

essor of the title deed may never have seen his lot, he may live in a foreign country, but his land increases in value. All of this value is an unearned increment in so far as the proprietor is concerned, and is produced by the community as really as if each passer-by deposited a small coin upon the land.

In Manhattan the total assessed land value amounts to \$2,712,261,571, or \$6,150 for each family of five. The bulk of this ground rent goes to a very small minority of your citizens to whom it does not belong. It should by law be converted into the public treasury in lieu of the taxes now levied. The present fee system by which the government is supported is immoral in that it takes from individual earnings and does not use the public earnings. The total ground rent of Manhattan, reckoned as five per centum of the assessed valuation, is \$135,000,000, which is the natural annual salary of its people in their social capacity. To this should be added the annual franchise value of all the public service corporations amounting to more than \$16,000,000, making the borough salary upwards of \$150,000,000, or double the present tax.

To derive all public revenue from ground rents would transfer the present burden of taxation from consumers to the possessors of special privileges in the form of land monopoly. As a result the mass of the people, who possess but little franchise and land values, will pay only their small share to the support of the government.

The reduction of all land to a normal price will enable any who so desires to secure it both for homes and for productive purposes, thus lessening the competition for jobs and thereby increasing money wages. At the same time all commodities will be cheapened by their exemption from taxes.

The net result must be to double real wages, with all which that implies in the elevation of the people.

ADDRESS OF RAYMOND ROBINS.

Mr. Robins, who has been a settlement worker in one of the crowded river wards of Chicago, said that in that district seven babies died to one in the lake front district. It was found that one cause of this was impure milk and when the inspectors attention was called to the condition he put the blame on the man higher up. Finally when charges had been made to the Board of Health and those charges were not acted upon it was found they had been "stayed" by the Alderman who was the ward leader and a friend of the Milk Co. who gave him large contributions.

This ward leader, like many others, posed as a benefactor and gave his followers turkeys in winter and picnics in summer and in the meantime bartered away their health, virtue and opportunities.

Mr. Robins was a member of one of the early expeditions that went gold hunting in Alaska, and gave some very interesting experiences in that far-away country. He told of the wonderfully high wages paid for all kinds of work, and how as soon as the gold land was monopolized and only partly used, wages fell to the starvation point. He described how a number of men were

discussing the gloomy prospects one day on the shore when one of them threw his pick into the sand and declared he gave it up. When he pulled the pick out he saw gold in the sand that stuck to it. Investigation showed a rich gold deposit extending several miles along the coast under the tide water line. As the land beyond the tide line belonged to the United States Government it could not be sold or monopolized and so was free to those who wanted to wash the sand for the gold it contained. Mr. Robins said that by the next day every one of the fifteen hundred idle men had all gone to work. Not a single loafer, grafter or gambler was left in camp, because they could make a better living washing gold from the sand than they could in the ways the fear of want had driven them to adopt. In a few days dish-washers were receiving \$500 per month and all grades of work were in proportion.

Mr. Robins said that was when he saw the full meaning of Henry George's philosophy. He saw that wages increased or decreased according to man's opportunity to employ himself, and his opportunity to employ himself depended upon his access to natural resources.

ADDRESS OF SENATOR FREDERIC C. HOWE.

In the daily papers of Sunday last there appeared a statement of the growing strength of the independent labor and socialist parties in Great Britain, a growth so startling to the old parties, that the Conservatives and Liberals are now found making common cause against it.

That which is true of England, is no less true of all the countries of Europe. And the most significant phenomenon of present day politics is not the growth of the Socialist party, not the growth in Single Tax sentiment, it is the break-up in the party synthesis which has held sway over all the world during the last three quarters of a century. The wage earners of the world are entering politics as a class, just as the third estate and the manufacturing interests entered politics two generations ago in order to share the control of the government with the landed aristocracy. For myself I welcome this new alignment of parties. I have become convinced from a reading of history that all of the great social movements which have ameliorated the condition of mankind have come up from below; they have been inspired no doubt by the leaders of thought and action, but the movements themselves have been class movements.

And it seems to me that we, the Single Taxers, who however much we may protest against the class movement, do divide society into classes, the privileged and unprivileged, and that we should welcome this new alignment. For this is the natural division of parties. It is not between those who have and those who have not; not necessarily between those who labor with their hands and those who do not; it is between those who enjoy privileges and those who do not. And I think in this sense, the cause we have at heart can only successfully be won as a class movement. For this reason I have no quarrel with the socialist whose motives are the same as our own, but whose