

C O P Y

July 6, 1911.

Mr. Daniel Kiefer,
Commercial-Tribune Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Kiefer:

You have been sending to various people by mail (how many, of course, I do not know), copies of Eggleston's letter of the 19th ult. to you, and your answer thereto, dated the 27th ult. I do not know enough of the merits of the controversy, in respect to Fols, to form a judgment; but I do know that whatever Lawson Purdy says, writes or does, is sincere and dictated by the loftiest motives, even if the majority think he is mistaken. He is, of course, the subject of temperate criticism as much as any other man. Eggleston's letter and your reply thereto constitute intemperate criticism. I cannot believe that either Mr. Fols or the majority of the Commission would approve your action in sending out copies of Eggleston's letter in which he calls Mr. Purdy "either a fool or a respectable crook." While your letter is not so harsh, you state that "Purdy's behavior entitles him to suspicion." This reply, taken in connection with Eggleston's letter which you enclosed, written by the Chairman of the Fols Fund Commission, looks to me like an official endorsement of Eggleston's attack.

As a personal friend of Lawson Purdy, and as President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, of which he is a member, this Club being the official Single Tax organization in New York City, where Mr. Purdy resides, I cannot allow such attacks to go unnoticed, especially because my name, as a member of the Advisory Board of the Fols Fund Commission, seems to give the attacks my sanction. Unless, therefore, I receive a reasonable explanation of this attack, or, failing that, unless a written apology is sent to all those who received copies of the attack, I shall send in my resignation as a member of the Advisory Board, and shall also withdraw my support from the Commission.

Another thought comes to me: Eggleston takes his living out of the salary he receives from the Commission, and presumably writes what he deems is pleasing to his employers. That fact may, or may not, excuse Eggleston. It does not, however, it seems to me, excuse a Commission that purports to represent the Single Tax sentiment of the United States. Even on the low plane of expediency, is it wise to divide our all-too-small forces by drumming out of the ranks a distinguished veteran, and thus, by inciting the antagonism of his friends, halt the progress of the movement? The fundamental thought in all of Henry George's writings and speeches was: the brotherhood of man. It would be well for you and Mr. Eggleston to remember this whenever you feel inclined to attack a brother Single Taxer.

Sincerely yours,

F. C. Leubuscher

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