

the benefit of non-Single Taxers present Mr. Post here gave an admirable statement of our doctrine.

The speaker pointed out that landlordism assumes an entirely different form from landlordism as we know it. "Here the corporations have capitalized their land values. The railroads are great landlords, some of the building companies are great landlords, the steel trust is more of a landlord than anything else. In Great Britain landlordism assumes the form of deer forests, immense preserves, lordly estates descended from father to son, and existing for hundreds of years. If we could bring landlordism over here in this form we would make short work of it. But suppose we had lived under this system a thousand years. That would be a different story.

"There is another difference, too. Here we tax everything from collar buttons up to land. We tax land because it is one kind of property. But in England it is proposed to tax land, not because it is property, *but because it is not property*. The question in England presents itself in this way. Shall this question of unemployment be solved by the adoption of protection or by the opening up of natural opportunities? Make no mistake. This is the great question and must remain the question for some time to come. Protection is gaining, too. From his sick room in Birmingham Joe Chamberlain issued his manifestoes with the result that Birmingham cast Tory majorities without a single defection.

"We should remember, however, that eighteen months ago the Liberal party was demoralised. Its demoralization was like the demoralization of the democratic party here. Then came this act of statesmanship and with it the democratization of the democratic party of Great Britain. It was a hard fight to make, but the Liberal forces have won."

MR. L. HENRY, a veteran labor member of the Henry George movement, has a letter in a recent number of the *Bricklayer and Mason*. Mr. Henry says: "Conservation of land values or preservation of natural resources is another way of expressing, 'Get off our backs.'"

SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM THE OFFICIAL MINUTES.)

The Single Tax Conference in Pittsburg on March 2nd at the Hotel Henry was a great success. Over three hundred were in attendance. The Conference was called to order by Ralph E. Smith at 10 A. M. and W. W. Bailey of Johnstown was elected Chairman and B. B. McGinnis, of Pittsburg, Secretary.

The Chairman appointed W. D. George, Joseph Fels and Joseph R. Eckert to visit Mayor McGee and invite him to attend the meetings of the Conference. Frank Stephens, C. E. Bender and C. R. Eckert were appointed a committee on resolutions.

A discussion of the mercantile tax now ensued in which Messrs. Henry George, Bailey, Bender, Park and others took part.

Mr. Fels read a paper on the progress of the Single Tax in Great Britain.

The afternoon session began at 2:15. Mr. Bailey opened the discussion on direct legislation.

Mr. Wilson:—We should associate ourselves with the democratic party to get results.

Mr. Fels strongly opposed association with any party.

Then followed discussion on the conservation question in which Messrs. Fels, Tiers, Stevens and Henry George, Jr., took part.

The Committee on Resolutions here reported the following which were adopted, with amendment offered by Mr. Wilson that Single Taxers lend their efforts to secure the separate assessment of land and improvements in Pittsburg:

"We recognize and again wish to emphasize the fact that industry and commerce are clogged, fettered and bound by our antiquated and unscientific system of taxation, and that new life and vigor will be given to trade and business by a revision of our tax laws, in accordance with scientific and just principles. In view of the fact that a legislative committee has been appointed for the purpose of investigating the tax question:

We recommend that the local Single

Tax organization send representatives, in conjunction with delegates of this conference, to appear before the said legislative committee at its meeting to be held in this city, and urge, as a matter of simple justice that all taxes which fall upon industry and commerce—and thus hinder and cripple production and trade—be abolished, and all taxes be levied upon the rental value of land.

We urge, as a beginning in the development of this comprehensive tax system, the abolition of the obnoxious mercantile tax, and as a further step in the development of a rational system of taxation, we recommend that land and improvements be assessed separately and that such assessments be given to the people by publication.

The right of the people to rule is a recognized sovereign, indefeasible right; we therefore advocate the system known as the initiative and referendum with the recall, and particularly local option in taxation, and that all losses to the state by the abolition of obnoxious taxes be supplied by the several counties, in proportion to the amount raised by the said several counties for their own local government, by such methods as the people of the respective counties may designate by expressing their will through the medium of local option in taxation.

We call upon all those who are in sympathy, either in whole or in part, with the recommendations herein set forth, to co-operate with the local Single Tax organization and conversely we recommend that local Single Tax organizations co-operate and join with all those seeking to improve our present methods of taxation.

England has set the world afire through the agitation of the tax question and we recognize in the work that has been done by our brethren across the sea the beginning of the abolition of the great fundamental monopoly of the natural resources. To all engaged in this great and intense struggle we send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for further successes and triumphs.

Charles R. Eckert,
H. S. Bender,
Frank Stephens."

The banquet in the evening was attended by 200 Single Taxers and their guests. Mr. W. W. Bailey was toastmaster and masterful speeches were made by Joseph Fels, W. H. Wilson, Henry George, Jr., and Rabbi J. Leonard Levy. The last named said that while not yet converted to the Single Tax he was for justice and if it meant the removal of the curse of poverty he would cheerfully join the ranks.

The Conference was a success in numbers and enthusiasm and cannot fail to have its effect in Pittsburg and throughout the state.

FROM a letter recently received from Mrs. Eliza Stowe Twitchell we quote the following from a communication addressed to her by Rev. Samuel Brazier, whose death was noted in the last number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

"On his seventy-third birthday he sent me one of his poems, entitled 'Day's Decline.' In a note accompanying it he says, 'I am seventy-three years old today and abate not one jot of interest in the Single Tax cause, and in every movement that makes for the happiness of mankind.—I hate the crimes of the poor; and still more the crimes of the rich. What a beautiful world it is! As I write, how glorious is the sunlight that falls on sea and land. This earth is as rich as it is beautiful. There is more than enough to fill every home with plenty. I would like to live again when the ignorance and error that darkens the world today have forever passed away. I hope I may see the dawn of the better time that will

Make wine and corn

To each man born

As free as warmth in summer weather.'"

It is worth all our efforts for economic reform if we can take from the eyes of men that hunted fearful look which we see in the faces of the menial afraid of losing his job—that servile air of a man whose natural attitude should be erect, the feeble smile of expectant subservience. Slave, flunky—that look in the face of Man does not belong there!