

MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC LEAGUE

"The object of the Association is to inform and organize public sentiment in matters pertaining to the charitable and reformatory interests and institutions of the Commonwealth, and to promote the study, careful framing and systematic agitation of measures of social improvement."

EDWARD CUMMINGS, PRESIDENT
JOSEPH LEE, VICE-PRESIDENT
LAWRENCE G. BROOKS, TREASURER

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EDWARD T. HARTMAN, SECRETARY
TELEPHONE, HAYMARKET 2102
3 JOY STREET, BOSTON

June 24, 1915.

Alexander Mackendrick, Esq.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

The last legislature established a recess committee on taxation. The Senate members are:

Hon. N. A. Tufts, 802 Main Street, Waltham
Hon. H. G. Wells, 4 Arlington Place, Haverhill

and the House members are:

F. B. Felton, Esq., Greenfield
Allison G. Catheron, Esq., 19 Milk Street, Boston
G. P. Drury, Esq., 89 State Street, Boston
W.M. McMorrow, Esq., 53 State Street, Boston

The Springfield Republican in a news item pointed out a day or two ago that the members of the committee so far appointed (two or three are to be appointed by the Governor to represent the public) represent the conservative interests. I think this is undoubtedly true. I believe, however, that by cautious and persistent work some liberal ideas may be developed among them.

Mr. A. G. Catheron, whom I know very well, is one of the best, perhaps the best man, in the legislature. While of conservative tendencies he is public spirited and willing to know the truth. In a letter just received he says:

"I am interested in what you say about land values taxation and have already done a little reading in that direction. I expect to read "Progress and Poverty" though I do not expect on that account to come to the conclusion that this state should adopt the single tax. It may be, however, that something in the direction of land values taxation can be framed both practicable and desirable and I would be very glad to receive any suggestions from you or to be referred to any articles which you think I ought to read."

Can not you and some of the other men cooperate with me in putting into Mr. Catheron's hands the best material? We must not flood him with literature. There is a short publication entitled, I think, "A Short Road to the Single Tax". I have not a copy and I do not know the exact title. You might be able to put one of these into his hands. I

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think it is an opportunity worth considering and I wish that at the next meeting of the executive committee it might be taken up and the very best things put in Mr. Catheron's way. I am sure it will not be wasted effort. A little might be sent to the other members but it would have to be carefully selected. The story of the Pennsylvania law, its repeal by the legislature and its veto by Governor Brumbaugh would I think be helpful. I do not think the story has been properly written for our particular purpose. The last issue of The Public contains a news item but it does not show the principles of the law and give what would enable these men to understand the situation.

Very sincerely yours,

E. T. Hartman

*Replied - asking Mr. H. to
Call & select literature*