

Single Tax movement, and indications as well as logic, point to a like condition here, where they are the principal factor in the State's prosperity.

Seventh. The industrial depression, so universal, is extremely acute in this State, and accounts in a measure for the endorsements our movement has received. It is likely to count all through the year.

If our business men were thoroughly awake to the advantage to accrue to them from exempting from taxation personal property and improvements, I should expect them to be ready and anxious to contribute liberally to our movement here, but for the campaign which must precede and create the awakening, we are dependent upon friends of the cause in other States.

LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

THE February number of *Alexander's Magazine*, Boston, Mass., contains a portrait of Francis H. Warren, President of the Liberian Development Association, who was the only colored delegate to the Single Tax Conference in this city last November.

JUDSON Grenell, writes us that Detroit has had a good series of Single Tax lectures the past winter, and that the audiences were attentive and appreciative, and the association having the matter in charge came out financially whole. We will publish in our next issue a series of slum sketches from Mr. Grenell.

"UNEARNED increment" is the phrase coined by Henry George to represent the unearned increase in the land values which by our iniquitous laws accrues to the person or corporation holding title to the land. This increase in value is always caused by the increase of population, and in natural justice belongs to the people who caused the increase. Being thus robbed of what they earn, poverty is the inevitable result to the masses, although it means sometimes enormous unearned wealth to the favored few.

GEORGE WALLACE.

In Rockville Center, Long Island, South Side *Observer*.

THE JEFFERSON DINNER.

The Manhattan Single Tax Club celebrated its Twenty-Second Annual Celebration of Jefferson's Birthday on April 13th, by a dinner at the Union Square Hotel, this city. There being several counter attractions on this evening the attendance numbered only about sixty Single Tax men and women. But these were rewarded with a number of interesting speeches quite up to the standard of those of former years.

Some interesting communications were received. Franklin K. Lane, of the Interstate Commerce Commission wrote: "I regret to be compelled to deny myself the pleasure of meeting the members of your club and joining with you in the celebration of Jefferson's birthday."

Miss Ida M. Tarbell said she was on the point of leaving New York for a western trip; otherwise she would be glad to attend.

Hon. Tom L. Johnson wrote: "I fear that for some months to come I am precluded the pleasure of making any out-of-town engagements.

I regret to send you this unfavorable reply but am confident if you knew how much is expected of me here you would understand the situation."

Mr. C. B. Fillebrown wrote; "I feel honored by the invitation of the Manhattan Single Tax Club to be present as a guest at their approaching Thomas Jefferson birthday dinner and it is with regret that I find myself obliged to forego the tempting indulgence, since I have had to decline so many similar kind invitations of the Manhattan Club.

I have a good deal more than I can do to keep up with the current procession, beside leaving a lot of pressing private concerns waiting neglected attention. This is the reason why I am obliged regretfully to let pass on opportunity to meet the kindred spirits around and above the festal board, to whom please present my cordial regards and good wishes."

Bliss Carman, one of the few real poets of our generation, wrote: "In reply to your very courteous invitation to the annual dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club I must very regretfully say

that I cannot accept as I shall not be in New York upon that date. Let me express, however, my very best wishes for the continued welfare of the club and its holy cause."

Herbert Quick, author of the *Broken Lance*, wrote as follows:

"I wish I could tell you how sorry I am to be obliged to decline your invitation to speak to the Manhattan Single Tax Club at its coming Jeffersonian Day banquet. The fact is, however, that I cannot possibly come.

We western Single Taxers consider the Manhattan Club as a sort of Mother Church, and center of the cult. I should regard it as an honor to speak to you, second to none within the power of any institution to confer. But it is too far, and I cannot allow myself the luxury. Time is exceedingly important to me now, and the preparation of the address, the journey to and from New York, not to mention the more sordid expense, is more than I can afford.

Other letters regretting their inability to attend were received from U. S. Senator Gore, Bird S. Coler, Augustus Thomas, Mark M. Fagan and Peter Witt,

Frederick C. Leubuscher, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, who acted as toast master with his customary felicity spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF MR. LEBUSCHER.

The Democratic Club is celebrating tonight, but without William Jennings Bryan, because *he* is too Jeffersonian. We are also celebrating to-night, but without William Jennings Bryan, because *we* are too Jeffersonian. The first Democrat in the land was not invited to speak at the Tammanyites dinner because of their fear of his radicalism; while he declined our invitation to speak because his fear of *our* radicalism. During the past four months the Single Taxers of Manhattan have had five banquets. While none of them were \$10 affairs, still our bread was broken at boards around which were seated brothers and sisters in happy accord, strikingly in contrast with the Lucullian feast of the politicians.

"Oh, better no doubt is a dinner of herbs,
When seasoned by love, which no rancor
disturbs,
And sweetened by all that is sweetest in
life
Than turbot, bisque, ortolans eaten in
strife."

The first of the five dinners was the culmination of the American Single Tax Conference which was more successful than the most sanguine had anticipated. It resulted in revivifying the movement and establishing an organization that is already doing things. The next was a dinner tendered to the "father of the conference," John J. Murphy. That modest man expected about ten or a dozen to drink in his honor the red ink so bountifully supplied at Peck's but, although the notice was short, almost fifty of his Single Tax friends greeted and congratulated him. Johan Hanson, who is making a tour of the world gathering materials for a history of the movement, attended the conference; and just before he left the city for the west, en route for Australia, a few of us met to bid him God-speed.

Then came the Lincoln birthday dinner of the Women's Henry George Club which in point of attendance, enthusiasm and eloquence put many of our mere men's affairs to the blush. All the speakers were women, and each speaker had something to say.

And here we are to-night giving our 22nd consecutive celebration of Jefferson's birthday. It is meet that the thoughts of Americans should just now be turned to the author of the Declaration of Independence. The keynote of his political philosophy was freedom—the rights of the individual—and never have those rights been more threatened with extinction than here and now in the United States. The outrages committed only a few weeks ago in Union Square are still fresh in our minds. Had the police in England arrogated to themselves the power to brutally suppress free speech, as our blue coats did here, that country would now be in the throes of a revolution. In no civilized country except Russia and the United States is the club mightier than the constitution. About a score of years ago

as Herbert Spencer was leaving our shores, he was asked what had struck him as most significant in this country; and he promptly said "the indifference of Americans to their liberties." That this indifference has grown rapidly since the great thinkers visit is evident; for how else can we account for the arbitrary refusals to permit certain publications the use of the mails and for the invasion of the peoples' rights to peaceably assemble.

Ex. Governor Garvin now spoke to "The Situation in Rhode Island." The gist of his remarks will be found in what he writes in another column in which he sums up what is being done in that State.

Benjamin C. Marsh, secretary of the committee on Congestion of Population, whose recent exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in this city, and later in Brooklyn caused so much comment, spoke in part as follows:

ADDRESS OF MR. MARSH.

I wish to state in the very beginning that I am not a Single Taxer, but from study, limited but intensified which I have been able to devote to the subject of congestion of population, I am unable to conceive of any adequate solution of the problem of congestion of population in our cities without adopting in some measure the tenets of the Single Tax doctrine.

You may have noticed that we placed in juxtaposition at the exhibit the description of our present land system and the model of the two-room tenement apartment showing housing and industrial conditions where the virtue of women and the health of children are impossible of conservation, for we are forced to the conclusion that with the contemporaneous existence of these conditions, there is some relation between them.

This is not a plea for anarchy or for socialism; it is however, a recognition of the fact that we need to have much more thorough regulation of speculation in land than we have to-day and this regulation is not confiscation. When we realize that Manhattan has been needing certain public improvements for years, and study the Cube which was presented at the Exhibit of Congestion of Population in New York which demonstrates visually

that there has been an increase from the price paid for Manhattan, \$24 in 1626 to \$2,712,000,000, we are astounded at the folly of a system which has not permitted the city to secure enough of this increase to provide these needed improvements, and it is simply nonsense to say that the city cannot afford better means of protecting its people and better cultural facilities for them.

The most significant thing, I believe, about the exhibit of Congestion however, is the fact that social workers of this city are recognizing that their methods of dealing with the social problems are not fundamental but are absolutely futile, for measures much more far-reaching than those hitherto conceived by them are essential for a proper social order. It is a striking illustration of the general conviction that exploitation plus charity does not make justice and never will, so we see that the relation between social progress and taxation is close and vital. Private charity should never be called upon and never will be adequate to serve as an antidote for the robbing and the despoiling of weaker members of society by the stronger members of society, nor can we expect to have any real social progress which is based upon such a conception of justice. These facts so significantly brought out by the Exhibit of Congestion of Population, constitute, reinforced as they were by facts and statistics widely gathered, an enduring appeal for a higher type of social organization and a community actively for genuine social progress through the securing of the social resources of a community.

Joseph Dana Miller read the following beautiful sonnet to Henry George, written by William Lloyd Garrison, and sent with Mr. Garrison's greetings to the diners:

Would thou wert able to revisit earth
 And note the bounteous crop that from
 thy seed
 Cheers the wide world,—sown by thy
 word and deed
 In days of sorrow and of parching dearth.
 Unceasing wonder, that from humble birth
 Come the Messiahs who mankind have
 freed,

Recasting human thought, subduing
 greed,
 Through revelations of life's priceless
 worth!
 If death ends all, which thy belief denied,
 Sleep sweetly in the arms of dreamless
 death,
 Content with immortality of pen;
 But if with an imperishable breath
 Thou in some other sentient realm abide,
 Doubt not, great soul, the gratitude of men

Hon. Thomas M. Osborne delivered an address on "Democracy," The gist of his speech will be found in the *Atlantic Monthly* for May—a very interesting and philosophic analysis of the development of democracy. Mr. Osborne belongs to the church Invisible of Single Taxers among those who are not of her visible body.

Mr. Henry George spoke to the subject of Thomas Jefferson, giving a number of interesting extracts from the writings of the founder of Democracy which have special bearing upon the economic problem. These for want of space we omit, but shall probably include them in some future number.

ADDRESS OF HENRY GEORGE, JR.

In responding to the toast of "Thomas Jefferson" Mr. George said that in these days of "practical" affairs it was to be expected that higher criticisms would question whether a man named Thomas Jefferson ever existed, just as higher criticism dissolved Homer and Moses into myths. For commonly enough we hear that the Thomas Jefferson utterances, and particularly the Declaration of Independence are abstractions, buncombe, political rainbows; and their author if any one man—a rainbow chaser.

For great educators like President Elliot of Harvard scout at "equal" and "inalienable" rights, and Chancellor Day of Syracuse says this present world is a better place than Heaven. Even the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, has called the author of the Declaration an "impractical theorist," no doubt having in mind, as a type of the "practical" man, Mr. Railroad King Harriman; and as an example of "practical"

political welfare, the presidential campaign of 1896 when the Republicans are said to have spent \$16,000,000 and won a victory for McKinley and Honest Money.

And just within a few days the historic Fifth Avenue Hotel in this city was closed preparatory to being torn down to make place for a modern office building. On the final night a large number of politicians and newspaper men gathered in the lobby and speeches reminiscent of practical politics were delivered. Chief among the speakers were the two United States Senators from New York State.

First the aged Senator Thomas C. Platt spoke.

He read from a manuscript about "the great of the earth" who had in times past gathered in that hotel, and how about the benches around which this last meeting was being held, had been accustomed to come and sit the men who "for a period of many years directed the destinies of the State of New York, wrote its statutes and decreed all the important acts of government"; in deed, "made and unmade Presidents and Governors, and determined party platforms and policies both in the State and nation."

Senator Chauncey M. Depew followed him and said: "It has often been asked where the real capital of the State of New York was located. Well, since the time many of you were born the capital of this State has been right here where I am standing.

We have heard of struggles at Albany to induce the speaker of the House to give this or that committee chairmanship to this or that member, but it was given right here.

We have heard of legislative recesses to enable members to return to the bosom of their constituencies in order to get a correct view of public opinion on some measure, but they found public opinion right in this corner.

There have been many conventions at Saratoga when the whole State waited breathlessly for 900 delegates to decide on a ticket—which was made up, complete and in apple pie order, right in this corner."

This represents the spirit of "practical" politics of to-day and to one who can see

only this the country must appear "comfortably rotten."

But thank God this is not the only view of the country and its ideals. In the hearts and minds of the great mass Thomas Jefferson is not an "impractical theorist" but the profoundest of political philosophers, not a rainbow chaser, but a builder who laid deep and broad foundations for a vast superstructure.

And this is why single taxers particularly may well call themselves followers of Thomas Jefferson. His political philosophy rests upon fundamental principles of political economy.

Rev. Leighton Williams then spoke as follows, with which the twenty-second annual Jefferson celebration came to a close.

SPEECH OF LEIGHTON WILLIAMS

It is a pleasure and an honor to join with you in doing reverence to the memory of the great Statesman and patriot Thomas Jefferson. I feel for him increasing esteem and veneration. I have long been an earnest advocate of the views of Mr. Henry George, and am heartily with you in the Single Tax movement.

Both of these great and good men were in a very genuine sense, religious men. While they were not held by dogmatic opinions, they believed in the fundamental realities of religion. I hold in my hands what is popularly termed *Jefferson's Bible*. It is a compilation of the sayings of our Lord, extracted by him from the Gospel narratives. He read it regularly each day for many years, and writing to a friend regarding his admiration for the Master's teachings, he said, "I am a true Christian." He felt that he had grasped the real significance of our Lord's words. In the same broad sense Mr. George was a Christian, and I wish we might all say the same. Religion is a reality.

It is a vital element in life. There are three great ideals to which we must hold loyally, truth, beauty and goodness. We may differ widely in our opinions regarding them, but let us be true to the ideal. Truth makes its appeal to the intellect, beauty to the feelings and goodness to the conscience and will.

Religion is this worship of the ideal. Hence is it a unity. As we are coming to see this unity under different forms we talk less of comparative religions, as though they were distinct from each other.

The real opposition is that of the selfish egotist and greedy materialist who have lost faith in the ideals of truth and beauty and goodness. These are the men to be feared.

One of our weekly papers had lately a striking cartoon, representing the famous picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, but a new figure is introduced upon the scene. He is a modern banker rushing in and saying to the Fathers as they are about to sign—"For heaven's sake, don't sign—It will hurt business."

Also there is too much of this low growling spirit abroad, but we may hope that a better day is dawning. In both of the old national parties leaders are arising who are calling to higher ideals.

And powerful as the selfish interests may often seem to be, we may yet believe that the forces of righteousness are more powerful. The poet Shelley has been called an athiest, but well may we emulate his faith, when he sings of

That power that yields the world with
never wearied love,
Sustains it from beneath and kindles it
above.

AMERICAN SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The efforts of the American Single Tax League for the past two months have been devoted to the extension of its membership list. The theory underlying its formation was that it should, before attempting any very important work, secure the largest membership possible, and out of such membership secure the election of State Committees who would be charged with the work in their respective States.

With a view to obtaining the largest possible results the Secretary has procured the insertion in over one hundred papers of the notice announcing the organization of the League and requesting