

Individual Owes to the Community," written by the Danish Single Tax leader, Sophus Bertelsen, for a Danish journal, *The New Century*, is given with the December issue. In Denmark as in Germany the postal card is considered an important means of propaganda, and the Danish Single Tax postal is illustrated by a reproduction of a sculptured bust of Henry George, with the motto "Charity may rest upon Justice, but cannot take its place."

Of all European Single Tax factions, the Danish "Henry George League" as its name implies, rests entirely upon the ethical and fiscal teachings of Henry George, and follows out his theories with completeness.

GOOD NEWS FROM VANCOUVER, B. C.

A Single Tax proposition is to be introduced in the Vancouver city council. Alderman Francis Williams, who has just been elected, is furthering the plan. Under the present assessment plan 50 per cent. of improvements are exempt. Williams' plan is to exempt 70 per cent. of the value of improvements and to increase the rate on the land assessment to make up the deficiency.

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

The work of the Henry George Lecture Association has been continued regularly since the last report in the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*. Lectures have been delivered in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

There is without doubt a growing belief that our industrial affairs are in a deplorable condition, and a well settled opinion that the situation results from a mistaken application of legal power includes an ever widening circle.

This recognition of wrong is undoubtedly the first step that must be taken, for if there is no disease there surely is no need to discover and apply a remedy. Facts, however, are daily enforcing the lesson. One newspaper, to-day, tells of 16,000 men, women and children at the door of starvation in Fall River, Mass., because of failure of demand for cotton goods. The explanation was originally offered that the high price of raw cotton necessitated an advance of the manufactured article, with, of course, declining sales. Just now planters are burning cotton because of its low price.

The same paper tells of the arrest of an old man and his wife (man 80, woman 71) because the police found them in possession of all sorts of goods bought at auction and bargain sales. The woman was five days in a cell without knowing with what crime she was charged. Investigation showed that they merely had a silly notion of buying these things because they were cheap. Upon being brought into court not a scin-

tilla of evidence of guilt was forthcoming. There was nervous collapse for the poor old lady, however. She fainted when told of what she had been suspected.

Now, why the suspicion? Just one ground for it. They were evidently poor, and therefore possession of these curiously assorted goods, instead of being nine points of the law in their favor was, in the opinion of Captain Daly, of the New York police force, ten points against them. When told the facts by the old man, the police captain laughed and said, "You will have to invent a better story."

If the good captain had strayed into the home of some art collector of wealth he would not have made an arrest. But why the difference—one is doubtless as silly as the other? What is Rockefeller "collecting" a thousand millions of dollars for? Is he not as silly as the old couple? The truth is plain. Poverty has come (not avowedly, but in fact) to be recognized as a crime—or the cause of it.

Meanwhile, the Board of Health is very thorough in New York. After a patient recovers from a contagious disease it fumigates the premises in the interest of higher hygiene, or higher criticism, or something. In order to secure this elevation it, by its minions, removed a child of one and a half years, just recovering from a complication of pneumonia and measles, from a warm to a cold room. The baby died. The New York Board of Health doesn't treat the babies of the rich to lessons in higher hygiene. It is a crime to be poor. Day after day the good people of this Republic are being taught lessons in freedom that look so much like Russian tyranny that only an expert government official, on a salary, can tell the difference.

Perhaps, in time, the feeling will penetrate the understanding—in which case we will—ah—dig another canal! That will stimulate trade, which is heaven—by the way, the old couple were stimulating trade, and were arrested. Perhaps the police captain could be charged with blasphemy.

Mr. White's tour in Missouri included a number of cities, among them St. Louis, Jefferson City and Kansas City. At St. Louis the Fair and its accompaniments held the center, both ends, and the rest of the stage. Still he had the good fortune to meet several audiences, owing largely to the active interest of J. W. Steele. A class of young men in one of the Episcopal churches is reading and discussing "Progress and Poverty." They were much pleased to listen to an address that outlined the general doctrine and possibly helped to clear up some more or less hazy points. One man, in particular, who was a graduate of some German university, had the biologist's notion of the statement in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." He thought this was clearly erroneous, because some men are short and others tall,

and were in fact equal in no way. All of which, as he understood it, is unquestionably true. But when his attention was called to the fact that the document under consideration was not introduced as a contribution to a biological discussion, but was offered in connection with certain proposals relative to government, he agreed that it should properly be interpreted in that respect alone. He finally agreed that a giant naturally had no greater right to breathe the free air than had a pigmy. From this point it was, of course, easy to reach rational conclusions. Many questions were asked and answered with seeming satisfaction to all concerned.

Two labor unions were addressed, and invitations were extended by both to call again. At one, however, a socialist put in an appearance, but he was not "scientific," for which reason no merit was to be derived from even a victorious encounter. Questions were quite numerous, and the interest manifested was of the sort that may properly be described as very encouraging. The referendum law did not carry in Missouri, but as a matter of fact, the election of Folk overshadowed all other considerations.

Two religious bodies were also visited—one of them being addressed twice. This was quite encouraging, as the doors of one society were opened only after a somewhat vigorous knocking. They apparently thought the Henry George movement was some kind of an effort to tear up, or down, the eternal foundation of things. At the close, however, the pastor was very generous in offering congratulations and hearty wishes for our continued success. He is not the only man afraid of ghosts.

At Jefferson City a number of meetings were held. Some interest was developed, but it must be admitted that small cities that are also State capitals, and therefore the scenes of active political wire pulling, are not the most desirable places to begin an active propaganda for a plan of action calculated to overthrow that same wire pulling. Still there was more or less evidence of interest in our proposals, and a few men are thoroughly aroused to the need for a change in existing methods in the conduct of our public affairs. Of course, nearly every one was in favor of the election of Folk. A good many, in fact, seemed to believe his election all that was needed.

At Kansas City, however, at a dinner given by the Knife and Fork Club—a very excellent impression was produced. Professor Ely, of the University of Wisconsin, also spoke at this dinner, as did a professor from some seat of learning in Kansas. The latter gentleman's address was simply a real estate boom for the country lying west of the Missouri river. When questioned as to

the desirability of permitting men, instead of railroad and other corporations, to get at the Great West, his only reply was, "Why don't you come and get some of it." No question of equity has filtered through the understanding of the professor from Kansas. Is that the reason they keep him, or have they not as yet become acquainted? He ought to be put in charge of a roulette wheel instead of being placed in control of the plastic minds of the young.

But Professor Ely! The professor held that there are no laws of political economy. Therefore, one must suppose there is no science of political economy. In the name of the Prophet, then, what is the professor teaching? A no science? Truly, a dignified professorship! And then he told us that political economists were being employed, at large salaries (he mentioned \$10,000) by corporations and municipalities for the purpose of giving advice with regard to the application of this no science—or science without laws. This matter of employment of professors of political economy at large salaries was the definite and emphatic part of his address. It seemed to be the only proof he had to offer as to the value of a professor of political economy. All other attributes revealed were so hazy, vague, indefinite and void that no business man would think of paying \$10,000 a year for such service. But the fact that they actually were so employed was evidently expected to overcome any natural hesitancy that might be felt at the prospect of engaging services so particularly described as wholly useless. It is only fair to the professor to say that he witnessed that some public utilities might properly be administered by the people in their communal capacity, but he did not tell us why. Just the fact—somewhat doubtfully, to be sure—but still the fact, on the authority of a professor of "no science." The listeners were a large body of representative business men of Kansas City, Mo., and they heard wonderingly. Faith healing is a marvel of clear, concise, cogent reasoning, in comparison. Several of the gentlemen approached the single tax man, and asked if it is really true that such ideas are taught in the schools? To which reply was made that the professor is no doubt fairly representative of the cult. The committee of arrangements were wise, for they placed the single tax address first on the list. It was a notable fact that several very wealthy gentlemen were vigorous in their endorsement of the most blunt and searching arguments advanced in support of George economics. Opportunity to present the two schools of thought before rational men is all we can desire—and surely it is all we need.

AN address was also delivered before the business men of Kansas City, Kas. It was generally applauded throughout and the president was equally generous in expressions of approval at the close of the address;

even going so far as to say he wished similar addresses might be delivered at every meeting of the organization. Other addresses were made at labor societies and churches. At one church a talk on "Carlyle" was given, where the pastor told with pride of the liberality of his church, and proved it by introducing the speaker to talk on Thomas Carlyle—a *materialist*. Speaking of the church, Carlyle said: "That a man stand there and speak of spiritual things to men is beautiful; even in its great obscuration and decadence, it is among the beautifullest, most touching objects one sees on the earth. This Speaking Man has indeed, in these times, wandered terribly from the point: yet at bottom whom have we to compare with him? I wish he could find the point again, this Speaking One." Wonder what he would have thought of the Speaking one—out West. Fine fellow, too, and doing good, even if he is not acquainted with the great Scotchman.

At Creston, Iowa, the high school was visited—Prof. Bell, Principal—and a very jolly time was the result. It is easy to teach the young who have not learned a lot of things which are not so. No opportunity is offered on these occasions for questions, but it is a very great pleasure to observe the unmistakable evidence of quick apprehension on the part of the pupils—and, incredible as it may seem sometimes on the part of their instructors. Prof. Bell desired to look farther into the matter. Let us hope he will. There are a few good Single Tax men in Creston, and they are slowly making their influence felt. One city official is a strong advocate of protection, but, wonder of wonders, he admits it is purely selfish—that ought to help some.

In the evening a meeting was held, but was not so well attended as the local men had hoped. No response could be drawn. Not a question was asked. The case was given up as seemingly hopeless and the meeting adjourned, when at least half the audience surrounded the speaker, and questions came thick and fast. After a little the explanation became clear. No word had been said regarding the tariff, but they realized that the basis of that curious contrivance had been torn up, and they were bent on its defense. It was lively for a time. They were in earnest. The most aggressive was the editor of the local paper. He even walked to the hotel and parted with the assertion that he would certainly get "those books" and thoroughly investigate. The meeting was not so hopeless after all.

At Omaha several meetings were held. The first was not well attended, but subsequent gatherings were much better in this respect. A leading local real estate dealer attended all of the meetings and asked many questions. He seemed to be very

well disposed, but was evidently perfectly willing to find some flaw in our position. The head of the city taxing office was at two meetings, and also asked questions. He seemed to think the Single Tax would not provide revenue enough, but is not so sure now of the accuracy of that position. One man held to a notion not heretofore encountered by the lecturer. He agrees that taxes on land value will make land cheaper, but holds that taxes on goods also make these cheaper. It seems to be something like "the foreigner pays the tariff tax."

At Lincoln, Neb., the high school of twelve hundred pupils were addressed, and it was even more joyous than the experience at Creston. Dr. Wolfe is principal, and was very cordial—even after the talk. The pupils are always eager to hear a jest, but listen with equal eagerness to the explanation of the doctrines offered by Henry George. That the Single Tax can be presented directly to the pupils in high schools is of itself a most excellent indication of decline in the prejudice that has so long obstructed our efforts.

From the high school we went directly to the University of Nebraska, and spoke to the chapel for half an hour. The students here were of course not children, but they seemed just as open-minded, and were, in fact, not at all unfriendly in their greeting to Single Tax argument. If one may judge from appearance, they are not wholly unfamiliar with sound economics. Some of the professors are strong men and true men. Perhaps all of them are, but some of them certainly. And they are not apologists for privilege, which, perhaps, is strange. If we could only be rid of the Tory influence that emanates from so many of our centers of education; but, then, talent is very largely for sale, like shoddy.

A curious incident occurred at a social gathering, which included quite a group of business and professional gentlemen. One who was reported to be an old time Democrat expressed the emphatic opinion that the one serious result of the late election was the defeat of Peabody for Governor of Colorado. This, in his opinion, was a distinct victory for the forces which make for disorder and anarchy. Another gentleman replied, with even more emphasis, that the defeat of Peabody was the most hopeful sign given by the late election. He held that no matter if all said against the workmen in Colorado is true, still violation of law by officers of the law is much more dangerous than like violation by mobs of any sort. And then the surprise—the latter gentleman was pointed out as not only a Republican, but the president of a National bank and a man of great wealth. Did some one mention a new political alignment?

A series of meetings were held in Bloomington, Ill., before stopping at Chicago and

returning to the East. At Bloomington, which is the home of O. R. Trowbridge, the author of Bi-socialism, the State Normal school was visited, and a meeting attended by many citizens, besides a large body of students was addressed. President Femley is quite sympathetic with our views.

The Wesleyan University at Bloomington is an extremely conservative institution, but an opportunity was offered to meet the pupils in chapel. President Smith said that economic questions were growing in importance, and he would be much pleased if everyone would consider them dispassionately, as had this morning been done. This meeting was another strong evidence of the change in mental attitude that is taking place, and which perhaps may be described as the thawing of prejudice. A few years since it would no doubt have been utterly impossible to get an invitation for an avowed Single Taxer to appear before this university. Now we got the invitation, together with a complimentary reference from the rostrum by the president.

Two women's societies were visited. At one of them a very pleasant lady hoped we would not be able to introduce the Single Tax. A few questions developed the fact that she was the owner of two fine farms. The reverse picture was shown, but she thought we would take those farms from her. It was pointed out that we would merely make it possible for her tenant to get a farm of his own; that she could keep the farms; that labor would be scarce; that to get crops she might be obliged to go to work. Gradually it dawned upon the good ladies that in reality they desire crops—not farms.

A church fair was in progress, and an address on the French revolution was made before them. The failure of the French to appreciate the value of Turgot's efforts to secure freedom for individual endeavor in the industrial field—together of course with administrative reform—was indicated as the reason for the collapse of that mighty struggle.

A group of the enterprising young professional and business men of Bloomington have been investigating matters economic in company with Mr. Trowbridge, and although their surroundings, social influences and business interests are such as are usually described as conservative, they are largely sympathetic with sound industrial conclusions. In addressing this group care was needed, for apparently they were as well informed as Single Tax men in general. There is but one explanation for this great success in one of the most conservative communities to be found in the West. Trowbridge always avoids antagonisms.

One meeting was addressed in Chicago, an association of so-called radicals. So far as was revealed, they are men who, having

grasped one view of industrial affairs, are not capable of perceiving another. If the first view happens to be right, well and good; otherwise they "are dead to the world." Why will men not first ascertain another's idea, and then oppose it, if it be found erroneous. Just an ordinary Democrat or Republican is, of course, expected to live on prejudice, but one professing emancipation from these influences might at least try to avoid equal stupidities.

A meeting was held at Zelienople, in Pennsylvania. M. L. Lockwood, president of the Anti-Trust Conference held at Chicago is a resident of this city, and acted as chairman of the meeting. Mr. Lockwood was so much interested that he accompanied Mr. White to the next city, New Castle, to hear more safe and sane economies. At New Castle a socialist put in an appearance, but he might learn much by corresponding with some of his Chicago brethren—they probably have enjoyed larger association with Single Tax men. These meetings were very good, and Mr. Lockwood left with many expressions of pleasure and hope for a continuance of the good work.

An address on Robert Burns was given at a church in Rochester, Pa., to a very intelligent and sympathetic audience. In fact there is quite a strong feeling for real democracy in Western Pennsylvania. Many known Democrats were openly congratulating themselves on the overwhelming nature of Mr. Roosevelt's victory (or rather, Parker's defeat). Chas. W. Eckert, of Beaver, is a lawyer, and possibly the most active and energetic Single Tax man in this part of the State. He is one of the men one may safely tie to; that is, he is both capable and sincere. Curious we are obliged to emphasize these traits.

A small meeting was held at the school house in East Palestine, Ohio, which is just over the state line. The good people apparently got a notion that Single Taxers are trying to inaugurate chaos, but as the representative conformed to customary usage, used the fork at table and so on, a better feeling seemed to prevail when Mr. White came away.

Three addresses were made at Fayette City, Pa., to increasing audiences. C. B. Power is a very earnest and industrious single tax man, resident at this city, and is steadily making way among the people with whom he dwells. He already has quite a group of supporters. The genuinely conservative nature of our proposals is steadily producing its logical results. Many questions were asked at these meetings, and the closest attention given throughout.

The representative of the Henry George Lecture Association reached Pittsburg, Pa., on December 6. The first meeting was at a suburb called Parnassus, and was held in

the United Presbyterian Church. The subject, "The Dignity of Labor," called for a full exposition of labor's rights, and the loss of dignity that is involved in their invasion. This gathering was much interested, and a number of questions were asked at the close. A very evident desire was manifested to give labor its due; but of course it was also desired to accomplish this result without disturbing vested wrongs. If we could only accomplish the impossible how much easier it would be to obey God—and serve Mammon, too. And this, though well advised to the contrary, the twentieth century is setting itself to accomplish—and the effort, no matter how hopeless, is evidence of a certain heroism—or something analogous.

The Hebrew Temple, presided over by Rabbi Levy, was visited on December 7. This was a fine audience, the hall being completely filled with people who seemed wholly devoid of prejudice. The closest attention was given to a discussion of "the doctrines of Henry George," and all pointed arguments were warmly applauded. As the audience held many professional and business men, the reception given was extremely gratifying to all Single Tax men present. On calling for questions at the close of the talk, the gentleman who occupied the chair in the absence of Dr. Levy was very complimentary, and confessed to being nearly convinced we are right. Many questions were forthcoming. Most of these were from the usual point of view, but one socialist was there. However, he was a genuine seeker for truth, and was not absolutely certain that he already possessed it—he was a good socialist. He, of course, thought we would need machinery, and so did we. But he seemed to think that somehow or other it might be given to us, while we held to the notion that, with normal opportunities, we could make machinery—just like other people.

On the next evening a lecture was given before the Woman's Monday Club at Carnegie on the subject, "Thomas Carlyle." Those who call for a consideration of Carlyle are usually a trifle nervous as to a discussion of Henry George. It is curious, for the two men thought very much alike, in fact, but held to different notions as to the best method of practically realizing their ideals. Carlyle imagines an English Duke to say to the rest of the English people: "What would become of you, if we decided, some day, on growing no more wheat at all? If we chose to grow only partridges henceforth, and a modicum of wheat for our own use? Can we not do what we like with our own?" A little of Carlyle's sarcasm, like this, has a tendency to make many wonder if George can be worse. However they seem to enjoy the rugged old Scotchman. One good old lady said, "I have seen all that in Carlyle, but did not

seem to feel the emphasis." That is the difficulty. When one reads Carlyle, one will see the land question—if one is looking for it. Carlyle had no faith in a democracy, but he knew, that, whatever the form of government, the land must be administered for the benefit of the people.

Another suburb of Pittsburg, called Swissvale, was visited on the following evening, and although the meeting was small, it developed a strong interest. The subject was "The Single Tax," and all present seemed to agree that no sane man could really desire to be taxed more than once. Quite an interest in questions was displayed, and apparently all were satisfactorily answered. The assurance of much better attendance at some future meeting came from all quarters. It is quite possible, and distinctly worth while to teach the truth in Pennsylvania.

Carnegie Hall, Allegheny, was opened on Sunday afternoon for a lecture on "The Single Tax as a Cure for Municipal Corruption." A number of gentlemen of local prominence were in the audience, and became more interested than they apparently were at first as the nature of our case was developed. For it was shown that in the absence of our remedy corruption is practically inevitable—while, with our remedy, it is practically impossible, and certainly needless. Questions were asked, and the meeting closed amid much good feeling.

In the evening a meeting was held in the Sabbath school room of the Presbyterian Church, at Wallace avenue and Wood street, Pittsburgh. The meeting was not a success in point of numbers, but the pastor and a number of the substantial members of the church were present. These were entertained, for much to their surprise, as well as that of the speaker, over an hour and a half was consumed—to a considerable degree by questions.

The next evening, December 18, was devoted to a debate with a lawyer who attempted to defend prohibition of the manufacture and sale of "spirituous liquor, wine, beer or cider," or something similar. At least the resolution read as follows: "Resolved, that the Single Tax, as proposed by Henry George, offers a better solution for the evils of intemperance than prohibition." It was really quite enjoyable to make emphatic declaration in favor of the well recognized religious concept of "individual responsibility." That not only sounds well, but it is a little difficult to see just how a man can be held to have sinned unless he had the choice of doing or not doing. Of course our prohibition friend had the usual figures as to the people spending eight or nine hundred million dollars annually for liquors. But we felt compelled to call attention to the fact that a gallon of high wine

that costs wholesale \$1.25 would cost only fifteen cents if the federal tax were removed, for the simple reason that the tax is \$1.10 per gallon. It, therefore, seems valid to say that most of the immense sum named is spent, not for liquor, but for taxes. Possibly the buyers don't want the liquor—are merely unusually patriotic. The fact that the Single Tax would abolish involuntary poverty was emphasized, and that only a free man could be expected to be a moral one. One of the Pittsburg papers gave a very good report, and our Single Tax friends voted it a most excellent evening—in spite of the weather.

On the afternoon of December 13th a visit was paid to the Lawrenceville New Century Club, a woman's society, and an address given on "Thomas Carlisle." The ladies were cordial in extending thanks and hoped to learn more definitely of the George doctrine in the near future.

The East End Board of Trade of Pittsburg was addressed on the subject "Single Tax." It was a most excellent meeting, in that it was made up of men of affairs who can readily comprehend a business proposition—which is the precise nature of the single tax. Payment for value received all along the line is all that Single Tax men ask. Pay to the public for what you get from the public, thereby securing common rights, just as we secure private rights. Many questions were forthcoming, all in the best of humor, and most of them indicating a favorable inclination toward our position. The meeting broke up at a late hour amid congratulations on all sides. The East End Board of Trade of Pittsburg is alive.

Another gathering of ladies was addressed and a certain disagreement among the members discovered. One lady in particular was evidently of the opinion that the present status of society is all right. She had some difficulty in explaining just why she thought so, but that she did think so was a "sure thing"—and she would like to see the one who can make her believe differently. Fortunately the ability of the club, which in some instances is marked, is arrayed in opposition.

At Johnstown, Pa., after a friendly talk with our old tried and true Single Tax friend, Warren Worth Bailey, editor and publisher of the *Johnstown Democrat*, and his brother Homer, who is associated with him, an address was given before the high school literary society. This meeting was pleasing to all concerned, and on the following day another talk was given to the teachers' institute at Wyndberg, a comparatively new town near Johnstown. Prof. William Scott is principal, and a Single Tax man. In the evening a debate was held before the institute on the assertion that the citizens' rights could be secured only by the ballot or its equivalent. Chas. C. Grier, city

solicitor of Johnstown, held the negative, but insisted that he wished to be accepted only as a vicarious offering. The debate was arranged merely for the purpose of laying before the teachers and others the nature of popular government, and it seemed to serve this purpose very well. Mr. Grier is a vigorous man and struggled manfully with an unwelcome task.

On the following evening, which was Sunday, the Turner Society was visited and a presentation of the doctrines of Henry George offered. Many of these men and women are essentially Single Taxers—some definitely so—and all are friendly. The evening was enjoyable and the Turners extremely sociable.

Monday morning the Ministerial Association was addressed on the subject, "Individualism versus Socialism." The good brethren seemed to think they were to receive something in the nature of a "drubbing." It seems some one had talked a little vigorously to them some time before, and some one else had repeated the arraignment more recently, and on top of it all local newspapers had taken them to task. Life was becoming strenuous. A rather grim lot of faces met the speaker. As a consideration of the matter under discussion involved no antagonism toward either churches or religion, haste was made to show that some functions of associated men were private and some public, and that, therefore, there is a field, fully according with accepted concepts of morality, for the proper exercise of individual initiative, and also a field for the proper exertion of social dominion. As the nature of the presentation developed, the grim faces relaxed, and they were prepared to listen patiently while it was explained that recent researches seemed to make clear the fact that Babylon maintained landlordism, and also a revengeful criminal law, while our records tell us that Moses corrected property laws, or landlordism, but maintained the criminal law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Again our records tell us the later dispensation recommended forgiving our enemies, or an abolition of the Mosaic criminal law. In our day, however, we not only have not maintained the law of Jesus nor yet that of Moses, but have very firmly re-established both the criminal and civil law of pagan Babylon—that is, landlordism and revenge. We are now very modestly asking the churches, help to introduce once more at least the civil law of Moses. If they absolutely refuse to endorse the proposals of Jesus of Nazareth as to our criminal practice, can they not bring themselves to endorse the wholesome part of Moses' commands? The ministers were highly delighted, but whether at the ideas advanced, or because they escaped some degree of abuse, is perhaps doubtful.

In the evening the "Single Tax" was discussed before the Economic Circle, and quite a number of outsiders were present and asked questions that indicated a desire to get at the exact truth. A few Socialists—rather young ones—were much annoyed because they could immediately overthrow the George position with the same ease that they dispose of all others. They, like others, will live and, let us hope, will learn.

Next evening the Merchants Association, Chas. Swank, chairman, listened to a discussion of the "Cause of Industrial Depressions." The merchants knew the direct cause was failure of demand. But just why this occurred was matter for doubt—unless it resulted from failure of men to get remunerative employment, and this could only happen from failure of demand. So here we are again. The fact that landlords take part of product without return, and that this leads to land speculation, seemed to be a new idea to most of them. Holding land out of use, and taking part of what is produced, would very naturally leave the people with diminished purchasing power, and therefore failing demand.

"Public Ownership of Public Utilities" was discussed on the following evening before an association made up of the principals of the public schools. Some of these gentlemen are familiar with economic literature and friendly to the cause of reform, but some are still in darkness. They asked many questions, and some seemed to assume that the matter might be disposed of according to decree. The idea of natural law is seemingly so difficult of attainment—in some cases.

The series of engagements at Johnstown closed with a banquet at the Crystal Cafe. Judge of Cambria County, Hon. T. J. O'Connor, was toast master, and the committee of arrangements were Hon. Robert E. Cresswell, Hon. James W. Walters, John H. Waters, President of the National Radiator Co., and W. W. Bailey. The banquet was attended by the prominent ladies and gentlemen of Johnstown, and was voted a very enjoyable affair. One attorney, however, took exception to the Single Tax doctrine advanced by the speaker, who had responded to the toast, "The Future of Democracy." A curious fact was that while the objector is a Democrat, a Republican listener whispered, "He is making our argument." Is it not strange that a Democrat cannot be Democratic? Is Democracy a lost art? It was reported next day that the Single Tax man had "got the whole town by the ears." The Republican paper felt impelled to give us an editorial paragraph, which was kindly, but held the plan impracticable. A short reply was made, and this called forth a column editorial, in which there was a gradual shifting from the ground of impracticability to that of

injustice. Republican editors, like Democratic lawyers, are sometimes rational. The banquet was highly enjoyed, and it was generally agreed that the objector was a good witness against his own case.

Reading, Pa., was next visited, and, among other entertainments, there was a debate with a socialist. At least that was the claim put forward on his behalf. His whole notion seemed to be abuse of the opposing counsel, and poor work was made even of this. A meeting was also held in a church and a number of questions were asked by a few socialists. The defence of private property seemed to please the business men present. The pastor of the church asked some questions that were not cast in an unfriendly form, and it appeared that some of the socialists present could have performed much better service for their cause than did the champion put forward at the debate. Some time ago a Single Tax man was elected to the board of tax commissioners of this city and succeeded in getting quite an increase in the levy on vacant land. They have not as yet succeeded in removing the increase. The real work is slowly beginning.

A good meeting was held at Pottstown, Pa. There is quite a group of Single Tax men at this city. They are self-sacrificing, and went to work with a will to make the meeting a success. Newspapers in Pottstown, Johnstown and Pittsburg gave very good reports of meetings held. In private conversation we met one man who said he was in receipt of \$150.00 per month when he was twenty years of age, and being satisfied had always voted against any change of government policy. He was and is a Republican—so he says.

A meeting of Single Tax men exclusively was also held at Pottstown, at which were discussed ways and means of propaganda. After canvassing the situation it was agreed that opportunities actually were present, and that much could be accomplished without severe effort. Perhaps as much real amusement can be secured by devoting one's leisure to Single Tax work as by engaging in progressive euchre. Why not try to make the single tax work inviting rather than disagreeable? Make it play—not work.

Mr. George Fowlds, member of the New Zealand Parliament for Grey Lynn, was tendered a reception by his supporters numbering nearly 500, on which occasion he was presented with an illuminated address. The speeches were eloquent personal tributes to this determined fighter who has done so much for the cause of the Single Tax under the Southern Cross, and Mr. Fowlds in his response pledged himself anew to continue the fight "till the day of special privileges and monopolies has gone past."