

was handicapped by being regarded as an unimportant part of the Park Commission's work.

The last speaker, Mrs. E. M. Murray, essayed the task of drawing together the different phases of the Woman Movement touched upon by the various speakers. She expressed her interest in all of them, and the necessity that women were under to support them all. But when the last industrial worker, man or woman, had been fully organized, what would have been accomplished, and where would the end be? How could high wages be maintained for all, where could employment be found for all, unless opportunities to labor were increased? Industrial organization could not increase those opportunities indefinitely.

The franchise was a desirable thing, a necessary thing for woman, not as an end but a means, a symbol to herself that she had achieved that degree of freedom, had a new tool with which to work; only in this way would she learn how useless it was while present conditions remained. The ballot had not freed men, it would not free women. Legislation would not secure freedom. The real use of any legislation was as a sort of landmark to show how far we had progressed. A law, however good, was not a stopping-place but a starting-place; a point where we could get a fresh hold to go on to better things. The hope of the future lay in educating the children to be free, to understand that freedom was a condition that the individual must attain, not something that legislation could bestow. The possibilities of the playground in this direction had been touched upon, but what was the result to be, if there were no free opportunities? The one important thing for the industrial worker, the suffragist, the teacher and reformer alike to learn, was that only through increase of natural opportunities could any lasting improvement be brought about, and opportunities could only be increased by freeing the land, the source of all opportunities.

In closing, Miss Amy Mali Hicks said that it need not discourage us to find that all we were working for could not come to pass in our day. We were really working for the future even more than for ourselves.

We could look ahead and adopt for our motto what Olive Schreiner had said of one of her books:—"To the small girl child who shall live to grasp that which to us is sight, not touch."

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#### RECEPTION AND DINNER TO HENRY GEORGE, JR. AND LOUIS F. POST.

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The Manhattan Single Tax Club tendered a dinner and reception to Henry George, Jr. and Louis F. Post at Kalil's restaurant in this city on the night of February 15th. Messrs. George and Post, who had arrived in New York City on the preceding day, had, as our readers know, taken a prominent part in the British elections, addressing meetings in a number of Parliamentary districts on the principles underlying the Budget, the rejection of which by the House of Lords had necessitated a general election. Of the result of this election our readers are now duly apprised. But all were anxious to learn from the lips of those who had come from the seat of this desperately waged contest how far and how deeply our principles had permeated. And those who came, and many more who were prevented from coming, were also eager to pay this greeting to these two beloved leaders and comrades in the faith.

When President Leubuscher rose to address the assembled diners there were seated 247 men and women. Mr. Leubuscher spoke as follows:

#### ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT LEUBUSCHER.

"The honored guests, our dear friends Henry George, Jr. and Louis F. Post, have this day returned to our shores after enjoying an experience which every Single Taxer will envy them. Commencing with the memorable contest waged by the elder George twenty-three years ago in this city, there have been a number of local campaigns in which the question of the Single Tax was involved; but the battle that has just been crowned with victory in Great Britain is the first great national campaign ever waged under our banner. Our honored guests took a prominent part in that contest, and materially aided in the success of a number of candidates who

stood on our platform. While our congratulations are a little tinged with envy, I can assure them that the onward march of the Single Tax in this country has not been stayed during their absence. Not only have the Fels Fund Commission, the Manhattan Single Tax Club, and other associations of Single Taxers continued their regular propaganda work, but public men who are not avowed Single Taxers, and perhaps do not realize that they are doing Single Tax work, have materially aided our efforts, or at least made the work easier for us. The agitation for the conservation of the natural resources of the United States, set on foot by Gifford Pinchot, intensified as it is by his removal from the position of Chief Forester and by the Ballinger investigation, has perhaps done as much as our quiet propaganda work, for the ultimate success of our movement. Soon after he was removed by the President because of his "pernicious activity," I sent him the following letter:

"Your fight to conserve the public domain and natural resources of the United States commends you to every believer in the right of all men to equal opportunity before the law. Your perception, that the final closing to settlement and development of the public lands by their passing into private ownership marks the end of the epoch of comparative freedom for the masses, is in harmony with the views of Single Tax advocates.

The Manhattan Single Tax Club, founded by Henry George twenty-three years ago, therefore has instructed me to offer you its support in the manly and determined stand you have taken. If there is any action which we can take, consistently with our principles and our constitution, that will help to sustain you and your work, we shall be glad to undertake it, or to co-operate with you."

Mr. Pinchot sent the following answer:

"I thank you for your letter of January 12. The support and encouragement of yourself and of the Manhattan Single Tax Club are most welcome.

Now that the lines are being clearly drawn between the special interests and the rest of us in the fight for conservation and the square deal, we shall win, for the

people are on our side. What has happened to me is of no consequence, except as it will help us to win.

Please give my hearty thanks to the members of the Single Tax Club for their good wishes and support."

The Pinchot agitation comes at an opportune time. The Court of Appeals of the State of New York lately handed down a decision in the case of *People v. N. Y. Carbonic Acid Gas Co.*, in which the chief judge laid down the doctrine that "A man owning a coal mine may mine coal and waste it, regardless of the interests of the present generation or of succeeding ones. It is not that such conduct would not be an evil, but because the people who framed our system of government, taught by experience, deemed it wiser to trust the use of property to the dictates of the enlightened self-interest of the owner, rather than to subject it to governmental interference."

As I pointed out in an article in the *Single Tax Review*, this doctrine not only ignores the constitutional right of the government to take any and all privately owned lands for public purposes—thus drawing a sharply defined line between real estate and personal property—but bolsters up every special privilege. The decisions of our Court of Appeals are highly esteemed by the courts of our sister states, and are followed by most of them. The Pinchot agitation will tend to offset the tendency toward the general adoption of Judge Cullen's doctrine throughout the United States.

Another instance of a high official who is blazing the path for Single Taxers without perhaps being aware of it, is Mayor Gaynor of this city. Only about a week ago he issued a strongly worded and able criticism of the law for the taxation of personal property. Indeed some of the headlines of the newspapers characterized the message as Single Tax. While we cannot claim that, still, the logic of his argument was distinctly Single Tax. We have no authority for hailing his Honor as an accession to our ranks, but—we have hopes.

In one of his speeches David Lloyd-George, the author of the budget round which the battle was fought in England, said it was a war budget, that it meant a

war against poverty, disease and death, a war against the debasement of man, the degradation of woman and the stunting of the child. We congratulate our honored guests on the privilege they enjoyed of taking part in that war."

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ADDRESS OF HENRY GEORGE JR.

Mr. George on rising was greeted with loud applause. His speech was full of reasoned optimism as to the outlook. He told how the fight just closed had been all along our lines. The result makes it impossible for the Liberals, Laborites, or Nationalists to accomplish anything alone. The Laborites cannot do anything without the Liberals, nor the Irish members without the help of both the Liberals and Labor members. The Liberals, Laborites and Nationalists must therefore stand together, presenting a united front to the forces of privilege. This promises far better results than an overwhelming Liberal victory.

Mr. George was invited to speak as soon as he had landed on British soil. Our doctrines were received with the greatest enthusiasm. He found people everywhere alive to the question. The Single Tax doctrine was being taught under the name of the taxation of land values, and British orators were preaching it from every platform. "We have come home from the war," said Mr. George, "and we want to report to our friends on this side that the battle is being fought on the right lines. The movement in England has gone to the root of the question. The taxation of land values is there to stay. The movement must make the land question the predominant question in Great Britain."

Mr. George explained that the movement had begun in Scotland in the Council of Glasgow where some of our friends had induced the body to petition Parliament to rate land values for local revenues. This was twice defeated and twice passed. Sir Campbell Bannerman's government had introduced a measure to rate land values for local revenues, but the House of Lords threw it out.

"I have called Premier Asquith an ice pitcher. But this characterization would leave much untold. He is an astute poli-

tician, of consummate ability as a party manager. Lloyd George is the magnificent cavalry leader of the new movement. He can thrill an audience as strongly as any speaker I ever heard. Before an audience of 1,000 or 10,000 he can set them ablaze with the Single Tax. Speaking of his proposals in the Budget he says: 'These are insignificant. What we ought to do is to open up the land of Great Britain.' And let us not forget Winston Churchill, some of whose ancestors were Americans and others of whom distinguished themselves at Blenheim and Ramillies. Whereas he once showed himself perplexed when confronted with the problem of unemployment he has given evidence in many strong speeches of late that he is at no loss now for an answer to the problem. But we have not to depend upon these three men alone, Asquith, George, and Churchill—all towers of strength. We have twenty-one members of our own faith in Parliament—Single Taxers as much as you and I. And five are actually members of the government.

We used to hear the Single Tax called ridiculous; then they said there might be something in it; now they tell us they always believed in it."

Mr. George pointed out that the Budget victory was the more remarkable since it was a victory not of all the democratic forces—owing to suffrage limitations—but only a part of the democracy against the massed forces of privilege.

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ADDRESS OF LOUIS F. POST.

Mr. Post received a splendid welcome on rising, and delivered himself of one of his rapid fire speeches which held the interest of his auditors for an hour and ten minutes. Ten hours after landing on British soil he was speaking to British audiences. "I had the time of my life. All the old stories worn out here went well over there." Mr. Post said all the old McKinley banners had been printed over again and used by the Tories. He pointed out that in the industrial communities the Liberal vote had increased but in agricultural districts it had decreased. There the landlord has tremendous power, and this accounts for Liberal defections. For

the benefit of non-Single Taxers present Mr. Post here gave an admirable statement of our doctrine.

The speaker pointed out that landlordism assumes an entirely different form from landlordism as we know it. "Here the corporations have capitalized their land values. The railroads are great landlords, some of the building companies are great landlords, the steel trust is more of a landlord than anything else. In Great Britain landlordism assumes the form of deer forests, immense preserves, lordly estates descended from father to son, and existing for hundreds of years. If we could bring landlordism over here in this form we would make short work of it. But suppose we had lived under this system a thousand years. That would be a different story.

"There is another difference, too. Here we tax everything from collar buttons up to land. We tax land because it is one kind of property. But in England it is proposed to tax land, not because it is property, *but because it is not property*. The question in England presents itself in this way. Shall this question of unemployment be solved by the adoption of protection or by the opening up of natural opportunities? Make no mistake. This is the great question and must remain the question for some time to come. Protection is gaining, too. From his sick room in Birmingham Joe Chamberlain issued his manifestoes with the result that Birmingham cast Tory majorities without a single defection.

"We should remember, however, that eighteen months ago the Liberal party was demoralised. Its demoralization was like the demoralization of the democratic party here. Then came this act of statesmanship and with it the democratization of the democratic party of Great Britain. It was a hard fight to make, but the Liberal forces have won."

MR. L. HENRY, a veteran labor member of the Henry George movement, has a letter in a recent number of the *Bricklayer and Mason*. Mr. Henry says: "Conservation of land values or preservation of natural resources is another way of expressing, 'Get off our backs.'"

## SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM THE OFFICIAL MINUTES.)

The Single Tax Conference in Pittsburg on March 2nd at the Hotel Henry was a great success. Over three hundred were in attendance. The Conference was called to order by Ralph E. Smith at 10 A. M. and W. W. Bailey of Johnstown was elected Chairman and B. B. McGinnis, of Pittsburg, Secretary.

The Chairman appointed W. D. George, Joseph Fels and Joseph R. Eckert to visit Mayor McGee and invite him to attend the meetings of the Conference. Frank Stephens, C. E. Bender and C. R. Eckert were appointed a committee on resolutions.

A discussion of the mercantile tax now ensued in which Messrs. Henry George, Bailey, Bender, Park and others took part.

Mr. Fels read a paper on the progress of the Single Tax in Great Britain.

The afternoon session began at 2:15. Mr. Bailey opened the discussion on direct legislation.

Mr. Wilson:—We should associate ourselves with the democratic party to get results.

Mr. Fels strongly opposed association with any party.

Then followed discussion on the conservation question in which Messrs. Fels, Tiers, Stevens and Henry George, Jr., took part.

The Committee on Resolutions here reported the following which were adopted, with amendment offered by Mr. Wilson that Single Taxers lend their efforts to secure the separate assessment of land and improvements in Pittsburg:

"We recognize and again wish to emphasize the fact that industry and commerce are clogged, fettered and bound by our antiquated and unscientific system of taxation, and that new life and vigor will be given to trade and business by a revision of our tax laws, in accordance with scientific and just principles. In view of the fact that a legislative committee has been appointed for the purpose of investigating the tax question:

We recommend that the local Single