is a notable issue filled with striking cartoons and interesting reading matter.

THE Rhode Island Tax Reform Association are circulating a petition to the General Assembly urging that body to abolish all taxes except a tax on land values.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

HERE is the amendment to the bill to provide revenue to defray war expenses, to be introduced by Senator Lewis of Illinois.

"That each acre of unoccupied and uncultivated land in the United States, not belonging to the United States government, to be assessed and taxed for the benefit of the United States government in the sum equal to that which the said land is assessed and taxed by the State or Territory in which it is located.

"That said tax to be assessed, levied, and collected by the same agencies of the Federal government that levies and collects taxes of internal revenue, income, and inheritance taxes, as provided in this Act.

"That all lands cultivated for the production of agriculture, or for stock raising, or for any uses by which the land is actually used for the purposes of agriculture or the production of that which makes for food and subsistence of mankind shall, for the purposes of this Act, be regarded as improved land and cultivated."

FOLLOWING on the announcement of the Finance Minister of the State of Sao Paulo (Brazil), that the State government had adopted the suggestions contained in the report of their special delegate, Dr. Luiz Silveira, tending to the progressive concentration of all State taxes upon land values, we have now to announce that twenty-seven municipalities of the same State have petitioned the government for permission to adopt for their local revenues the Single Tax on land values. We are advised that the agitation is spreading throughout the State, and that the petition is likely to be endorsed by all the municipalities, without exception.

R. C. MARR in *The Glasgow Missourian*, quotes from THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW striking paragraphs from B. F. Lindas' recent article from THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

THE Coleridge (Neb.) *Blade* has come out for the Single Tax.