

## MANITOBA.

SINGLE TAXERS ORGANIZE—GOOD WORK BEFORE THE TAX COMMISSION—OUT-DOOR WORK PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER.

The Manitoba Single Tax Association was organized for the purpose of propagating the Single Tax in this province on the 23rd March, 1909.

Officers:—President, Mr. W. D. Lamb, Plumas, Man.; Vice President, Mr. Jos. Schietle, Winnipeg; Sec.-Treas., Mr. F. J. Dixon, Winnipeg.

Our infant association is growing rapidly and has the reputation of being able to make more noise for its size than any other in the community. We have held several indoor meetings and intend to do a lot of propaganda work in the open air this summer. Last year though unorganized, we did considerable street speaking and distributed much literature.

A commission was appointed last year to inquire into the system of taxation in the city of Winnipeg. We persuaded the commissioners to devote two whole evenings to the Single Tax. At first we were treated as mild fanatics, but finally succeeded in making a favorable impression and doing some educational work. Dr. S. G. Bland and Prof. R. M. Mobius were our principal speakers and they handled the subject in a very able manner.

Our present law states that buildings and land must be assessed at their full value; church property (not exceeding two acres in area) is exempt from taxation. The commission recommended that buildings be assessed at two-thirds of their actual value and land at its full value. That church lands be taxed according to their value, the buildings to remain exempt.

A pernicious business tax remains in force with slight alterations. No action will be taken on the report this year.

F. J. DIXON.

## WINNIPEG.

ON April 2nd Henry George, Jr., sailed for Japan on a mission for *Colliers Weekly*. We have his promise to contribute one or more articles for the REVIEW during his stay in Japan.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

ARKANSAS MAY SOON FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OREGON.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I write to inform the REVIEW that the fight in Arkansas for the Initiative and Referendum has resulted in the passage of a concurrent resolution by the Legislature for the submission of a proposed Constitutional Amendment, the question to be voted on at the next general election. The Bill is virtually a copy of the Oregon law, and was introduced in the Senate by Senator Arnold, of Clarke County, and was carried with only one dissenting vote, that of Senator Toneg, of Jefferson Co. It then went to the House, where it was adopted with only 4 dissenting votes, Representative Winn, of Pulaski making a vicious fight against it, calling it socialism and anarchy, but the friends of the measure had given it standing and respectability by having it incorporated as a plank in the Democratic platform which was the most effective way, especially as it saved time. The House tacked on an amendment to include cities and towns, which amendment the Senate concurred in with very little debate. The next step now will be for the voters to adopt it at the polls.

The same measure was overwhelmingly defeated two years ago, which shows how public sentiment can be made for a measure that has merit.

ROBT. HERIOT.

TEXARKANA, Arkansas.

PROFESSOR BRAUN AT BUDAPEST.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

A month ago I received an invitation for February from the Free School of Social Sciences at Budapest to lecture on the land question. I was invited to make a series (2 hours) of lectures, but my occupation as well as the great distance (about 340 miles) rendered that impossible. So I could not deliver more than one lecture of two hours. The director of the school was present (its title was: Henry George and the land question). He expressed his sympathy for our doctrines, and invited

me to come soon again to have an open debate with the Socialists.

In the first part of my lecture I spoke of George's theory (for many good arguments I am greatly indebted to Mr. Post's really admirable tract, *The Single Tax*) and in the second I compared two different counties of Hungary: the first where nearly all common land was recently subdivided and then bought by land speculators: the other where people are still using common land for common purposes. In the second county about 70 per cent. of all land is property of the village communities, and there are no large proprietors at all, but there are no paupers either; they practice the most intensive agriculture with ampler use of modern improvements than in any other part of Hungary, proving that common property in land is not at all incompatible with the highest development of agriculture. They have the most instructed clergy and the best schools in Hungary—they can afford it—and consequently the fewest criminals.

I hope to go a few months hence to the capital for an open debate with the Socialists, and I am sorry that I cannot do more for the Single Tax, being so far from the capital, and having no means to publish my translations of George's works.

ROBERT BRAUN.

MAVOS-VASAVHELY, Hungary.

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#### PROSPECTS GOOD IN OREGON.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

You ask for suggestions in the event that the Fels offer is met by other Single Taxers. I am too poor to be a financial contributor at present, but may be before the five years are up. At any rate I trust that others have been more fortunate than I, and will respond to the sanest call ever issued by a man of means in our movement, for any amount of fireworks by any man, however able or successful, in any one spot, can not serve as a substitute for a general propaganda movement; for the simple reason that the economic disease is not local but constitutional, and must be so treated.

Yet I believe there are points of least resistance even with the remedy for a con-

stitutional disease, and whether the proposition of Mr. Fels is met or not I wish to call attention of men of means like him to the opportunity in Oregon. I am glad to know that other States have swung into line for direct legislation lately, but they are children yet in reform, and they may be obliged to go through court proceedings. But not so in Oregon, which is ten years ahead of any State in the Union.

Direct legislation is no longer a novelty there, and the people have turned their attention to economic reform. They will doubtless start to cutting the branches of the tree first. The danger is that socialistic policies will be inaugurated and discredit reform, and as the Nation will look to Oregon as an experiment, we can not afford to allow it to get a set back. I understand our friends next move may be for local option in Taxation, and the Socialists are starting out for State ownership of every thing except land. It may be possible to secure local option in taxation in the next two years.

Should local option succeed, Portland, which voted for local option last Spring, would doubtless be the first city in the Union to adopt the Single Tax. Portland being an important sea port and growing city, the illustration would be superb. At any rate, every effort should be made to see it that our friends, the enemy, do not place the socialistic stamp on Democratic Oregon.

J. R. HERMANN.

ORAL, So. Dakota.

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#### NEWSPAPERS HOSPITABLE TO DISCUSSION.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Within the past week there have appeared in the Nashville *Tennessean* Single Tax letters from Geo. W. Knight, San Marcos, Texas, W. H. T. Wakefield, Mound City, Kansas, and Joseph Fels, London, England, the latter a lengthy article on Land Values Taxation in Britain.

Good mediums for Single Tax communications in this State are the *Tennessean*, Nashville, *The News-Scimitar*, Memphis and *The Smith County News*, Carthage.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

A. FREELAND.