

The Single Tax is the very means to cure both cases. Any farmer who keeps his acres out of use ought to be taxed to encourage him to put his property at the service of the community which makes the market for his products, and therefore raises the prices of them. Whatever the Single Tax will do to produce buildings in plentiful and cheap supply it will do to increase the supply of farm products and reduce the cost of living.

The New York Single Taxers have seen the light only regarding city property. The New Jersey tax reducers should be more thorough. The Single Tax in their hands ought to appropriate all unearned increment in city and country alike and ought to tax farm land until it produces all that it is capable of. Unused land in private ownership is an insult and injury to the community. By all means let the New Jersey tax reformers be more logical and thorough than the New York Single Taxers. Let them raise all their taxes from land alone, in city and country alike, exempting all the labor and capital necessary to put the land to the use of the community. The attractions of New Jersey then will draw farmers and capitalists in such numbers that the New York Single Taxers will learn how to draw them back again in the same way.

There must be a reason why the New York Single Taxers are so blind to the merits of their proposal that they propose to restrict it to the city. It is manifest how much it would strengthen the plan to extend it through the rural districts, without whose vote it could not be imposed upon the city.

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MR. JAMES R. BROWN spoke before the newly organized Board of Commerce at Lockport, N. Y. on Feb 9. The meeting was attended by many of the leading men of Lockport and Mr. Brown, on the conclusion of his speech was kept busy answering questions. Mr. Brown made a marked impression on his hearers.

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THE earth cannot be any one's property.—TOLSTOY.

#### LECTURE TOUR OF JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

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My first tour of a section of New York State in the interest of the Single Tax and of the New York State Single Tax League involved much experimentation, many gratifying results and the laying of solid foundations for future building up of our movement. A study of the field and actual contact with the workers in the various centers is extremely instructive. On the whole, the principal symptoms are thoroughly satisfactory. The cause is marching on almost everywhere. Receptivity of the Single Tax gospel is manifest in quarters heretofore seemingly less promising. The people are realizing the disorder and wrongfulness of present conditions, and are seeking a way out. They are becoming tired of quack remedies and of palliatives, which do not go to the root of their troubles.

I started on my trip December 20, stopping first for a couple of days in Rochester, to see some of the local workers, and to set things going, then passed on to Buffalo for a longer stay. Here my time was well employed in conferring with many individuals connected with the Single Tax movement, and in developing detailed plans for future activity. On this occasion, I spoke in a Union church, where considerable interest was generated. A Single Tax banquet was held at the Hotel Touraine, the Mecca for Single Taxers visiting Buffalo. The occasion was well attended; and there was a great deal of enthusiasm. "Mine host" Howie presided in his usual felicitous manner. The holiday season proved inimical to holding many meetings, though one at the home of the Work brothers bore good fruit. Visits were made to Single Taxers in Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda and Lockport, and addresses given in the two latter cities. A number of engagements have already been secured for my return trip in April.

A one-day stop was made at Batavia, to address a meeting of trade unionists. The attendance was not large; but the

interest was noticeable. The effect was greatly multiplied by the detailed report which appeared in the *Batavia Times*, the live weekly edited by Chester C. Platt, well known to fundamental Democrats, and a good Single Taxer.

Two weeks were spent in Rochester, where ten lectures were given before various bodies, including several churches and a large class of students at the University of Rochester. The last-named opportunity was utilized in connection with the presentation of a set of the works of Henry George on behalf of the League to the University library. The East Rochester board of trade also gave a good hearing to the message.

It was at Syracuse, however, that I broke all my preceding records for concentrated lecturing. While I remained there for about a week, the speaking was confined to four consecutive days, in which I delivered no less than ten lectures, most of them an hour or more in length. Seven of these were given in two consecutive days. This record was brought about by the extreme friendliness shown by several members of the faculty of Syracuse University, where I was invited to address various classes and groups of students. One very pleasant task was that of making formal presentation of prizes won by two Syracuse students in the intercollegiate contest for essays on the Single Tax. This was done at the chapel exercises one morning, the large hall being crowded with students and members of the faculty. Professor F. W. Roman, head of the department of Economics, has put Syracuse University on the map as an institution where economic study means something more than the rehearsal of ancient dogmas. He is eager to bring his students in contact with all modern economic conceptions, and to urge them to try out all new theories for themselves. He has a special class in the Single Tax, with "Progress and Poverty" as a required textbook, and another class in Socialism. In this connection, it may be said that the hostility of professional economists to the Single Tax, while not entirely overcome, is noticeably beginning

to wane. Men like Seligman, Johnson and Hadley no longer represent the whole body of academic economists; and even they are showing a disposition to waver, and to accept the increment tax and other measures for reclaiming to the use of the public part of the product of community activity.

In Utica, the chamber of commerce showed itself most friendly, calling a special meeting at only twenty-four hours' notice. Of course, not many were present under the circumstances; but a beginning was made; and a larger hearing is promised for next time. Thanks to the influence of the chamber officials, a very full and favorable report of the lecture appeared in the morning paper of Utica.

Meetings held in Sodus and Onondaga gave a chance to reach the farmers, whose interest is evidently increasing, and who are beginning to see how the wool has been pulled over their eyes.

A fortnight's tarriance in Albany made possible lectures in the Capitol City and its environs, including Troy, Schenectady and Rensselaer, and the opening up of larger opportunities for the next visit.

My experience has shown the necessity of following up the work, wherever it is begun. The complete and effective organization of the State is to be a matter not of months, but of a few years; but the result will be worth all the time and money put into it. A great deal of patience is requisite; and we shall all make repeated mistakes in the choice of methods. But the bringing into active and enthusiastic and continuous participation in propaganda work of the multitude of nominal Single Taxers scattered throughout our cities and towns is entirely feasible. In union we shall find strength; and our aggregate strength is much greater than is commonly supposed. Many timid Single Taxers need to be assured to what extent they are part of a great and irresistible movement. The silent ones must be encouraged to speak. Those who deem themselves isolated must be brought into contact with their co-workers. The world is hungry for our message of deliverance; and the burden is

upon every one who has seen the light to see that others are brought into the circle of its radiance.

The zeal and co-operation of faithful workers in the different localities has been a source of great cheer, and has emphasized the glorious comradeship of fellow workers in a great forward movement. It would be invidious to single out a few for special mention, and impossible to pay formal tribute to all who have shown themselves helpful in increasing the success of the field work. I do not feel, however, that I can pass in silence the exceptional services and the self-sacrificing expenditure of time and labor on the part of Tom Work (it is impossible for those who know him to think of him in a more cold and formal manner) of Buffalo, and Dr. H. H. Newcomb, of Rochester, although neither of them is seeking for glory. It is such whole-souled and undiscourageable lovers of their kind and toilers for progress who make ultimate victory certain, and hasten its advent.

Just a hint to Single Taxers in the places yet to be visited. In several cities, it was found very difficult to accomplish as much as might easily have been done, because the local workers waited for the personal presence of the field secretary before starting to arrange meetings. Several meetings were held on too short notice to secure as large an attendance as would have been possible by planning ahead. In some instances, my correspondents were sure that they could not do anything, but changed their minds after my arrival, and found that openings were possible where least expected. But in various instances, the realization came too late to secure immediate results. I have on hand letters from important organizations in different cities already visited, expressing eager desire to have the Single Tax represented to their membership, and regretting that the application had been made too late to be included in their programs at the time I was in the city. In most of these cases, the omission can be rectified on a later occasion; but it would have been just as easy to have secured the engagement the

first time as the second, if the trial had only been made. Experience has proved beyond a cavil that the Single Tax, in at least certain of its many phases, can be rendered interesting and in perfect keeping with the objects of practically any form of organization. Churches, literary circles, bodies of social workers, lodges, labor organizations, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, granges, colleges, high schools, social and political clubs, educational bodies of any description, brotherhoods, forums, all have been found receptive. I have personally been agreeably surprised at the response I have found to my presentation of the ethical aspects of the subject in churches of all denominations. In almost every community, some organization can be found which will be glad to give a hearing. In the extremely rare cases of small communities where organized activities are almost nil, any live Single Taxer can easily draw a group of his neighbors together for an informal gathering in his own home, where the truths of our philosophy can be presented.

While it is my practice to write a few weeks in advance to one or more representative Single Taxers of each community to be visited, I am by no means supplied with the addresses of all the Single Taxers of the State; nor can I always tell which of the different names from any given community are those most ready to be active. Hence my correspondence must often be at random, and sometimes I have failed to communicate in advance with the most ready and efficient worker. It is the desire of the League that every community however small, be ultimately visited; and that an effort be made to meet as nearly as possible all the Single Taxers in the State. Every place and every individual must be recognized as worth while; and no friend of the cause need feel bashful, or imagine that the representative of the State League will not wish to visit his or her community, merely because it is not one of the most prominent cities or towns of the State, or because there is only a single sympathizer with the cause to be found, and the locality seems a hopeless one for propaganda.

My second trip begins about the middle of March. The first fortnight will be spent in Olean and the next three or four weeks in Buffalo. After that, my plan is to visit Chautauqua County. I have the names of Single Taxers in Dunkirk, Chautauqua, Mayville, Bemus Point, Westfield, Jamestown and, passing to eastern counties, in Ellicottville, Warsaw, East Bethany, Geneva, Naples, Seneca Falls, Auburn, West Vienna, Hamilton and Johnstown. This will represent the general route. If time permits, I shall visit some points further east before closing the second trip. In the mean time, I should be glad if live Single Taxers in the places above named would begin to prepare, without waiting to hear personally from me, and would write to me as to arranging dates, as I may thus hear from some workers who may not be on my present list, and who may be able to be of great service. In particular, I should like to hear as quickly as possible from any Single Taxer in places not named above but within not more than twenty or thirty miles from any of those points, in order that I may reshape my route so as to include their communities. Letters addressed to 68 William St., New York City, will always be promptly forwarded. The heeding of the above requests will be a great favor, not only to me, but also to the cause. I need not add that those to whom I have occasion to write a little later will help more than they may realize by promptness in responding, in order to prevent any hitch in planning well ahead.—JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

#### GOING LIKE RACE HORSES ANYWAY

When in Sydney an enthusiastic Single Taxer desired that Henry George should see an Australian horse race, and sought honorary membership for him at one of the clubs. But, said the racing man, who is Henry George? Has he any horses? Oh yes, said the wag, he has two, Progress and Poverty, and they are a great success in the United States. History is silent as to whether the ticket was secured—or used—*Progress*, Melbourne, Aus.

#### NEWS DOMESTIC

#### CALIFORNIA LEAGUE FOR HOME RULE IN TAXATION

On February 17 a committee from the League appeared before the Law and Legislative Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council, to meet Hon. Clyde L. Seavey, Chairman of the State Tax Commission, and to argue out with him the merits of the proposed Constitutional Amendment for Home Rule in Taxation. The discussion was thoroughly good natured throughout, but certain statements and admissions made by Mr. Seavey were quite interesting.

Mr. Seavey stated that he favored the exemption of personal property from taxation. He admitted that the State Tax Commission had no plans looking to the exemption of personal property, in whole or in part.

Mr. Seavey objected to the Home Rule in Taxation proposal because it does not provide uniform exemptions, covering the entire State. On being asked whether he would support the bill in case it was altered to meet his suggestion, he refused to state that he would do so.

Mr. Seavey objected to the Home Rule Amendment because it would lead to diversity in the tax systems throughout the State, although he had argued for the ill-fated Thompson Amendment, on the ground that it would add elasticity to our tax systems.

He thought that there was some doubt as to the success of the local Single Tax in Western Canada, where it has been in operation for forty years, but admitted that he had never heard of any move toward abandoning the system.

Mr. Seavey disagreed with Dr. Washington Dodge, who was Assessor of San Francisco for 14 years and who was of the opinion that the different counties of the State of California have different local conditions, giving rise to different local tax problems, which can best be worked out under local option. Mr. Seavey admitted that every assessor in the State