

sociation with some of those who appear in the list of the Board of Trustees.

We hope in some future number of the REVIEW to present an article describing more fully the Tontine feature of the Brotherhood, (which is in many ways an improvement over all previous tontine plans,) and those special features which should recommend it to Single Taxers. We believe that our readers will want to join the Brotherhood. Certificates of membership will be issued to all those who send in their application to the REVIEW, accompanied by initiation fee and such dues as they elect to pay. Members thus joining may themselves become organizers of "Neighborhood Groups."

WRITE to the REVIEW for folders and subscription blanks, and circulate these among your Single Tax friends, being careful to secure their subscription then or later. Every Single Taxer ought to help the REVIEW with all the subscriptions he can collect or pay for. See that your public library receives it and displays it as conspicuously as it does the periodicals of the day, if possible. The request to do so is ordinarily complied with if circumstances permit. Librarians are not usually unfriendly to such suggestions.

CONFUSING DISTINCTIONS.

The arguments of Single Taxers are usually met by replies which show that our-opponents are confusing distinctions—are talking of one thing with another in mind. This is done, often quite unconsciously, with much subtlety, so that the real answers to these objections do not occur readily.

Thus Prof. Seligman tells us that land is not indestructible because value is destructible. Or if this be not a perfectly fair way of putting his argument, it may be said that he urges against those who contend that because of the indestructibility of land it is out of the category of those things that are rightfully property, that as its value is dependent upon its location it is not therefore indestructible. This is a mere shifting of the ground. Land

itself is a part of the indestructible globe as far as anything in the universe is indestructible. Property in the globe—exclusive ownership of any part of it—is, *prima facie*, absurd.

We Single Taxers say—and we regard this position as irrefutable—that land because it is the product of nature, is not rightly property, while wealth, because it is the product of labor, is the property of the producer. We look upon this distinction as proving the soundness of the Single Tax position, as proof against all hostile analysis. But this is not to say that many attempts have not been made to overthrow it. It is done by confusing the distinction. Prof. Seligman, in his Principles of Economics, attempts it in this way. Postulating that economics deals with value he says that into many tracts of land there has been put as much labor value as into valuable concrete products. Without the dykes of Holland and the irrigation work of arid America the land would be worthless. And he says, "The value of land is as much a product of labor as in the case of other things."

It will be observed that in order to establish his position he takes local examples which do not accord with universal experience. Isolated phenomena are made to stand for general phenomena. But taking the dykes of Holland, or land reclaimed from the sea, or land made cultivable by irrigation—what do these illustrations prove save that improvements added to the land are in the length of time absorbed into land value? Does this destroy the distinction between what is rightfully property and what is not? In securing this right, and in making this distinction for purposes of practical legislation the difficulties are far from insuperable.

Land value may exist potentially by reason of pressing demand, and irrigation make actual what is potential merely by tapping, as it were, this reservoir of value. Shall we say that this act of irrigation was the cause of this land value? As well might we say the man who unlocks the doors of the United States mint is the cause of the value in the gold and silver

that lie behind its steel barred walls. We know that the value is given to these precious metals by the demand for them as money and in the arts. The value given by irrigation, and land value are separate and are separable, because they are two distinct things, and that is just as true where land is worthless or inaccessible without irrigation and of great value after the work of irrigation. Nor do the dykes of Holland make the land value of Holland. They keep the waters from inundating the population of Holland and the population of Holland makes the land value.

J. D. M.

***SINGLE TAXERS AT THE DENVER CONVENTION.**

(See Frontispiece)

SPEECH OF RAYMOND ROBINS—A FEW OF THE SINGLE TAXERS PRESENT.

When the Single Taxers of Denver first realized that the National Democratic convention would be held here we thought it would be well to take advantage of the occasion and hold some sort of a banquet in honor of Henry George, but we abandoned that plan, and finally decided to establish headquarters where all visiting Single Taxers could meet.

This plan proved to be a success, and we can easily see now it was about the only practical thing we could do, as every one was so busy with his own affairs that there was no time to get them all together. 56 names were enrolled on the register by Single Taxers outside of Denver and representing every section of the country. This was not all the Single Taxers who attended the convention, but I think it represents all those who were Delegates. I do not believe there has ever been a gathering in the history of the movement in the United States where the Single Taxers were so widely represented as they were at Denver. A picture of our headquarters, situated a half a block from the convention hall and on one of the main streets leading to it, is the frontispiece of

*This article arrived a day too late for insertion in our last issue.

this number of the *Review*. If no other good was accomplished the advertisement that this front gave our movement was worth the effort, for every delegate to the convention had an opportunity to be reminded that the cause was very much alive, for we took advantage of some of the high grade talent of this occasion.

The Sunday before the convention Raymond Robins preached in the Central Christian Church in the morning and in the Baptist Church in the evening. In the Christian Church in the morning the audience broke out with applause at the close of the sermon, something unusual in that Church. I never knew of but one man who ever even approached the profound conception of the life and meaning of Christ's life, as did Raymond Robins in that morning sermon, and that man was George D. Herron, in his address entitled, "The Failure of Success or the Success of Failure," and if any one has two copies of that address and can spare one of them, I would like to have it.

Our friend Dickey manipulated the political wires sufficiently well to get Robins before the convention, and Tom Johnson said he made the right kind of a speech, and that settles that part of it.

Last but not least was the meeting under the auspices of the City Club, at which Lincoln Steffens, Gov. Folk, Brand Whitlock and Tom Johnson spoke. That was a meeting, notwithstanding every manner of attraction was being carried on to distract the attention of people to other things. Bands were playing all around the Church where the meeting was held, but everyone in the audience remained until the last word was said, and Johnson answered all the questions that were put to him, in a manner that resembled a large good natured boy. He and Whitlock indeed have a place in the heart of every one who attended that meeting.

Nearly every visiting Single Taxer with whom I talked seemed to think that we can expect large results from Oregon or Oklahoma, but most of them favored Oregon. Personally my feet are hot to take a ticket to that place. I had a visit with the Oregon delegation, and I found but two of them voted for our measure. But