

TELEPHONES
FORT HILL 943
944

HENRY D. NUNN
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BOSTON

August 2, 1915.

Rev. Ernest F. W. Smith,
North Dana, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of July 26th would have been answered before this but for the fact that the writer, who has spent most of his later years in the Single Tax Movement in Glasgow, was not sufficiently familiar with the ~~about~~ which you desired information to answer them from his own knowledge and had to take the matter up with others.

question
As to your first question, do you think that the constitutional amendment if accepted at the polls in the coming election can be made of very much benefit to the cause of tax reform?

In the first place you are doubtless aware that our organization has in no way advocated the constitutional amendment which will come up at the polls next fall. The amendment supported by this organization was simply one to break down constitutional barriers and leave the legislature free to deal with the question of taxation in any way it might see fit. This amendment was adopted by the legislature last term but will have to be again adopted by the next legislature before it can be submitted to the people.

Most of our members regard the amendment which is to be voted upon by the people next fall as a makeshift which will delay rather than promote fundamental tax reform.

Your second question regarding the attitude of the Massachusetts Grange is one I am not able to answer fully at the moment. I believe however that nothing worth mentioning has been done by our organization to reform the grange and so far as I know we have not been in touch with the Single Tax League of the Progressive State Granges. Our movement in Massachusetts prior to two or three years ago was exceedingly ~~meagre~~ *meagre* and the awakening has necessarily been slow. Many desirable lines of activity have been discussed but effort has been possible only along a few lines so far.

I cannot find that the attitude of Representative Cross is known to any of our active workers.

As to capturing the machinery of the Progressive Party I am advised that earnest effort by able single taxers within the party were made to lead that organization along fundamental lines of tax reform but with very trifling success. A slight concession was made to the single taxers in the state platform two years ago but the state platform last year dodged the issue in spite of the fact that it was ably urged. The Progressive Party is so obsessed

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with the notion of helping everybody by paternal means and regulations that it seems questionable to our men who have considered the matter, as to whether the machinery is worth capturing.

All of our executive committee members have felt the desirability of making an early beginning toward educating Massachusetts farmers and no doubt your advice and assistance in this matter will be extremely valuable, and on behalf of the executive committee I cordially invite you to attend one of the regular meetings of our executive committee at your earliest opportunity.

We are obliged to you for the information that you are available for public speaking in your neighborhood and will be glad to notify you when an occasion arises.

Whenever you are in Boston during the hours when the headquarters are open you will be cordially welcome.

Very truly yours,