

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE FOWLDS
OF NEW ZEALAND.

Following is an abstract of an address delivered by Hon. George Fowlds, now in England, at a dinner tendered him by members of Parliament last month:—

My first duty is to express my keen appreciation of the great kindness which you have shown to me in asking me to dine with you tonight. I have reports of the lavish hospitality which you have extended to Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament from the Dominions beyond the seas. But I can lay claim to none of these distinctions. I am only a plain citizen of New Zealand, and therefore I appreciate all the more highly the honor you confer upon me.

I presume that I may take it that your entertainment is partly in recognition of the work I was able to do when I did hold official rank, and partly a compliment to the loyal Dominion from whence I come.

The achievement of useful work is in itself a great reward for the arduous and worrying life of a public man. The slings and arrows which are directed against public men in New Zealand as elsewhere require some compensation. I feel glad that I had the opportunity of useful service to the dominion of New Zealand.

I was able to materially improve and extend our splendid system of national education, to leave the teaching staff more content with their status and remuneration, and the people more generally satisfied that they were getting value for their large expenditure.

Mr. Fowlds here spoke of home rule in New Zealand and the Transvaal, and said "I believe that more freedom coupled with justice is the great solvent of all social and political troubles. I have heard people say that our great empire has blundered into greatness. Don't believe it. Our great empire is great because of its fundamental belief in the principles of liberty and justice. Cunning, knavery and force are opposed to the great moral principle that govern the universe.

I am an imperialist. I glory in the greatness of the British Empire. But just as our empire, in spite of its mistakes,

has been built up on the principle of freedom, so will the maintenance and extension of its greatness in the future depend upon its adhesion to that great principle. Any attempt to bind it together by inflexible iron bands will tend to its dissolution. The union of justice with freedom is essential to true national greatness.

History teaches us that a nation may have great accumulation of wealth yet be tottering to its fall. I am strongly of opinion that our civilization is approaching a crisis in its history.

The schoolmaster has been abroad to some purpose for the past four or five years.

If you want to keep the masses of the people in servitude you must keep them in ignorance. Our forefathers struggled valiantly for political liberty and equality. But even that partial liberty we have secured cannot long survive alongside the growing inequalities of conditions which we find in every so-called civilized country.

We have tried to be just and sometimes generous to the subject peoples which have come under our control. We need to give expansion to our ideal of justice and extend it to the brethren within our borders. Equality of opportunity is quite as important as political equality. Our ancestors have fought and have partly secured the latter. Let us hurry and complete the work of political equality without delay to acquire economic equality.

So long as the mother earth, the great store house of nature, is monopolized by the few, political liberty may be both dangerous and cruel; so long also will want and misery haunt the land and practical slavery remain the lot of the many.

We have done something in New Zealand, but not much, to secure the establishment of social justice, and I am glad that you in Great Britain are making a beginning by the taxation of land values to liberate the land for the people. The proper adjustment of Man's relation to his Mother Earth is the great problem which civilization must solve in the coming years, or it will perish like the civilizations of Greece, and Rome, and from the same cause.

We are all land animals and can only live

on and by access to the land. If we are denied that we perish.

New Zealand in 25 years has created £140,000,000 unimproved land values, and £126,000,000 of this has gone into the possession of not more than 22,500 families. When Persia perished one per cent. owned all the land of Persia. In Rome 1800 persons owned all the known world. In the United States the richest one per cent. of the people have a larger income than the poorest 50 per cent.

These conditions cannot continue. New Zealand has done something to blaze the trail for the taxation of land values throughout the empire, and in doing so she has made a larger contribution to the preservation and consolidation of the Empire than she did when she presented the Dreadnaught.

JEFFERSON DINNER OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

On April 18 the Manhattan Single Tax Club celebrated its 27th Annual Dinner in honor of Thomas Jefferson at the Hotel St. Denis, this city. William C. De Mille acted as toastmaster, and introduced Mr. F. C. Leubuscher as the first speaker of the evening, who made an appeal for the *Tenants' Weekly*. Western Starr spoke on "Jefferson Democracy and the Single Tax," and made the somewhat questionable statement that George had added nothing to democracy, but had given democracy its instrument." In a single generation the philosophy of Henry George had imprinted its stamp on civilization. Not in four hundred years after the advent of Christianity had the teachings of Christ permeated so far and so wide. Mr. George's philosophy was never so near its triumph. There was never so much cause for hope.

State Senator Charles O'Connor Hennessey, of New Jersey, spoke on the new freedom and New Jersey, and quoted from President Wilson's work and told of progress in New Jersey. Thirty-one members of the Legislature had voted intelligently upon the subject of home rule in taxation.

Mary Garret Hay spoke on the justice of women suffrage and Chas. Frederic Adams on Jefferson and the Judiciary. Mr. Adams contended that the Supreme Court has no powers other than to decide cases that come before it, and that there is no word in the Constitution which establishes that body as a court of final resort. Our Judiciary system was borrowed from England, and the English Judiciary system establishes merely the settlement of controversy. The court has nothing to declare officially; it speaks only when its decision is asked by a litigant. Mr. Adams set forth with great lucidity his well known views on the place occupied by the Supreme Court in our scheme of government. Mrs. E. M. Murray closed the evening's entertainment by explaining the Single Tax. She spoke in high terms of the wonderful work of James R. Brown in the Canadian maritime provinces.

ALLAN ROBINSON AND THE NEW YORK STATE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

In the March-April issue of the *Single Tax REVIEW* (page 56) we commented upon the programme of the New York State Single Tax League as set forth in their circular announcements. In these are outlined the activities which have been undertaken by the League—lecture work and propaganda, systematic distribution of literature and organization plans.

This evidence of activity in the State has not been overlooked by the indefatigable and resourceful Allan Robinson, president of the Allied Real Estate Interests of the State of New York (Inc.). He has been sending around to his real estate friends some of this literature of the League which has been freely supplied him, to impress upon them that they must be up and doing if the work of Single Taxers in the State is to be successfully opposed. With this goes the following letter signed by Mr. Robinson, and the *REVIEW* reader is asked to note several significant statements in the letter, such as "These plans make the socialistic propaganda pale by comparison," and "Have you ever realized how much easier the Single Tax could come than So-