

**THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY**FOR  
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STARK B. FERRISS, ATTORNEY.

No. 1 BEEKMAN STREET

NEWYORK, July 8, 1910.

Mr. A. C. Pleydell, Sec.,  
Tax Reform Association,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Pleydell;

Your note of July fifth enclosing a carbon extract of some Felx's Fund correspondence was a painful surprise to me. It is discouraging if not to say disgusting. The point about it that seems to me of most importance is your statement that these extracts, from evidently private letters, "are being circulated by the Felx's Fund". This seems incredible.

I have no desire to add to this mess of bitter and unjust personality. I do not know Mr. Eggleston except by good repute and my acquaintance with Mr. Kiefer is slight. I believe him to be an upright unselfish worker for justice and I incline to great respect for him because I know he has had and still retains the intimate confidence of many of the best of our single tax leaders.

*how ever,*  
I would consider myself recreant if, after reading the stuff you sent me, I did not put on record some-

2.

how or somewhere my indignant repudiation of the mean and utterly unworthy reflections upon Mr. Purdy. Of him I can speak with more intimate knowledge, as I have been not only personally close to him but have been a student of his work as a taxation reformer for many years. I do not think I exaggerate when I say that for effective, constructive work against overwhelming odds no man in the country has done, or is doing, more, if as much, as he. To those who know him it seems something like a cruel joke to have a slur cast upon either his sincerity or his intellectual capacity; and the man who has done it I hope will live to be ashamed of it and to acknowledge his shame. It is enough perhaps to say, as I can say with personal knowledge, that Lawson Purdy had the complete confidence of Henry George, who was a rare judge of prudence and probity in men.

I cannot for the life of me discover why earnest and honest men who are seeking to advance a Common Cause should quarrel and bitterly malign each other about nothing in particular as far as I can find out. I hesitate to reflect upon the Pell's Fund Commission, which I believe has done good work and is composed of good men whose work I am assisting according to my means; but I fear there is a hopeless lack of tact somewhere in the management of the outfit, and a woeful incapacity to measure men rightly.

Of course this letter is not written for publication and it does not call for a reply as I really do not want a reply. I would not have written it at all but for

3.

*about Purdy*  
the feeling that I could not remain silent after reading  
Eggleston.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. C. Ramsey". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

P.S.- Will you give me some information on the point you  
make that this slanderous stuff "is being circulated by the  
Fells Fund"?