

always does, toward countries where wages are higher.

"The remedy for this evil is just as clear as its reason. If we really want to do away with emigration there are ways to stop the further lowering of the margin of cultivation by the preservation of common lands, or to increase the margin of cultivation by efficient taxation of land values."

Concluding Prof. Braun said: "America exercises as yet little influence on European ways of thinking. It is almost impossible to name any American statesman, scientist or artist whose influence has traveled beyond his own country. There is, however, one exception, Henry George, whose influence throughout Europe is to-day greater than that of any of his countrymen—greater in Europe than in the land of his birth."

WHICH IS THE OLDEST SINGLE TAX CLUB.

Mr. C. J. Buell, of St. Paul, whom all our readers know so well and favorably, writes a pleasant letter to the *REVIEW* questioning our statement that the Manhattan Single Tax Club is the oldest Single Tax organization in America. He points out that the Minneapolis Single Tax League has had a continuous existence since the Summer of 1887. It was first known as the Land and Labor Club and was the first of several clubs under that name to do good work for the cause. It afterwards developed into the Minneapolis Anti-Poverty society. It soon became the Minneapolis Single Tax League, and has been back of the movement for many years. For about fifteen years ex-Senator Stockwell has been the leader and head of the work until it is now hard to find a progressive man in Minneapolis who is not familiar with our doctrines. Thus far Mr. Buell.

Nevertheless, the Manhattan Single Tax club dates back further than this, for all the members of the original club comprised in 1886 the membership of the Tenth Assembly District organization of the United Labor party of this city. In 1887 the Single Taxers of the above dis-

trict organization banded themselves into the Ninth Congressional District Free Trade Club, which after a short time became the Manhattan Single Tax Club, which continued to this date, always doing effective work for the cause, always in the forefront of the great conflict for economic truth and righteousness.

MEETING OF THE FELS COMMISSION.

The members of the Fels Commission met at the Hotel Collingwood in this city on December 30th. Those present were Messrs. Lincoln Steffens, Frederick C. Howe, Bolton Hall, Joseph Fels, and Daniel Kiefer. A telegram was read from Mr. J. H. Ralston saying he was unable to be present because of the condition of his health.

Mr. Daniel Kiefer, the acting treasurer, made his report ending Nov. 30, and asked that his books be audited. He was directed to have it done and certified to by some one competent in Cincinnati.

After having listened to a report of the financial condition of the *Public* and the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*, it was unanimously resolved to accord those publications the needed help.

An address prepared by the Hon. Frederick C. Howe was read, to be sent to persons interested in education and to those in public life, with a view of interesting them in the Fels Fund. Mr. Howe was asked to confer with Mr. W. G. Eggleston in the final preparation of this address, and to contract for the printing of twenty-five thousand copies to be done in excellent quality and style and with the approval of Mr. Howe.

Mr. Hall was again delegated to disburse the funds necessary for the campaign in Rhode Island. Mr. Hall will make requisition to the Treasurer for the money as needed.

The action of the Commission at its original meeting to provide funds for the Oregon campaign was ratified. Regarding literature for the Oregon campaign the Chairman was instructed to advise Mr. U'Ren to proceed with the preparation of such literature as might be needed without

waiting upon the action of the Literature Committee.

Regarding Missouri no action was taken as to the mooted programme in that state, there being no formal communication before the Commission.

The Literature Committee comprising Joseph Dana Miller, Henry George, Jr., and Bolton Hall was discharged with thanks. After discussing the printing of literature and the establishment of an effective press bureau, it was unanimously resolved that the matter be left in the hands of Mr. Steffens, his acts to be subject to the approval of the Committee.

Discussion of ways and means for the collection of the balance of the fund resulted in the Commission authorizing Mr. Hall to engage a solicitor for a trial period, and to proceed in an experimental way.

Instead of a formal statement to contributors regarding the work of the Commission to date, as also the Treasurer's report, the chairman was directed to prepare a simplified statement for the *Public Review* and *San Francisco Star*.

CHICAGO.

Work has begun in Chicago in real earnest with the reorganization of the Single Tax Club, and the unanimous election of the following officers: President, Henry H. Hardinge; Vice Presidents and Chairman of Committees, A. A. Worsley, Otto Cullman, George A. Schilling, Edward C. Moeller, John Weiler, Geo. V. Wells, Chas. Ciliske, and Frederick H. Monroe. The Treasurer is Geo. C. Olcott and the Secretary is A. Wangemann, the indefatigable.

A number of successful lectures have been given.

Mr. Thos. Hunt, of Kennedy, Ohio, an old time Single Taxer, has an article in the *Vineland* (N. J.) *Independent* deprecating the statement of a correspondent in a recent issue of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* that the purpose of the reform is to abolish the private ownership of land. Mr. Hunt says: "The Single Tax is to achieve the private ownership by the greatest number of people and that number is simply the total number of those who want homes and farms."

SOME OBSERVATIONS IN ONTARIO.

(For the Review.)

I am puzzled to find a figure to accurately express conditions over here in Ontario, so that the general relation of people and laws shall be adequately understood by those unfamiliar with the conditions. Jesus' saying of "The blind leading the blind into the ditch" seems best to express it. All over the province one is struck with the failure of both people and leaders to associate bad conditions with bad systems of taxation; contenting themselves with growls and complaints at the administration of affairs, rather than looking into affairs themselves to see where the motive force lies.

The assessment act provides that land and improvements shall be assessed at their real value, of course leaving each assessor as the sole judge of the value, with the right to appeal to the court of revision if you don't like it; an alternative just exactly as good as none at all to the average man. Then a certain per cent. of the land and improvement is added as a business tax. Then an income tax is thrown in for good measure and on all this a rate is fixed to raise the necessary amount of money. The result is, of course, that the value of land not being visible, year after year is left unaffected, while the burden is carried by taxes on improvements and the business tax. A case in point will illustrate the whole system:

A young man, we'll call him Jones, because that is not his name, in a little town not far from Toronto owned for some time a lot assessed as rural land, because unimproved. In due time Jones met and married the one woman in the world for him and with their joint earnings they began to improve that rural lot, putting up a neat little cottage, chicken house, barn, etc.; then they moved in, put in a garden, a lawn, and made them a home. There were dozens of other rural lots all around them, only different in that they had no improvements.

The assessor all this time was watching, however, for well he knew his hour was come to make Jones feel the outraged hand of the public wrath for being such a fool as