

go his way. The officer must not be blamed too severely for this last interruption. About 1905 the Board of Aldermen had passed an ordinance to the effect that if religious meetings were held on street corners a permit would have to be procured from the Alderman in the district in which the meetings were to take place.

Some of the policemen were very friendly to the Single Taxers. An attempt was made at one time to "job" the speakers. While the writer was arranging the stand, a gentleman called him aside and informed him that he was a Central Office man, showing him his badge; he told him that three plain clothes men were to appear in the crowd; after the meeting got under way some one was to be jostled and a fake fight was to start. The speaker was to be arrested for conducting a meeting that would tend to create disorder. The meeting started and a crowd gathered rapidly. The speaker noticed three men in the crowd who, to him, looked like plain clothes men. He stated the story to the crowd and suggested that if there should be any jostling and hard words to walk quietly away, that it was only a job of the police. The three men who were suspected quickly edged their way from the center of the crowd.

When Mayor Gaynor was inaugurated in 1910 he issued his famous order forbidding policemen to interfere with free speech. This put an end to our troubles.

SINGLE TAX WOMEN OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

(For the Review.)

[By AMY MALI HICKS.

(Concluded.)

Much has been recently written about Grace Colbron's place in Single Tax work, but not much has been said about her work with other women. Miss Colbron was born in New York City, her early influences and associations being entirely conservative. It was not until she had lived abroad and while studying dramatic art in Germany, that she became more interested in the radical things of life, and on her return to New York was eager and ready to undertake its more serious business. Her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Purdy, had given her a volume of Progress and Poverty before her departure for Germany, but she confesses that at the time of her first reading of it she was not receptive of its philosophy.

She was stirred, she says, by George's picture of our social wrongs, it awoke her emotionally, but did not interest her on its economic side. It threw her rather in the direction of that emotional radicalism which was then the ideal of the younger literary set in Germany, and indeed at that period of her life she frankly called herself a "social democrat." But being in reality a radical and rational as well as an emotional person, on her return home after

six years under the influence of her friend, Lawson Purdy, she became a full-fledged Single Taxer. This was at the time of Henry George's death when the feeling for the cause was everywhere strong among us.

Since then, while working at her own literary and dramatic aims, Miss Colbron has been associated with the Women's Henry George League, the Women's National Single Tax League, the Brooklyn Woman's League and the Manhattan Single Tax Club. She is Contributing Editor to the *Public* and her work as lecturer, speaker at dinners and meetings and as toast-mistress shows her wide range of ability. She has the unique distinction of being the only woman who is on the Single Tax Lecture Bureau of the Henry George Lecture Association.

Miss Colbron is interested in suffrage but does not go out of her way much to work for it, feeling no doubt that in working for the Single Tax the greater includes the less. Grace Colbron, I think, perhaps does her best work as a free lance unhampered by the restraint of organization, for she is a strong individualist.

Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett is a staunch Single Taxer who at present gives most of her time to suffrage. She says: "I became a Single Taxer through two agencies; one my own facing of the bread and butter problem as an individual producer and the discovery that merit is not the gauge of economic success, but that success hinges on some form of privilege other than getting acquainted with the public. The year that this understanding was born within me finished the job. I became a Single Taxer and have been one ever since."

Mrs. Dennett says, however, that her very first interest in economics was via Socialism. She heard William Clark, the English Fabian, on Socialism when in her teens, and life looked different to her ever after. She was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and after her schooldays she studied art and became a designer. She started a department of design and decoration for the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia and managed it for three years. She then went abroad to study the process of making Cordova leather wall hangings on their native soil, and for three years was associated with her sister in producing them. She was at the same time connected with the organization of Boston's Arts and Craft Society and in the establishment of a handicraft shop. She lectured on Art and Ethics and Art and Economics while a consulting house-decorator. Her interest in the economics of Single Tax came therefore through her interest in art, going thus from art to economics. When the cause is won, it will be easier for all to connect art and economics with life.

Many of our most successful and agreeable meetings of the Women's Henry George League were held in the home of George and Charlotte Hampton, their real hospitality making the work for others both easier and better. Charlotte Elizabeth Hampton was born in Kingston, Ontario, and lived on a farm in Western Wisconsin until five years old. She started life early as a school teacher, later opening a stenographic and typewriting office in Indianapolis which she conducted with great success. In 1895 she married George

Hampton. It was while she was conducting her business office that she was converted to the Single Tax. She was associated with her husband in the management of the *National Single Taxer* and they moved to New York with the publication. In 1901 when the *National Single Taxer* was discontinued Mr. and Mrs. Hampton aided Joseph Dana Miller in establishing its successor, *THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW*. Mrs. Hampton was associated with Mr. Miller in the management during the first year. Since then, Mrs. Hampton has been continuously active in advancing important reform measures in association with her husband. She is a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and the New York State Single Tax League, and a faithful worker in the Woman's Henry George League of New York.

Miss Elma Dame, though a more recent associate in our Single Tax work of the Metropolitan district, is thoroughly alive to her opportunities. She was born in Massachusetts of Quaker ancestry and being naturally religious and full of zeal for humanity took a course of hospital work in 1897. Through this she began to be interested in social conditions, and for a little while Socialism seemed to offer her an adequate ideal.

In February 1910 she first met a *Single Taxer* and learned of the movement which is based on human justice. Miss Dame was a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and the Women's Henry George League. She says she read *Progress and Poverty* slowly and carefully and in defiance of the advice of some of her Single Tax friends who said she had better begin with something easier. But it became for weeks her regular reading until finally she could talk of nothing else to her friends and could write of nothing else to them in her letters. Miss Dame is Secretary of the Women's Henry George League and the author of a valuable little booklet called "Thoughts of a Settlement Worker."

In his Christmas sermon, Robert Louis Stevenson says, substantially; (I cannot quote it for I have not the book here)—that "it is not given to all to be leaders in the army, but one may at least have worn down one's teeth on the camp bread." It is always "open season" for Single Tax work, and I know of many women in and out of organizations who keep up an incessant propaganda, making a lasting and unmistakeable impression. They are always ready to slip in a word on the side of economic justice. Among these "able seamen" are Mrs. Anna Stirling, Miss Lillian O'Neil, Miss Coline Currie, Miss Maude Malone, Mrs. Tillie Lustgarten, of New York, Mrs. Jane Marcellus, of Orange, and Mrs. Ellen Lloyd, of Brooklyn, all of whom participate in our Metropolitan activities.

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