

344 NEW YORK STATE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE OF THE NEW YORK STATE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

FIRST SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE TO BE HELD WITHIN UNIVERSITY WALLS

It was 10:30 A. M. on Saturday, Nov. 11, that the Fourth Annual Conference of the New York State Single Tax League was called to order by John J. Murphy, in the Chapel of the University of Syracuse. Mr. Murphy introduced Prof. Roman, of the Department of Economics, who said: "We feel highly honored to have your organization meet here. We have long felt that Henry George's works demand a fuller consideration than has yet been accorded them by the universities. The students of economics in this university, numbering between three and four hundred, are making a special study of these works. We use from sixty to seventy-five copies of "Progress and Poverty." We go through it book by book, page by page. I know of no institution of learning that gives six solid weeks to the study of Henry George. The testimony of the students is that it has brought them into contact with a great man." Prof. Roman paid a compliment to the *Public*, of Chicago, which he said was read generally by the students.

Mr. Murphy expressed his pleasure at Prof. Roman's address, and said the character of the reception marked one of the most interesting incidents in the history of the League. It was the harbinger of better things that the university takes the attitude it does. Mr. Murphy spoke of Prof. Oppenheim, author of "The State" and teacher of economics in the University of Berlin, who had said that a German translation of "Progress and Poverty" was the first book placed in the hands of the fourteen hundred students. Mr. Murphy gave an interesting analogy of an aeroplane and the view from it of a great city. The occupant of the flying machine sees the outlines, the threading avenues, the main thoroughfares. Reading Henry George gives us a like view of the great social question. Mr. Murphy spoke of "Progress and Poverty" as the one book, more than any other, that justifies the ways of God to man.

Papers were now read as follows: Local Propaganda, by Miss A. Youngman, of New York City (read by C. F. Adams). The work in Buffalo, by T. H. Work (read by E. S. Doubleday). The work in Cattaraugus County, by Mrs. Bradley (read by Byron Holt). Mr. Doblin presented his financial report which was adopted as read, and Mr. Miller read a telegram of greeting to the Conference from Thomas H. Work, of Buffalo.

Many members of the Economic classes having filed in Chairman Murphy interrupted the proceedings to make a half hour's exposition of the Single Tax. On its conclusion Rev. John F. Scott read H. A. Jackson's report for

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Erie County and Mr. Clarke, of Cleveland, N. Y., spoke humorously and entertainingly on the subject of Personal Contact Propaganda.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. Lustgarten called the Conference to order, which now listened to reports from Mr. Doblin and James F. Morton, Jr. A map of the State was exhibited to the members of the Conference with pin points indicating the many cities and towns visited by Mr. Morton in his lecture tours, and a book of extensive local newspaper clippings giving reports of these meetings.

Mr. Lustgarten spoke of the significance of this meeting in a chapel, saying that the Single Tax movement did make possible the realization of the religion of Christ as a living faith. We believe in the possibility of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness here and now. It is this faith that inspires us.

Mr. Lustgarten spoke of a letter he had just received from Mr. James Busby, telling of a meeting in Glasgow urging upon Parliament that the cost of the war which England is now waging be paid by a tax on land values. It was significant, said the chairman, that the news was widely circulated at a time when a most rigid autocracy determines what shall or shall not be printed.

The following resolution was offered by John J. Murphy:

"Resolved: That the assembled Conference of the New York State Single Tax League expresses its most heartfelt thanks for the courtesy extended to it by the Department of Economics of the Syracuse University in affording it the privilege of holding its Fourth Annual Conference within its walls, and that special gratitude is hereby expressed to Prof. Roman for his address of welcome."

The following officers of the League were then elected: Joseph Dana Miller, president; Benjamin Doblin, treasurer; and Thos H. Work, secretary.

THE BANQUET

The banquet at the Mizpah on Saturday evening was presided over by Mr. Lustgarten.

Dr. John W. Slaughter, who brought greetings to the Conference from Mrs. Fels, said he was one of the vagabonds of our movement. It had been his fortune to observe the progress of the movement in foreign countries. "I have gone about the world with my head high in air, proud that I am an American. There were times when I feared for my country, but tonight I am still able to hold my head high."

Dr. Slaughter's address, which we have not room to print even in part, was illuminating. His intimate knowledge of conditions was made clear as he proceeded. A touch of humor, together with startling revelations of the dreadful oppression of the Mexican people, kept his hearers intensely interested throughout an address of nearly an hour. Dr. Slaughter should

be heard by a wider audience than heard him that night. He has a message from a neighboring people, a people suspicious of our motives, a people unfriendly even to friendly suggestions, but capable of being answered to their satisfaction if we will but meet them with fraternal sympathy, *and with hands off*.

Other speakers at the banquet were Prof. Kullmer, Chas F. Adams, Frederick A. Mohr of Auburn, John J. Murphy, Wesley Barker, Dr. Newcomb, of Rochester; Byron Holt and Joseph Dana Miller.

The banquet ended at 11 o'clock, and though neither banquet nor Conference were largely attended they were successful in enthusiasm, in promise of work to come, and particularly in the fact that a great university opened its walls for the first time to a meeting of Single Taxers. This, and the character of the reception, mark the conference as one of the most notable ever held within the State—J. D. M.

ECHOES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

(For the Review)

By BENJAMIN F. LINDAS

STRAIGHT TALKS FROM MARSH

A few weeks ago a conference was held at beautiful Sherwood Forest, near Washington, by the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. One day was devoted to the discussion of the government ownership of railroads. The principle speaker was Benjamin C. Marsh, of New York, and he managed to intermingle with his sarcastic jabs at the railroad owners, a few straight licks for Single Tax. Said Mr. Marsh:

"I am the advance agent of the new order of things, and my present mission is to create a public sentiment which will squeeze all the water out of the railroads before they are purchased by the government. The railroad capitalists are human—they wish to get champagne prices for rain water."

"The chief element of value," added Mr. Marsh, "of all the forms of wealth of the railways, telegraph lines, water works and electric light systems, is land value, which obviously the owners did not create. The inclusion of land values in the appraisal of the railroads alone would add \$8,500,000,000 to the price that the government would have to pay."

To dry out the water-logged railroad lines, Mr. Marsh suggested a liberal dose of Single Tax.

It seems a good sign to me that the intellectual branch of the Socialist Party could invite a man like Mr. Marsh to address them and listen to his philosophy, not only with interest but with approbation.