

only this the country must appear "comfortably rotten."

But thank God this is not the only view of the country and its ideals. In the hearts and minds of the great mass Thomas Jefferson is not an "impractical theorist" but the profoundest of political philosophers, not a rainbow chaser, but a builder who laid deep and broad foundations for a vast superstructure.

And this is why single taxers particularly may well call themselves followers of Thomas Jefferson. His political philosophy rests upon fundamental principles of political economy.

Rev. Leighton Williams then spoke as follows, with which the twenty-second annual Jefferson celebration came to a close.

#### SPEECH OF LEIGHTON WILLIAMS

It is a pleasure and an honor to join with you in doing reverence to the memory of the great Statesman and patriot Thomas Jefferson. I feel for him increasing esteem and veneration. I have long been an earnest advocate of the views of Mr. Henry George, and am heartily with you in the Single Tax movement.

Both of these great and good men were in a very genuine sense, religious men. While they were not held by dogmatic opinions, they believed in the fundamental realities of religion. I hold in my hands what is popularly termed *Jefferson's Bible*. It is a compilation of the sayings of our Lord, extracted by him from the Gospel narratives. He read it regularly each day for many years, and writing to a friend regarding his admiration for the Master's teachings, he said, "I am a true Christian." He felt that he had grasped the real significance of our Lord's words. In the same broad sense Mr. George was a Christian,, and I wish we might all say the same. Religion is a reality.

It is a vital element in life. There are three great ideals to which we must hold loyally, truth, beauty and goodness. We may differ widely in our opinions regarding them, but let us be true to the ideal. Truth makes its appeal to the intellect, beauty to the feelings and goodness to the conscience and will.

Religion is this worship of the ideal. Hence is it a unity. As we are coming to see this unity under different forms we talk less of comparative religions, as though they were distinct from each other.

The real opposition is that of the selfish egotist and greedy materialist who have lost faith in the ideals of truth and beauty and goodness. These are the men to be feared.

One of our weekly papers had lately a striking cartoon, representing the famous picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, but a new figure is introduced upon the scene. He is a modern banker rushing in and saying to the Fathers as they are about to sign—"For heaven's sake, don't sign—It will hurt business."

Also there is too much of this low growling spirit abroad, but we may hope that a better day is dawning. In both of the old national parties leaders are arising who are calling to higher ideals.

And powerful as the selfish interests may often seem to be, we may yet believe that the forces of righteousness are more powerful. The poet Shelley has been called an athiest, but well may we emulate his faith, when he sings of

That power that yields the world with  
never wearied love,  
Sustains it from beneath and kindles it  
above.

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#### AMERICAN SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

##### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

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The efforts of the American Single Tax League for the past two months have been devoted to the extension of its membership list. The theory underlying its formation was that it should, before attempting any very important work, secure the largest membership possible, and out of such membership secure the election of State Committees who would be charged with the work in their respective States.

With a view to obtaining the largest possible results the Secretary has procured the insertion in over one hundred papers of the notice announcing the organization of the League and requesting

Single Taxers who might see such notice to send in their names and those of their friends.

The results have been as considerable as could be expected from so general an appeal, and the advertising value of the help thus secured has been considerable.

A large number of circular letters to persons already on our mailing lists, soliciting membership, have been sent out. The replies received are not so large as we had hoped for and the Secretary appeals to such readers of the *Single Tax Review* as have not responded, to do so at the first opportunity.

Notices have been sent out to the Church organizations in the vicinity of Greater New York offering to send lecturers, and some meetings have been held, but as practically all arrangements for the present season had been made before the letters were sent out, we must look to the fall for larger results along this line.

It is the desire of the officers of this League to organize as soon as possible Committees for the various States, and those who agree with this plan can help very materially by increasing the membership roll. It should be remembered that under the instructions issued by the Conference, no one can be a member of a State Committee or vote for a member of a State Committee unless he has qualified by signing an enrollment blank and paying his membership fee.

The Exhibit of Congestion of Population in New York contained so many striking illustrations of the principle of our doctrine that we thought it would be wise to call the attention of the Single Taxers residing in and about Greater New York to it. A great many responded to our notice and went to visit the Exhibition. Few acknowledged our communication or wrote letters as we suggested. The Secretary regrets that he is unable to congratulate Single Taxers generally on the attention which they pay, or the promptness with which they reply to, communications relating to the work.

As an illustration of the way in which some of our members have taken up the work of enrollment we quote as follows:—

Mrs. M. writes "Please find herewith

my check for \$9.00 and the names and addresses of nine Single Taxers of this city who desire to join the A. S. T. L."

Miss S. writes' "If you were to appoint me to send you a list of Single Taxers, or those who had some sympathy of the movement, I would feel in a better position to undertake this than if I were to undertake it merely in response to your general appeal. I would then try to send out circular letters with addressed enclosed postals, to myself, and in my letter would perhaps embody a few terse sentences explanatory of the subject, for the benefit of those to whom the subject might be new, or I might, in addition, or instead of this, enclose a tract setting forth the subject in a manner to favorably and properly inform those of average intelligence and information who yet might not be prepared to give it deep thought.

Miss Y. encloses a list of names and says regarding it—"Miss A. is the principal of one of our grammar schools, and she has traveled considerably and writes much. If you can get her interested sufficiently to work she is a big catch." Mrs. B. is the principal of a public school. Mrs. C. does special work in ——Library——goes about a great deal, is a good talker, has lots of friends. Miss D. teacher of English Literature, is very much interested; needs attention. Miss D., Artist suffragist, nice, kindhearted lady, is much interested. Miss E. is a progressive sort of a radical. Dr. F. is a very busy physician, but I would like to get him into the fold."

JOHN J. MURPHY, Sec.

#### THE TOLSTOY CELEBRATION.

There is but little to report on the proposed Tolstoy celebration. Mr. B. Doblin of this city writes suggesting that a brief biography of the great Russian be prepared from our point of view, and that labor leaders—it being assumed that Labor day is a suitable date for the celebration—be urged to make him the topic of their addresses from the data prepared by the committee, and that newspapers be asked to make special note of the event. To newspapers might be given the bio-