

have said it, that the British government has shown an inclination to "wobble." And they have felt, and they have said it, that the government was not definite as to the time and manner in which they proposed to carry their pledge into effect. There can be no question that the great body of workingmen of England and Scotland, especially the latter country, where the doctrines of Henry George have been incessantly preached these thirty years—is ready and eager for a more drastic policy than the government has yet shown a disposition to adopt. Even this speech of Lloyd George at St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, failed to dwell upon the effects which would follow the taxation of land values. The social benefits of the proposal did not seem to engage the Chancellor's attention so much as its fiscal advantages. He is surely aware by this time of the feelings of a Glasgow audience, and he must have known that most of his hearers are for the taxation of privilege for more important reasons than were hinted at in his address. And the speech though received in kindly spirit failed to arouse that enthusiasm the cue for which was eagerly awaited.

The *Highland News* in explanation of the character of the speech and its apathetic reception, said: "It might have been that Mr. Lloyd George had been deceived as to the strength of the land values movement in Scotland, and in Glasgow in particular." If this is so Mr. George must be a much more poorly informed politician than people have imagined. But if so, this meeting, and the outburst of applause when he said: "You must make the land contribute to public expenditure on the basis of its value," no doubt undeceived him.

SOME INTERESTING EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB. 1886-1892.

(Continued.)

(For the Review.)

By BENJAMIN DOBLIN.

This series of memoranda, as we explained in our last issue, are designed merely to furnish the ground work for a history of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. Those who can contribute anything to the data here collected should communicate with Mr. Doblin, or the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.—THE EDITOR.

1896.

Lawson Purdy, President; Proposed Charter for Consolidated City; watched for the purpose of inserting provision for the Publication of Assessments.

April 2nd—Resolution of sympathy sent to the widow and family of our co-worker, W. B. Scott.

April 24th—Edward Polak, now Register of the newly organized county of Bronx, elected a member.

June 26—Wilfred Laurier congratulated upon his election as Premier of Canada. Committee appointed to wait upon Mayor Strong and present evidence of the law's violation in tax assessments and to insist that he instruct his tax Commissioners to obey the law and make legal tax valuations.

Sept.—Club moved to 119 East 23rd street. Still agitating for the opening of school houses, by circulating petitions, and conference with other civic organizations. Memorials and resolutions adopted through club-urging by trade and labor organizations; committee interviews the various school boards; this work was persistently pursued all during the late summer and autumn.

Dec. 21—Edward McHugh, of Glasgow, elected an honorary member.

Resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to address a letter to the Police Department setting forth the circumstances attending the arrest of the Chairman of the outdoor meeting and intimating that the Club did not desire to prefer charges against the officer at this time but that the club emphatically protests against any further action of the same kind on the part of the police.

1897.

Robert Schalkenbach elected President.

May 6th—Brown, Seabury and Klein appointed a committee to arrange for dinner and reception to Thos. G. Shearman upon his return from Europe. The dinner largely attended, Tom L. Johnson and other notables present.

June 29—Organize the Manhattan School of Economics.

Sept 2nd—Resolution of sympathy to widow of John Brown.

Sept. 7th—Delegates elected to Labor Conference, Chicago, John S. Crosby, A. J. Wolf, Jerome O'Neill and James R. Brown.

Oct. 4th—The M. S. T. C. nominates Henry George for Mayor by acclamation. Campaign committee appointed: John S. Crosby, Jas. R. Brown, Samuel Seabury, Benjamin Doblin and E. M. Klein.

George campaign and funeral.

1898.

Robert Schalkenbach re-elected president.

Jan. 14—John S. Crosby elected an honorary member. Public meetings in United Charities building every Saturday evening from Jan. to May 1st. Letter-writing corps revived.

Feb.—E. M. Klein's motion adopted that the club make an annual celebration of Henry George's birthday and urge similar action on all Single Taxers throughout the world. Labor Reform conference held in St. Louis. John S. Crosby appointed delegate. Club takes action against attempted validation of railroad bills known as the Huckleberry Bill. Seabury declares they are filled with fraud.

Conference at City Club of all Civic organizations which did finally succeed in blocking the steal. L. F. Post established *The Public*. Club donates the works of Henry George to the Mills Building library.

May 5—Seabury, Barker and Gilloon appointed a committee to protest against police interference with free speech, in suppressing a meeting of Socialists in Union Square April 30th. Seabury reports for committee; they requested the Socialists to send them the facts so that the Club could co-operate with them in a protest but could get no evidence from them; neither would they join in any way with the committee in voicing a protest, thereupon the Club adopted the following resolutions which were sent to all newspapers and by them suppressed:

"At a meeting of M. S. T. C., May, 1898, a resolution was unanimously adopted protesting against the action of the Chief of Police in preventing an open air meeting of the Socialist Labor party in Union Square on April 30th, 1898.

It appears that a permit had been granted to have the usual May day parade and meeting; that on the day the permit was issued by the Chief of Police an editorial was printed in the *Volks Zeitung* which in the opinion of the chief showed that pro-Spanish addresses were likely to be made at the contemplated meeting. The Chief called the Secretary of the Socialist section and requested information on the point; the Secretary explained that the Chief's interpretation was not proper. The editorial was not official and part of it had in the interpretation been garbled. Thereupon the Chief said that unless the *Volks Zeitung* made a retraction of its editorial, he would prevent the holding of the meeting and would insist upon a guarantee by the committee of arrangements that the speakers would not in any way refer to the war question, and demanded a copy of the proposed resolutions. A delegate of the S. L. P. called on the Chief and part of an editorial from the *People* which says: "As to us, we know full well that, whether Cuba passes over to 'us' or is made 'free' our fate or the fate of Cuba's toilers will not be improved. The Chief announced that if the speakers followed this general idea he would stop the meeting. Later the Chief was informed that the proposed resolutions prepared for the meeting would not be submitted to him in advance. The Chief then announced that he would prevent the meeting. The meeting was then under protest abandoned.

The M. S. T. C. is not a socialist organization, nor is it affiliated in any way with the S. L. P.; it has been and is a loyal patriotic society and has no sympathy with treason or treasonable utterances, and its members would in time of need furnish a full quota of men needed for the national defense.

This protest is based on the belief that the action of the Chief of Police in demanding a retraction of the *Volks Zeitung* editorial amounted to the establishment of a press censorship in a land where a free press is demanded by the vital liberty of the people. That the demand of the Chief to read in advance of their introduction the proposed resolutions was wholly unwarranted and unjustifiable on any ground. That the right of the people peaceably to assemble is guaranteed by the constitution and that the right to hold public meetings in the public streets and places is the right of the citizens of this city.

We believe that the action of the Chief of Police in demanding a retraction of an editorial and preventing a meeting in a public place of citizens who would gather to discuss public questions was unwarranted, unjust, a usurpation of authority, a denial of the American idea of a free press and free speech and that it was in the highest degree reprehensible and subversive of the welfare of the citizens, and a restriction of liberty."

(To be continued.)

FRENCH CAPITAL AND ITS PROPER FUNCTION.

By **ERNEST MANSUY**, (Bookkeeper).

"Our fundamental error consists in treating land as private property."—Henry George.

Translated for the **SINGLE TAX REVIEW** by F. W. Garrison.

(Concluded).

It is true that the land question, and its social importance have already been presented to the French public. I, myself, before knowing the works of Henry George, published an essay of some sixty pages on the same subject. This pamphlet appeared in 1888 and I need not add that it failed to mark an epoch in the history of economic literature. Of the several hundred papers to which I sent copies only a few risked a reference to it, confining themselves to a mention of the title, which, I admit, was rather long. It was: "The Whole Law of Property and the Suppression of Taxes."

I cannot now remember what were the important questions which at that time filled the columns of the public sheets, whether the new theory of free bread, the ancient but ever throbbing question of weekly rest, that of the eight hour day, or compulsory vaccination, etc. What is certain is that the most complete silence surrounded a question which seemed to me important and of interest to the public.

Whatever it may have been, in default of other merits my work had that of presenting the problem in a personal way and regarded from other points of view than those chosen by the famous American sociologist.

A question as important as that which confronts us necessarily presents itself in many aspects; it is not sufficient to give the true solution; it must be treated in different ways to appeal to different intelligences. As an American Henry George was above all a practical man, and although he was far from neglecting the moral side of the question, he appealed particularly to the large class of men who demand that the material advantages of a proposition be revealed. This preoccupation led him into numerous details giving specific replies to all objections, but at the same time raising complications which are disconcerting to minds lacking in subtlety. But besides practical people there