

have done good service to the single tax cause in the years past.

The object of the new party is to thwart the designs of the reorganizers and to make the Democratic Party truly democratic. Hill's plans for party harmony came in for special criticism by those who took part in the proceedings.

Judge Samuel Seabury, of the City Court, presided, and there were about two hundred delegates present. Pictures of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John P. Altgeld and Henry George adorned the wall. The Liberty Bell was adopted as the emblem of the party. Charles Frederick Adams was among those who spoke, and Judge Seabury's speech in opening the convention was remarkable for its clear presentation of democratic principles.

EDGAR L. RYDER, NOMINEE FOR  
GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, ON  
THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC  
TICKET.

Edgar L. Ryder, of Westchester, single taxer and nominee for Governor of the Liberal Democracy, comes of the stock of the oldest settlers of New York state. His ancestor, Jacob Ryder, settled in Westchester County before 1690, having emigrated thither from the colony of Massachusetts Bay, or which his grandfather had been one of the earliest settlers. Mr. Ryder's grandmother was Rachael Van Cortlandt, grand-daughter of William Ricketts Van Cortlandt, a Revolutionary patriot. Her uncles were Pierre Van Cortlandt, first Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, and Phillip Van Cortlandt, Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary Army. On the paternal side, his ancestors were Jeffersonian democrats, when it was unpopular to advocate the principles of the great father of democracy.

Mr. Ryder is a graduate of Columbia University, of the class of '82, of which class Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, was also a member. He was twice returned to the Assembly from the Third District of Westchester, in 1893 and 1894, and enjoys the distinction of being the only democrat who ever carried that normally strong republican district twice in succession. He was again nominated in 1901 although absent from the nominating convention and without his knowledge, and although defeated carried his own town against a republican majority of four hundred and ran ahead of his ticket through the district. Mr. Ryder's legislative career was marked by an independence of action which alarmed the machine politicians of his own party. Long before David B. Hill had obtained his unenviable notoriety, Mr. Ryder, in the Assembly and on public platforms, denounced his pretences and showed the intrinsic hollowness of his democracy.

Mr. Ryder's work, however, was not

merely critical. In 1895 he introduced a bill adopting the Initiative and Referendum for New York state, and was successful in having it passed by the lower house. After nine years this measure has had a tardy recognition by being accepted almost unanimously by the voters of the State of Oregon in the election just closed. Many other beneficial measures bore his name, but the reactionary tendencies of his party were too powerful to permit of their enactment. Republican and democrat, friend and foe, alike admit it that his conduct was guided by a single purpose, the welfare of the people.

It will be of interest to single taxers to know the manner in which Mr. Ryder became a convert to our principles. In answer to such inquiry by the REVIEW, Mr. Ryder writes us as follows :

"I became a single taxer in Minneapolis in 1886 and my conversion was brought about by my own foolishness in accepting an opportunity to debate against the George folly. I was positive I could knock out any such fallacies as proposed by that man George. To make his economic demise complete I bought a copy of 'Progress and Poverty,' and gave it a careful study. After taking I was not so sure. I read it again. The debate never came off with me on the anti-George side. I helped to organize the Minneapolis Single Tax Club and became its secretary. I had recently graduated from Columbia College and knew everything in consequence, until I had the conceit knocked out of me by 'Progress and Poverty.' If I had never attempted that debate, or rather a preparation for it, I might have remained a respectable member of society, still thinking I knew all there was to know. I have never lost my enthusiasm for the cause and I have been 'ammering, 'ammering' ever since. I date my education, not from the time I graduated from Columbia, but from the time I read 'Progress and Poverty.' "

BOOK REVIEWS.

*Economic Tangles* is a neatly bound 12mo., comprising 220 pages. The volume consists of essays divided into chapters, only loosely related, on economic and social topics, and is a collection, for the most part, of Mr. Judson Grenell's contributions to the *Sunday News Tribune*, of Detroit. Following its preface are words of commendation from Hon. Tom L. Johnson, J. B. Howarth, F. F. Ingraham, and others known to our readers.

These essays are written with no pretence to exhaustive thoroughness; they are of the character such as we look for in papers of the better sort whose contributors are allowed large freedom of expression, and from whom we expect sober, serious and thoughtful pronouncements. It should not be forgotten that now as in the past essays have been rescued from newspaper obscurity that have