

1907-11- 20 Says Single Tax Will Cure Panics

American Conference Decides That Land Booming Caused Present Troubles

DECLARES FOR FREE TRADE

Speakers Criticise Roosevelt and His Predecessors -- Bolton Hall is Elected President.

The American Single Tax Conference came to an end last night with a dinner in the Plaza Assembly Rooms in East Fifty-ninth Street. About 200 men and women believers in the doctrines of Henry George say down to the dinner. Among the speakers were Raymond Robbins of Chicago, Frederick Stevens of Philadelphia, and Charlotte Shetter of Orange, N. J.; Ernest Gaston of the Fairhope (Ala.) Single Tax Colony, John S. Crosby of New York, Margaret Moore of Van Nest, N. Y., and Elizabeth Frye of Toronto.

Frederick C. Luebuscher, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, was toastmaster, and a silent toast to Henry George was drunk. The speeches of the evening reflected the same earnest sentiments as the more formal debates of the afternoon. Modern conditions were assailed for their alleged injustice by all the speakers.

Frederick Stevens criticised both President Roosevelt and former Presidents.

"While President Roosevelt was reveling in the sport of a giant Japanese wrestler overthrowing the three other men in the historic East Room of the White House, and Grover Cleveland was teaching his son how to kill defenseless ducks," he said, "Michael McCabe was giving his life in a Pennsylvania mine to satisfy the greed of his employers."

Mr. Stevens did not appear to know that McCabe had been rescued after several days' imprisonment in the mine. He spoke of the necessity of radical land laws to stem what he termed "this wholesale injustice."

Margaret Moore, a sweet-faced old lady, said that in Van Nest, where she lived, the Astor lands were taxed as farm lands, while the property of small owners was assessed at the value of improved real estate.

The conference, at the meeting in Plaza Hall, in the afternoon, after a long and warm debate on the present financial disturbance, adopted this resolution introduced by ex-

Congressman "No Pass" Baker of Brooklyn:

We declare that the present financial panic like all previous recurring industrial paroxysms, is due to special privilege, which enables the few to levy toil on the many through tariff, railroad and land monopolies, and to speculate in such privileges.

We assert that further panics, with their accompanying periods of industrial depression and widespread suffering, are inevitable as long as monopoly continues; and that their recurrence can be averted only by the entire abolition of special privilege thereby securing to all their inalienable equal right of access to natural resources.

We therefore demand the abolition of all law-made privilege -- municipal, State and National -- and the absorption through taxation of the rental value of land as the only means of securing real and permanent prosperity to all the people.

Speaking to the resolution, James P. Kohler, a Brooklyn delegate, declared that the enormous rise in real estate values in this city, particularly in the last few years, had tied up about all the available capital and put such a strain on credit that it finally snapped, bringing down with it many banks and other concerns. These increases in values, he said, went to speculators, whereas had the city taken them in taxation, land speculation would have been impossible, and there would have been no boom, and consequently no panic. Capitalist and workman alike were alike squeezed, he said. He said he had long ago foreseen what had come to pass, and that the Single Tax, by abolishing all taxes on capital and labor and taxing all land values for taxation, would solve the problem by giving both capital and labor their just due and abolishing monopoly.

"The present panic," declared Mr. Kohler, "is like the panics of 1873 and 1893, in that they were all caused by land speculation, the rise in rents, and the real estate boom."

The conference also adopted a resolution, introduced by ex-Gov. L. F. Garvin of Rhode Island, declaring for absolute free trade with all the world, and asserting that all land values created by the community, under the present system, go to increase the rent of land, and that the people are equally entitled to that rent.

It was also decided to concentrate on the fight for the single tax in Rhode Island in a manner similar to the crusade in Delaware years ago.

William Lloyd Garrison of Massachusetts, son of the famous abolitionist, was nominated for President of the conference, but declined to serve, because he would be unable to give the office the time it deserved. Henry George, Jr. also declined the nomination for the same reason. Bolton Hall, son of the late Dr. John Hall, who has conducted the "vacant lot" experiments on the Astor estate lands in the Bronx, was elected President. These Vice Presidents were also named: Jackson H. Ralston, of Washington, S. C.; William A. Douglas, Mrs. John S. Crosby, Miss Margaret Harley, and Mrs. Frances M. Milne. The latter is the California poetess. A Governing Committee, headed by William Lloyd Garrison, was also named.

The conference adopted a resolution declaring that on petition of 1,000,000 electors, filed not less than six months nor no more than two years before any Congressional election, Congress should submit any amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed in the petition to the voters of the county and that the amendment should be declared a part of the Constitution if adopted by a majority vote. The conference also declared in favor of the initiative and referendum.

To the Executive Committee, headed by ex-Gov. Garvin of Rhode Island, was delegated the selection of a committee to attend the conference called for next year by President Roosevelt to discuss plans for conserving the natural resources.