

Senia,

LAKE GEORGE

NEW YORK

Personal

15th July, 1911.

Mr A C Pleydell,
29 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr Pleydell:

I have today reply from Mr Kiefer to my letter, enclosing to me copies of various correspondence, among them copy of your letter of July 1st to Mr Bolton Hall. Allow me to say that while doubtless it was unintentional, it strikes me as lacking in entire frankness that you should not have informed me of your position with reference to Mr Hall, when you wrote to me with respect to the attack on Mr Purdy. I have, as you know, written to Mr Kiefer of Mr Purdy, and have no question whatever as to the impropriety and more of the attack upon him, but you will allow me to say that I think your formal and official request to Mr Hall seems to me of more importance than the correspondence between Mr Eggleston and Mr Kiefer.

I think it quite unsuitable that you should be in a position of defending Mr Foote, and requesting Mr Hall to step out. I have known Mr Foote for about 30 years, and it so chances that it was I who sent Mr Samuel Scovil from New York to the Cleveland Illuminating Co. I have no question whatever that the Ohio people are right in deeming Mr Foote a serious enemy of the Single Tax cause, and therefore to a large extent to a really wise reform of taxation. I concede that Mr Foote is doubtless sincere, as all long headed monopolists are, in his desire to have the methods of taxation reformed, but to those of us who believe that partial reform is only the beginning of the movement, it seems clear that the prominence of a man of Mr

Foote's type, and one having his relation to corporate monopolistic influences, is liable to be more harmful in the later progress of the campaign than it could be helpful in the earlier.

While Mr Kiefer puts the case pretty strongly in his letter of June 11th to Mr Purdy, I have no question but that he is accurate in his statement of the real situation. You must know that Mr Scovil and the corporate influences he is related to in Cleveland were bitterly opposed to Tom Johnson, and in my judgement, from my conversations with Mr Scovil, very unjust in their accusations.

As you brought this matter to my attention, I shall delay answering Mr Kiefer till I may hear from you further, and particularly as to whether I may see a copy of Mr Purdy's letter replying to Mr Kiefer's letter of June 11th. I am most sorry that Mr Purdy has the confidence in Mr Foote which his letter indicates. I have no doubt myself that he is perhaps the most dangerous enemy to thorough-going taxation reform whom Ohio single taxers have to combat.

Mr Kiefer sends to me also a copy of his letter of July 10th to Mr Beubuscher.

I am,

Very truly yours,

