

writer it will always be so hampered while it depends on the contributions of rich men to finance its work.

There was a National Conference of Single Taxers last fall at which the duty and authority to carry on a Single Tax propaganda was assigned to a Committee consisting of general officers and members from each state and territory of the United States and each province of the Dominion of Canada. Here is a body of upwards of 250 persons who are commissioned by the Single Taxers of the Western Hemisphere to get busy and try to get the Single Tax into operation somewhere. This is all right in itself and as it should be, but there is one defect in the instructions to this committee and that defect is well nigh fatal. No ways and means are provided which will enable the committee to do anything, and right here the writer is inclined to remark that the Single Taxers may with profit borrow a leaf from the socialist book. The socialists also have a national committee like the Single Taxers, but unlike the Single Taxers the socialists provide their committee with the means to do its work. The socialists are enrolled and each enrolled member is pledged to contribute 5 cents per month for the use of the national committee. There are upwards of 40,000 enrolled socialists and this gives to their national body an income of more than \$2,000 per month with which to prosecute its work. What is the matter with some such plan as this to supply our national committee with funds? Let us see how it would work out in the case of the Single Tax Committee.

Some one has estimated that there are 250,000 Single Taxers in the United States alone. How near this estimate comes to accuracy the writer has no means of knowing, but he remembers Mr. Croasdale's definition of a Single Taxer as "one who does something for the Single Tax." If there are then one tenth the number estimated who could qualify under Mr. Croasdale's definition of a single taxer, an enrollment of 25,000 is possible. A pledge of 5 cents per month from each of these would give to our National Committee an income of \$1,250 per month or \$15,000 per year, which would go a

long way in enabling it to carry out the instructions received from its creator the conference.

Our brethren in Oregon are engaged this very minute in a life and death struggle with the hosts of greed and privilege and because of lack of power in our national committee to render them the help that they need and deserve, the battle is likely to go against them. It is a burning shame that such is the case when with the few paltry dollars that could be had so easily a Single Tax victory might have been won. It is unfair that the committee should be placed in so humiliating a position. No body of men has any right to appoint a committee to carry on a line of work and then hamstring it by neglecting to provide means to execute its mission. To do so was a mistake, of course, but the mistake should be rectified at once. The past cannot be recalled but its continuance can be prevented. Let the territory in each political unit represented on the committee be divided up among the 5 committee men from that unit, a parcel being assigned to each. Let there be Captains of tens whose duty shall be to attend to the collections in the groups of ten and remit to the Captains of hundreds which shall be composed of ten groups of tens, the captains of hundreds to remit to the committeeman who is in charge of the territory in which their work lies, and the committeeman to remit each month to the Treasurer of the National Committee.

This will, besides serving to heighten the interest of the enrolled members in the cause, give an enrollment that is reliable, put the National Committee in touch with Single Taxers all over the country, and make of it an active, intelligent and puissant instrument in effecting the purposes of its creation.

G. D. LIDDELL.

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GOVERNOR GARVIN REVIEWS THE SITUATION—WHAT MAKES RHODE ISLAND GOOD FIGHTING GROUND—PROGRESSIVE REFORMS ADOPTED IN RHODE ISLAND.

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Your readers doubtless wish to know the prospect in Rhode Island. Thus far

the campaign has been conducted quietly, directed wholly to securing a permissive law from the General Assembly so that any town or city may exempt personal property and improvements from taxation. Leading manufacturers, merchants, educators, and professional men, including the president of Brown University and the Episcopal Bishop of this State, have endorsed the local option platform. This in itself we deem of great value and significance.

A few Single Taxers seem to regard the Rhode Island movement as a local one. To these I would say that the application of the Single Tax in one city or large town in Rhode Island would call for a rate of three or four per cent. upon the present valuation of the land. This would force other cities and towns to follow suit, and in self defence other States would fall into line at an early date, even though it necessitated a change in their constitutions. The extension from a closely populated and manufacturing State here in the east would be much speedier than can be expected from a sparsely populated and farming State on the Pacific Coast, if Oregon adopts the proposed constitutional amendment in June.

Let me summarize the reasons to hope for success in this State, as they appear, not only to us, but to Mr. Frank Stephens, of Philadelphia, who worked with us most efficiently during parts of eight weeks in February and March.

First. Every year we elect a full State ticket and every member of both branches of the legislature. In four out of the past six years the reform forces of the State have elected the Governor and nearly one half of the house of Representatives, men by the way committed to the doctrine of home rule for cities and towns.

Second. Our population is very compact. More than three-fourths of it residing within ten miles of the State house, with lines of trolley cars running frequently in all directions.

Third. A majority of our voters are required by law to register in person before the first day of July in each year. This necessitates a campaign in May and June, a season of the year when out door

meetings are held and when the voters are more open to educational influence than in the months of September and October, just preceding election.

Fourth. During July and August, especially on Saturday and Sunday, crowds attend our shore resorts, affording an excellent opportunity to reach the people from all sections of the State. Several Single Tax speakers have expressed their intention to spend the Summer vacation here, and the Henry George Club of Providence invites all Single Taxers to aid personally in the Summer Campaign.

Fifth. A permanent headquarters has been secured in Providence, ideally situated for meetings and for street work with a stereopticon. Mr. George D. Liddell who is in charge (Room 6, 193 Westminster St., Providence, R. I., is well known as a Croasdale Single Taxer, writer and speaker.

Sixth. Contrary perhaps to the general impression, beginning with the year 1885, Rhode Island has effected many most difficult legislative and constitutional reforms, to wit: a ten hour law for women and children, which gave a ten hour day in all factories; and within a few years the hours have been reduced from 60 hours per week to 58; abolition of a property qualification for voters long imposed upon foreign born citizens; and of a registry tax also a prerequisite of voting, so that now for all officers except city council Rhode Island suffrage is free—without, for instance, the educational qualification of the adjoining State of Massachusetts and Connecticut; the Australian or Secret ballot; plurality elections, instead of the majority over all which from time immemorial had been required for every elected office; weekly payments by corporations, including cities; free text books in the public schools; labor bureau; factory inspection; increase of pay of members of legislature from one dollar per day to five; and the recently enacted employment bureau.

Every one of these reforms was wrested from a reluctant General Assembly by a strong popular demand, and many of them were opposed energetically by manufacturers and others of influence. In Oregon manufacturers are supporting the

Single Tax movement, and indications as well as logic, point to a like condition here, where they are the principal factor in the State's prosperity.

Seventh. The industrial depression, so universal, is extremely acute in this State, and accounts in a measure for the endorsements our movement has received. It is likely to count all through the year.

If our business men were thoroughly awake to the advantage to accrue to them from exempting from taxation personal property and improvements, I should expect them to be ready and anxious to contribute liberally to our movement here, but for the campaign which must precede and create the awakening, we are dependent upon friends of the cause in other States.

LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

THE February number of *Alexander's Magazine*, Boston, Mass., contains a portrait of Francis H. Warren, President of the Liberian Development Association, who was the only colored delegate to the Single Tax Conference in this city last November.

JUDSON Grenell, writes us that Detroit has had a good series of Single Tax lectures the past winter, and that the audiences were attentive and appreciative, and the association having the matter in charge came out financially whole. We will publish in our next issue a series of slum sketches from Mr. Grenell.

"UNEARNED increment" is the phrase coined by Henry George to represent the unearned increase in the land values which by our iniquitous laws accrues to the person or corporation holding title to the land. This increase in value is always caused by the increase of population, and in natural justice belongs to the people who caused the increase. Being thus robbed of what they earn, poverty is the inevitable result to the masses, although it means sometimes enormous unearned wealth to the favored few.

GEORGE WALLACE.

In Rockville Center, Long Island, South Side *Observer*.

## THE JEFFERSON DINNER.

The Manhattan Single Tax Club celebrated its Twenty-Second Annual Celebration of Jefferson's Birthday on April 13th, by a dinner at the Union Square Hotel, this city. There being several counter attractions on this evening the attendance numbered only about sixty Single Tax men and women. But these were rewarded with a number of interesting speeches quite up to the standard of those of former years.

Some interesting communications were received. Franklin K. Lane, of the Interstate Commerce Commission wrote: "I regret to be compelled to deny myself the pleasure of meeting the members of your club and joining with you in the celebration of Jefferson's birthday."

Miss Ida M. Tarbell said she was on the point of leaving New York for a western trip; otherwise she would be glad to attend.

Hon. Tom L. Johnson wrote: "I fear that for some months to come I am precluded the pleasure of making any out-of-town engagements.

I regret to send you this unfavorable reply but am confident if you knew how much is expected of me here you would understand the situation."

Mr. C. B. Fillebrown wrote; "I feel honored by the invitation of the Manhattan Single Tax Club to be present as a guest at their approaching Thomas Jefferson birthday dinner and it is with regret that I find myself obliged to forego the tempting indulgence, since I have had to decline so many similar kind invitations of the Manhattan Club.

I have a good deal more than I can do to keep up with the current procession, beside leaving a lot of pressing private concerns waiting neglected attention. This is the reason why I am obliged regretfully to let pass on opportunity to meet the kindred spirits around and above the festal board, to whom please present my cordial regards and good wishes."

Bliss Carman, one of the few real poets of our generation, wrote: "In reply to your very courteous invitation to the annual dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club I must very regretfully say