

Death of Charles Magin

A FREQUENT visitor to this office was Charles Magin of East Orange, N. J., whose death on July 9 is announced. It is difficult to believe that this splendid veteran of the movement had attained the ripe age of 88, for he was mentally alert and physically capable almost to the last. Nothing that served to advance the Single Tax movement was allowed to go unnoted. His was a fine, tolerant spirit, and he had no word of harsh critical dissent for any one sincerely devoted to the cause and preferring to do his own work in his own way.

And he had an enviable record, for fifty years ago he was making stump speeches for the cause and had never ceased to be interested from that time to the present.

Mr. Magin was a Swedenborgian and steeped in the philosophy of that great thinker. Besides, he was a stained-glass window artist and a few of the churches where samples of his work are shown are the Church of the Nativity, Rev. A. Flemming, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Church of the Messiah, Brooklyn, N. Y.; The National Church of the New Jerusalem, Washington, D. C., Transcript window; Christ Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Bethel Presbyterian Church, Rev. MacCaully, East Orange, N. J.; First Presbyterian Church, Newburgh, N. Y.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Edwin P. Wright, East Orange, N. J.; Trinity Congregational Church, East Orange, N. J.; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, Ark., in memory of Bishop H. N. Pierce; Holy Cross Episcopal Church, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Magin attended the School of Heraldry in London where he learned much of interest concerning antique class. It was his delight to reproduce antique effects in stained glass work.

Funeral services for Mr. Magin were conducted at the Colonial Home in East Orange. His wife and three daughters survive him. The couple were to have celebrated their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary in November.

Miscellany

FROM NOAH WEBSTER, A GREAT AMERICAN

Applying to faction the military maxim of M. Porcius Cato, "Bellum seipsum alit," "war feeds itself," a victorious leader supplies the wants, and secures the attachment of his followers by dividing among them the spoils of the vanquished. Then commences the reign of persecution and revenge. The man who mounts into office on popular confidence, may rise with impunity above the constitution of his country and trample on the rights of the people. Under the specious titles of a *republican*, and the *friend of the people*, he may exercise the despotism of a *Frederic*. Noah Webster, p. 4, of the preface to *Miscellaneous Papers*, 1802.

WHAT DR. DILLARD SAW IN JERUSALEM

One day on a train going from Jerusalem to Joppa I happened to be in a compartment with an American engineer in the employment of the British government. During our conversation he suddenly

asked me if I had known anything about Henry George or his theory. I told him that I had known Mr. George very well. He said that in America he had regarded the George movement very lightly, but that since he had been in Palestine he had come to the conclusion that this theory might be the solution of the trouble between the Jew and the Arabs.

To show how widespread are the problems of the land question in Palestine, my friend on the train informed me that two-thirds of the Province of Galilee is subject to absentee landlordism. It is not easy to compare areas in the old country and the new. The drive from Haifa through Nazareth across Galilee to Tiberias is about 20 miles. The drive from Afton, Va., across Albemarle County through Charlottesville to Keswick is a little farther. Roughly speaking, I think we may say that the size of Galilee is about two-thirds that of an average county in Virginia or Maryland.

J. H. DILLARD, in *Washington Post*.

THE OBSERVANT FRANKLIN

Franklin [Benjamin] also saw, what [Professor] Turner elucidate in a later day, that the American colonies were a "frontier" for Europe; that *the cheap lands overseas maintained the level of laborer's wages in England on a higher plane than in continental Europe*. "The salutary effect," said Franklin, "will be produced even without emigration, and will result from the mere possibility of emigrating. . . . But the rise of wages will not be equally felt by the different nations of Europe. It will be *more or less considerable in proportion to the greater or less facilities for emigration which each affords*." The above was written after the French and Indian War but prior to the Revolution. The venerable philosopher returned to the same subject again and again, significantly in a discussion of who should emigrate to America, which can be dated after the completion of the Articles of Confederation, probably 1783-1785. Europeans need not look to the confederation government to foster manufactures with bounties etc. Nor, in general, can such favors be expected from the separate states. Where tried, the results have usually been disappointing: "labor being generally too dear there, and hands difficult to be kept together, everyone desiring to be a master, and the *cheapness of land* inclining many to *leave trades for agriculture*." In the same article Franklin stated: "Insomuch that the propriety of an hundred acres of fertile soil full of wood may be obtained near the frontiers in many places for eight to ten guineas, hearty young laboring men, who understand the husbandry of corn and cattle, which is nearly the same in that country as in Europe, may easily establish themselves there. A little money saved of the good wages they receive there while they work for others, enables them to buy the land and begin their plantation, in which they are assisted by the good will of the neighbors, and some credit. Multitudes of poor people from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany have by this means in a few years become wealthy farmers who, in their own countries, where *all the lands are fully occupied and the wages of labor low, could never have emerged from the poor condition wherein they were born*." "Was there a Safety Valve for Labor?" by Joseph Schafer in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. XXIV, No. 3, December, 1937, pp. 299-300.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

INTRODUCED by Mr. Dyett—read twice and ordered to be printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on State Finances and Revenues, Except Taxation, Expenditure and Restrictions on the Powers of the Legislature in Respect Thereto and to Public Indebtedness.

The Delegates of the People of the State of New York,