

DEATH OF AUGUST LEWIS.

Quietly, as he had lived, died August Lewis of this city on March 1st. Friend of Henry George, and of the great truth he stood for, yet retiring, modest, almost shrinking, his personality was known to but few. Yet his advice was sought by many of the latter-day propagandists as it was sought in the old days by Henry George himself.

We are familiar with the dedication affixed to George's Science of Political Economy, and this dedication it is now pleasant to recall in thinking of the gentle personality who has followed the prophet to the world of shadows, if indeed to them it be not a world of light: "To August Lewis of New York and Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, who of their own motion, and without suggestion or thought of mine, have helped me to the leisure needed to write it, I affectionately dedicate what in this sense is their work."

A letter received by the editor of the REVIEW from Mr. Lewis is dated February 22, and is couched in highly appreciative terms of the Special British Number. It thanks the editor for the opportunity of making the acquaintance of the nearly three score English and Scottish leaders represented, and says that this number will be valuable for future reference.

THE WORK OF EDUCATION AND THE FELS COMMISSION.

Mr. Daniel Kiefer, Chairman of the Fels Commission, takes us somewhat sharply to task for our statement as to the attitude of the Commission on the subject of propaganda in the last number of the REVIEW. Part of Mr. Kiefer's letter we quote:

"We do not hold that the time for propaganda everywhere is passed. Our position is that more can be accomplished by helping where the movement has progressed enough to bring the securing of concrete results within the range of possibility than to devote funds to a general propaganda.

"There are unquestionably many places

where propaganda is all that can be done just now, but there are others where much else can be done."

We have no disposition to misrepresent the Commission. We are pleased to know that there is at least such a modification of what was reported to be their attitude respecting the question of propaganda that they now concede that the need for it has not passed *everywhere*. Do they think that it has passed in Oregon and Missouri, the two states selected for the political campaigns of last Fall? Has it passed in Seattle, where two unsuccessful political campaigns have been waged?

Do we differ as to the meaning of the word propaganda? Then let us say "education," and try to conceive of a time this side the period when the Single Tax is firmly established in legislation when the need of education will have ceased. If there are concrete measures before a State or municipality then there is increasing need of education.

Here is the crux of the difference between the Commission and its critics. There are other differences, but this is the one that now concerns us. Such concrete results as are sought by every sincere friend of the Single Tax are the fruit of incessant propaganda. Nearly all of the victories achieved in legislation are the results of the speaking and writing of a "little red headed philosopher" who went up and down the globe preaching a new gospel.

The evolution of a reform, is this: A thought in the mind, then in another mind, then in many minds, then in the mind of a majority, or of an active intellectual minority appealing to the ethical hopes of the majority, then in the law which the majority enacts. There is no other way. In the absence of party organization there is then nothing for us to do but *educate* and patiently await results. Such movements as will arise for the attaining of definite results through specific measures will come spontaneously, though far from causelessly. We have pointed out that while the Fels Commission were waging a fight in Oregon for a questionable measure, something happened in the city of Everett where not a cent had been spent beyond a few dollars raised locally. The work done

in Missouri, the necessary educational work carried on by Messrs White, Hill, Moser, Herman and Black, and other devoted spirits—will, ere we are aware of it, bear fruit in some sudden manifestation of concrete legislation.

This is the history of all great movements. They are not brought to perfect flower by hot-house methods. The seed is sown by the bearers of the truth; the soil cannot be chosen nor the field for the harvest mapped out; the seed is scattered widely; and ere we know, the winds have carried it, and in the spring time the hills are white to our wondering eyes. This is the Miracle!

No, gentlemen of the Fels Commission, not the best intentions in the world, nor the wisdom of the wisest, can guide you in the selection of God's acre for the planting of God's truth. What you can do chiefly, and what you can do best, is one thing:

Educate, Educate, Educate.

WORKINGMEN'S INSURANCE.

In an address at the City Club, of Chicago, Dr. Edward L. Burchard, director of the Extension Department of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, had this to say:

"This poster hanging on the wall came to us from London a few weeks ago, and is the smaller size of a poster which was prepared by the National Liberal Insurance League, an adjunct to the Liberal party, to illustrate the benefits of England's new workmen's insurance, not only to the working mothers, giving them, as you see, thirty shillings a week during maternity—and she may not return to work until four weeks after childbirth—but showing also the great economic advantages to the workingmen. The visitor saw these posters everywhere on the dead walls of London last summer at a time when the English workingmen's support was wavering because they didn't know whether they liked to be forced to do compulsory saving or not, even if it was only eight cents a week; it went against the British grain to be compelled

to do anything. But Germany had carried on this health insurance for some twenty years, protecting now forty-five million of her sixty-five million people, and England felt that it was high time for her to begin, and so, July 15 last, the act went into effect for fifteen million workers."

We think this attitude of the British workmen, partly of indifference when not of hostility, toward schemes of State Insurance springs from a truer instinct than this condemnation of British dislike of compulsory legislation. While many peoples seem hastening toward the adoption of measures of this character, which at their best can but palliate the evils of poverty and which at their worst must postpone the adoption of fundamental remedies, English workingmen seem to have set their faces toward the pole that lies at the other side of the economic world, and it is a cause for congratulation.

In this connection it seems to us a matter of grave regret that Herbert Bigelow should have given countenance, if he be correctly reported by the *Hudson Observer*, to the scheme of state insurance embodied in the Ohio Constitution in a speech delivered in Jersey City, early in December.

Even in Germany Dr. Ferdinand Friedensberg, who for many years occupied a prominent place in the Imperial Insurance Office, tells us that the difficulties encountered in gaining the confidence of the workingmen were well nigh insuperable. It is the testimony of many whose authority carries conviction that even in Germany the social insurance designed to abolish pauperism and displace charity has developed a new and degrading system of pauperism and fraud. Testimony is not lacking, even amid a rather noisy chorus of encomiums, that the system has been grossly abused, and seems in its very nature to lend itself to such abuse. The records of court actions covering claims for insurance in cases of accidents incurred on the way to and from work, are said to embody a revelation of lying and false swearing that would put Munchausen to the blush. And that this insurance is not paid cheerfully by either workman or employer is proven by the number of fines for delin-