

# SINGLE TAX REVIEW

An Illustrated Bi-Monthly Magazine  
of Single Tax Progress.

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

Notices will be sent out to all those whose subscriptions expire with this issue. Prompt renewals are requested. And will our subscribers bear in mind that the best use that can be made of the REVIEW at this time is to send it to public libraries and reading rooms? The coming year will witness a great revival of Single Tax activities, and the REVIEW will be sought for by frequenters of public reading rooms when they know it can be had.

Because the REVIEW contains in each number the detailed record of our advance, its presence on the editorial desks of newspapers and periodicals will be of immense benefit in enlightening those who hear of our movement only through the more or less vitiated channels of the press agencies, or the politically colored letters of foreign correspondents to the great dailies. Send the REVIEW into newspaper offices. Such a magazine, with its evidence of the vital progress of our ideas, is not thrown into the waste basket.

Here is a suggestion, too, which will help—and the REVIEW is in need of your help. If your town or city has a Single Tax organization get your secretary to circularize the members and secure their subscriptions to the REVIEW. And if there is no organization do it anyhow with

Single Taxers whom you know. Do not accept their promise to subscribe but get their subscriptions and forward them.

Tell them, too, what Mr. Joseph Fels and the members of the Fels commission are doing. This will stir them into activity. Tell them of the systematic work now being laid out by the Literature Committee of the Fels Commission, report of which appears on another page. And get them actively at work in helping the distribution of that literature.

## THE NEW YORK ELECTIONS—OUR OPPORTUNITY.

The elections in N. Y. City resulted in the elevation to the office of mayor of Wm. J. Gaynor after a campaign unexampled for its unrestrained personal abuse of the democratic nominee. Real issues there were none, and the arguments were mainly as to the personal fitness of the candidates. The Republican candidate, Mr. Bannard, was a typical "business man's" nominee who, it is to be feared, represented, though it may be without entire consciousness of the fact, the purely "business interests" of politics. And though he, too, showed no vigor in discussing municipal issues, nor indeed any real comprehension of them, he made many friends by refusing to indulge in the personalities that formed the subject matter of the speeches of his two opponents. Mr. Gaynor's talks were for the most part disappointing, but at the close of the campaign both his matter and manner began to improve.

Single Taxers were divided in the campaign. But the majority were for Gaynor. His known radicalism and his friendship for the Single Tax led to his nomination by the Municipal Democracy, largely controlled by Single Taxers, some time before his acceptance by Tammany Hall as the only possible nominee to save its borough ticket. Tammany nominated him, but he was not strong enough to save it, and the organization is now without a representative in the official court of Manhattan.

The name of Henry George was frequently heard in the campaign. It is a name to

conjure with in the city in which he was the only great moral and political leader of a generation.

And now that the local organization lies sorely wounded, and the democratic party of State and Nation is without an issue, a mere incoherent aggregation, drifting whither no one knows and none of its leaders seem to care, the suggestion is made that Single Taxers proceed to profit by the opportunity that seems to be offered. A small but active knot of our believers here think that we should now form an organization, secure as complete an enrolment as is possible of all those who will subscribe for the programme of the taxation of land values, and offer the democracy the choice of being crushed utterly, or climbing again to power though the acceptance of the principle, for which not alone the status of political parties, but the conditions of men's minds, are prepared.

Party ties hang loosely. Even the Socialists, or a great number of them, are ready to go with any party that promises social betterment. This was perhaps shown by the falling off of the Socialist vote in this city. And the Democratic party, broken, discouraged, knows not which way to turn. The party is without real leaders, and has no animating principle. One section is led by stupid and corrupt leadership and the other is betrayed by false economic lights.

Here is our opportunity. We have a truth that will help them. With it they may climb again to power, if power is their chief desire. Show them what it has done for the Liberal Party of Great Britain, a party which a few months ago was facing the inevitable defeat foreshadowed in every by-election.

Perhaps a question may arise, what about Republicans? Do we wish to be democrats—we mean, of course, do we wish to wear the label and thus possibly alienate those who wear the Republican label? Let us reflect that among the Republicans are a great many genuine democrats. We shall not lose any republican democrats by enrolling ourselves under true democratic banners. For it is to democracy—in the generic sense—that we must appeal. But finally, by way of caution to our Single

Tax friends, let us secure concessions before volunteering our support. Hitherto we have offered all and secured little or nothing. When it is remembered that politicians hold us in somewhat wholesome respect who yet have but small conception of the vote getting power of a great principle, it is incredible that political activity in the past should have gained for us so little. What we have gained—in this country at least—has been by the propaganda of education. Maybe we have now arrived at a time when a propaganda of politics may secure for the movement some distinct advantage. At least, it would seem that the weakness of the Democracy may turn out to be our opportunity.

J. D. M.

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#### THE GRAND JUNCTION CHARTER.

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Until last April Grand Junction, Colo. was, and for many years had been, in the absolute control of its Public Utility Corporations, Saloons and Machine Politicians. Public Service Franchises were given away by the city council with no decent regard or protection to the public rights or welfare. Whatever such corporations demanded they received, and the protests of our citizens were without avail. The saloons and bawdy houses openly advertised their business and defied public sentiment. The machine politicians and partisan newspapers of both political parties were in accord and confident of continued success. Along ordinary political lines there was no hope of better municipal government.

In this emergency two opportunities, two democratic tools existed, viz., local option for the saloons, and the constitutional right of our cities to secure a municipal charter directly from and by the people. The people organized separately along both lines, but with effective co-operation.

At once the organs of plutocracy took alarm, and a most strenuous campaign of misrepresentation and personal abuse of the friends of reform was instituted, with the author of this article as chief target. The *Grand Junction News*, a daily paper, took up the fight for the people and made