

for direct legislation will supply in abundance. When social discontent becomes so general—as in time it must—as to compel attention to social maladjustment, we shall surely get a hearing. Never, for an instant has my faith wavered that when the proper time arrives the Single Tax will sweep the country like a prairie fire.

In the face of repeated discouragement and disappointment I have held unswervingly to this conviction. We have selected for the site of our temple the primeval rock and the structure when built will abide forever. If the common people really want the kind of government that will spontaneously confer its benefits on even the humblest, the taking of social values for public revenue is as inevitable as the morrow.

As a necessary and indispensable first step I am convinced that direct legislation is the most important. In the "Science of Political Economy" George defines the often misapplied term "laissez faire" as meaning, in the warning words of the heralds in the tournament, "clear the course and let them at it." And that will be one function of the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

ALFRED J. WOLF.

REPORT OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

Up in the Delaware hills on a smiling plateau which forms the highest part of the State, and on the road between Phila. and Wilmington is Arden; a little colony of radicals of various colorings, known to the outer world, however, as a Single Tax colony, because of the well known convictions of its founder, Mr. Frank Stephens; and because its land is not sold, but rented at an annual rent according to its desirability, to those who wish to hold it.

In this idyllic spot the Women's National Single Tax League, for the first time forsaking the rush and whirl of the city, held its 8th annual conference on July 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1909.

The first meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, at 3.30 Sat. afternoon, in the pretty little

open air theatre which is the pride of Arden and which is officially known as the "Field Theatre."

After the reading of the minutes of the last Conference by the Secy., Mrs. Freeman, reports were given by officers and delegates of the work being done in their respective localities. Then committees were appointed and an interesting informal talk followed.

The Arden colony finished the evening entertainment, which was a unique performance of Julius Cæsar, in the Field theatre, just after the sun had gone down behind the "Forest of Arden," and the stars and moon peeped out to shed a soft light upon the players, far more effective than any light yet provided for a city theatre.

One could easily imagine this a performance of Shakespeare's time, when the costumes and properties were most simple and the settings that of real sky, rocks, trees and bushes.

Some of the actors are professional players and there was a wholesome charm even about those who did not do so well; perhaps because they felt the kindly spirit of the audience.

The evening concluded with a dance at the club house. The delegates spent Sunday morning roaming through woods and fields and in getting acquainted with this interesting place.

The largest meeting of the Conference was held Sunday afternoon in the field theatre. Mr. Shandrew of the colony made the address of welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. Furgeson of Washington, D. C. Then speeches were made by Mr. Du Bois, of Bayonne, N. J. Mrs. Frye of N. Y. City, Mrs. Monroe and Mr. McKenzie of Washington, and Miss Schetter, of Orange, N. J.

In the evening the colony introduced the delegates to the charms of a camp-fire, where a great pile of dry logs cracked and sent its sparks high in the air making fancy pictures in the embers and on the dense foliage surrounding this wood-theatre.

Here in a terraced semi-circle the members of the colony made themselves comfortable on rugs and blankets; told or read stories or poems, and sang songs, accompanied by soft stringed instruments.

Compare the effect of this life with that of the crowded city upon the young, or even the old.

Monday morning's meeting was held in the clubhouse and devoted to business and the election of officers, which resulted in the following ticket: Pres., Miss Charlotte Schetter of Orange, N. J.; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Jennie L. Monroe, Washington, D. C.; 2nd Vice Pres., Mrs. Amalia E. Du Bois, Bayonne, N. J.; 3rd Vice Pres., Miss Florence Garvin, Providence, R. I.; Recording Secretary, Mrs. McKenzie, Washington, D. C.; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan, Brooklyn, N. Y.; 4th Vice. Pres., Dr. Mary D. Hussey, Orange, N. J.; 5th Vice-Pres., Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, Brooklyn; Treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Frye, N. Y. City; Auditor, Mrs. Jane Marcellus, Orange; Ex. Board, Miss Amy M. Hicks, N. Y. City, Mrs. Margaret Hughan, Brooklyn.

In the afternoon session the business of the Conference was finished and several interesting speeches made, among them one by Miss Grace I. Colbron, of N. Y. City, who with the aid of a very interesting article in *Hamptons Magazine* for June showed how the farseeing monopolists were buying up the great water power of the country because they see in this great natural resource the light and heat of future generations.

The League voted a five year subscription to the "Joseph Fels Fund," and passed resolutions against the Tariff Bill now before Congress; protesting also against the police method of extorting confessions from accused persons commonly known as the Third Degree; favoring Woman's Suffrage; and calling the attention of the Tuberculosis Society to the fact that as the chief cause of this dread disease is lack of fresh air and sunshine, the remedy lies in securing these things through better housing conditions, which can only be brought about by the Single Tax, which would stop speculation in land by making it unprofitable to hold it out of use.

Monday evening most of the delegates returned to their homes, but those who remained were welcomed at an informal dance in the club house where child, youth and age, clad in camp costumes or dainty gowns, joined in those graceful movements that good music always inspires.

JENNIE A. ROGERS.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

RHODE ISLAND.

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION LAWS IN A CIRCULAR CALL TO THE VOTERS OF THE STATE—JOHN Z. WHITE NEEDED IN THIS STATE—OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE RHODE ISLAND GREATEST OBJECT LESSON THE WORLD HAS YET SEEN.

The Committee on Taxation Laws composed of Robert S. Franklin, Wm. M. P. Bowen, Oscar A. Bennett, Zenas W. Bliss and Wm. C. Bliss, have sent to 2,000 persons in the State the following circular:

"Board of Trade Building, Providence, R. I.; June 4, 1909.

The joint special committee of the General Assembly, appointed at the January Session, 1909, to take into consideration the laws of the State relative to taxation, and report at the next session of the Legislature, not later than February 15, 1910, respectfully requests your opinion upon the operation of the present tax laws of the State, both as to subjects and amounts of taxation, and your advice as to what changes are desirable, both as to the character and application of laws to the taxation of property and as to what new methods of taxation, if any, are advisable.

You are invited to forward any views which you desire to express in writing, to the clerk of the committee, M. Edward P. Tobie, at the above address, not later, if possible, than July first next."

Having received one of these circulars, in compliance with the invitation therein contained, I forwarded before the end of June a bill providing that any city or town may select the class or classes of property upon which it should place the incidence of taxation.

This proposed act I accompanied by the following communication:

"Committee on Taxation Laws,

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a bill providing for Local Option in Taxation. It merely extends a law already of long standing. It would enable our towns and cities, which now determine how local revenue shall be expended, also to decide, under the general