

had his best chance and whole towns have officially become members of the Single Tax (Boden Reform) Association.

The literature is now enormous. A few things are especially worth noting as "*Wie die Landordnung von Kiautschou entstand*," by Admiralitätsrat Dr. Schrameier, and Adolf Wagner's "*Die finanzielle Mitbeteiligung der Gemeinden an Kulterellen Staatseinrichtungen*," Berlin, 1904, and the work of Damaschke "*Die Boden Reform*," Berlin, which has passed through many editions.

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## NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

(COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JOSEPH DANA MILLER, SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE.)

Hours before the first day's session of the two days' conference that resulted in the formation of a National Single Tax League was called to order, introductions and handshakings were in progress in the lobbies and parlor of the Plaza Assembly Rooms, on East 59th street, this city, on the morning of Monday, Nov. 18th. Though the morning session had been set for 10 A. M. many of the visiting members, and indeed a number of resident Single Taxers, were late in putting in an appearance, so that it was 11:45 when Chairman Ross opened the meeting in a short speech and reminded the members of the conference of the serious business that had called them together.

It was an inspiring moment. Here for the first time in fourteen years were met in a national gathering a group of those who in season and out had upborne the banner of industrial freedom. In numbers the conference was far from being representative of our cause. But there were present delegates whose names were familiar to us as long ago as the beginnings of the movement, and there were a number of the younger spirits. California, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, Alabama, Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Washington, D. C., and Canada had sent representatives. Sweden, that progressive little democracy under an anomalous monarchy, where Single Tax principles are beginning to be talked about, had sent Johan Hansson, who sat an intently interested spectator of one phase of the movement whose progress he has watched in so many countries. There were no regrets at the numerically small attendance, which was much increased on the second day, for all present felt the inspiration of the occasion, which was not so much an assembling of Single Taxers as a business meeting, so to speak, of the workers in the cause who comprise the advance guard of the great army.

The proceedings opened with the nomination by John J. Murphy of Mr. Joseph Dana Miller as permanent secretary of the conference. Mr. Miller was unanimously chosen. On nomination of Hon. Robert Baker, Senator Howe, of

Cleveland, was elected temporary chairman of the conference. Mr. Howe on taking the chair was greeted with applause. He made a short address reviewing the situation and touching upon the work that was before the convention.

Mr. Frederick C. Leubuscher, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, made the following address of welcome :

#### ADDRESS OF F. C. LEUBUSCHER.

It is customary for the Mayor of a city in which a convention or conference, non-political in character, is held, to welcome the visiting delegates. The Single Taxers of Greater New York have refrained from inviting the present occupants of our mayor's chair to do these honors because it seems to us to be more fitting that the representatives of Single Taxers in twenty-five States and in Canada should be welcomed by their brothers and sisters to this imperial city. For it was here, at the Jefferson dinner last spring, our able but modest co-worker, John J. Murphy, first broached the idea of a conference to revivify our great movement. Here, too, on Decoration Day was held the successful preliminary conference that decided to issue a call for this gathering; and all the multifarious necessary details of communicating with the Single Taxers of the country were worked out in this city. Above all, it was here that the prophet Henry George fought and died.

It is fitting therefor that we of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, which is almost as old as the movement itself, and of our sister organization, the Brooklyn Single Tax Club, should welcome to our home city our brethren and sisters from the rest of North America.

When the mayor of a small city delivers the address of welcome he usually points with what he calls pardonable pride to its manufactories, art galleries, public works and parks. In this great center of almost five million souls, there is no need to "point with pride," for we have everything that all other cities have, and much more besides. A few weeks ago I could not have truthfully made such a claim, for the only gold mine New York then possessed consisted in our enormous land values, and New York does not dig in that mine but only a few of its specially favored citizens. Three or four weeks ago, however, gold was actually discovered under the bed of the East River where a tunnel is being dug; so that when our landlords get ready to stake their claims, this imperial city will possess a mining camp within its boundaries as well as farms and fisheries.

We bid you welcome to a City in which the assessed land values are \$3,563,000,000, while the improvement values are only \$2,140,000,000. The 3 1/2 billions of land value alone is greater than the assessed value of all the real estate, improvements included, in the State of Pennsylvania, and nearly twice as great as the value of all real estate, including improvements, in the rest of the State of New York. Take an area of six square miles in the district in which this hall is located, and you will find that the land alone is as-

one to think that to every step of our progress the heart of all humanity must beat time!

Mr. John J. Murphy made a short speech on "The Objects of the Conference." The session adjourned at one o'clock for dinner.

### AFTERNOON SESSION OF FIRST DAY.

The Conference re-convened at 2:45 P. M., and listened to the committee on Rules and the Committee on Conference Organization, the reports of which were adopted. The latter committee recommended the following as permanent officers: Chairman, W. A. Douglass, Toronto; Vice-Chairmen, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Wm. Preston Hill, St. Louis, Mo.; Hon. Brand Whitlock, Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, Washington, D. C.; John B. Howarth, Detroit, Mich.; Secretary, Joseph Dana Miller, New York; Assistant Secretaries, Chas. J. Ogle, Baltimore, Md.; and W. E. Barker, New York City.

W. A. Douglass on taking the chair said in part:

"When I started for this conference I dreamed of no such honor as this. From away in the far desolate north, away beyond the bounds of the United States I came here trying to do what I could by shouting in the army of the Lord, where I have shouted for the last twenty years, often under the most extraordinary circumstances.

I do not like to boast, but some times when I look back at the past I cannot help but think, in a sense, of my own utter recklessness.

Occupying a prominent position, as I did, with a financial institution, and knowing that the whole Board of Directors would be opposed to me, I allowed my name to be presented as the President of the Single Tax Association, at a time when it was small, when there were only a few of us and we were looked upon as communists, anarchists and everything else that was bad, ready to withdraw the linch-pin from beneath the chariot of society, and let it fall back into chaos. That is about the reputation that we had at that time.

It was then I wrote a little pamphlet, a very humble little pamphlet, after it was published I handed, in the most innocent way, a copy of it to a friend of mine who was the editor of a religious paper. Within the next week, to my amazement, I found myself there described in the most scathing terms. I was misrepresented in all that I had put forward in that little argument, and by which I had tried to show that a man who gets a piece of land and says to the whole of humanity, "you shan't work here" puts on the necks of his fellow men a weight to keep them crushed down to hopeless, helpless poverty. Well, the description given of me in that paper was such, that happening to fall in the hands of my wife, in humility she went to her room and wept tears at the vile thing I was described there. And this paper was an organ of the church and the editor a man who had been my friend.

That was not the end of it. They continued to attack and threaten, but

I was unshaken, I survived it, and then they went to a man of some power and tried to stab me in the back, tried to have me dismissed. Well, I am here to-day, and the English Parliament is proclaiming the grand doctrine of "the land for the people. (Applause).

I am very glad to be here to-day. I have spoken to my friends when I came to the United States to this conference and the possibility of what we can do if we can combine in organization. Why, just look at the men, great and wise men, we ought to have traversing the continent proclaiming the glorious news to the public. Take our good friend, Mr. Wolf, take our beloved friend Billy Radcliff, and Mr. Baker. If we had men going to all the small towns, men belonging to an organization, getting up organizations of a few members, and doing the work which has heretofore been done in a personal way, I believe we would accomplish wonders."

On the conclusion of Mr. Douglass' remarks Mr. Murphy introduced a resolution providing for the creation of the American Single Tax League and declaring the purpose of the League to spread the knowledge of the fact that the value of land exclusive of improvements therein and thereon is the product and should be the property of the community." The resolution further declared that "This common ownership of land value, can be secured together with individual possession of land by exempting from taxation all labor products including improvements on land, and taking by taxation the rental value of land to pay governmental expenses." The resolutions further provided that the conference confer upon the governing body of the League the widest discretion in the advancement of those principles.

The point of order was raised by Mr. W. E. Barker that these resolutions must in accordance with the report of the Committee on Rules adopted at the morning session, be referred to a Committee on Resolutions, which point of order was decided well taken.

The conference now resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole and proceeded to discuss the resolution of Mr. Murphy, after a time limit had been imposed on each speaker. On these resolutions there was a general discussion lasting the entire afternoon, and there were few of those present who did not take part. Perhaps there were some in attendance who felt that much of this was waste of time, yet accuracy of definition is important, and it was the struggle to attain this accuracy in the resolutions that occasioned the most prolonged, but by no means profitless nor uninteresting debate of the two sessions. Among those who participated in the discussion were Messrs. Murphy, Lebuscher, Hall, Wolf, Baker, H. C. Niles, Leonard Tuttle, McLees, and others. This led Mr. Murphy to say that "if any one believed that any committee could draw up a set of resolutions that would meet with the approval of the convention without criticism has greater faith in the wisdom of the chairman to appoint that committee and greater belief in the unanimity of Single Taxers in doctrines and methods than he had."

Senator Howe said: "I among others have worked for possibly ten



years for the purpose of getting together with the Single Taxers of America. We are here for two days and we have spent a good part of one day discussing economic formulas, every one of which is substantially correct. I came here, as others came, to see if we can focus our attention on how to promote the common ownership of land, to give the community that which the community creates. The way we express our ideas is important, but that is merely form. We can all agree as to that, and I insist that to use up one half of our time in discussing things about which we are all agreed is not what we are here for."

It may be interesting to the readers of the REVIEW to know the verbal points on which differences developed were the words "common ownership," whether of land or land value, and the words "rent" or "land value." The resolutions as finally reported out of the committee to which they were referred, and adopted by the conference, appear with others on another page.

The Conference having now resolved itself out of the committee of the Whole it was moved by Mrs. Frye that we proceed to the appointment of a committee on Resolutions. The following named gentlemen were appointed from names suggested by the members: John J. Murphy, Governor Garvin, Bolton Hall, Thos. P. Ryan, E. Q. Norton, Will Ross, Charles R. Eckert, Frank Stephens, Senator Howe, Mrs. Munroe, F. C. Leubuscher, Joseph Dana Miller, E. B. Gaston, Miss Katherine L. Musson, Mrs. Thomas P. Ryan, Leonard Tuttle, J. V. Gillon, and E. Yancey Cohen.

After the offering of resolutions by a half dozen or more of the members, the reading by Secretary Barker of a greeting from Nebraska Single Taxers, and announcement by Fred C. Leubuscher, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, of the public meeting and banquet, the first day's session was at an end.

## SECOND DAY—NOVEMBER 19TH.

The second day's proceedings opened with W. A. Douglass in the chair. Chairman Douglass said :

"I am very glad to be able to welcome so many women in the convention, and believing, as we do, in the rights of women, this morning we will be presided over by an excellent lady.

I am told that yesterday afternoon we were a little disorderly ; somebody told me that. Now we are going to put a lady in charge this morning and remember that you have got to be on your good behavior.

A friend of mine not long ago said "some person tells me that I make a good chairman, and that reminds me of a lady that got married and some lady congratulated her that she had gotten a model husband, and she went to the dictionary and found that it meant a small imitation of the genuine article. Now that applies to me, but does not apply to my friend, Mrs. Munroe.

Mrs. Munroe will now take charge of the meeting."

Mrs. Munroe, on assuming the chair, thanked the conference for the honor conferred, and announced the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

The resolutions adopted by the convention are appended to this report, and the debate that followed occupied a good part of this session. Perhaps the resolution that occasioned the most discussion was the following: "Resolved, That no tax or duty shall be laid upon articles imported into the United States, or any place subject to its jurisdiction, but a direct tax may be levied upon land according to its value, but not in excess of its present value, provided land owned by the United States, or any State or subdivision thereof shall be exempt from taxation."

Mr. Wallace, of Freeport, N. Y., made a very earnest speech protesting against the adoption of these resolutions as excluding those sincere believers in protection who had progressed sufficiently far with us to believe in the taxation of land values and the removal of taxation on improvements. Senator Howe pointed out that this was a national conference, and that we were dealing with national matters, while the matter to which Mr. Wallace referred must be dealt with by the States. Mr. J. P. Kohler, of Brooklyn, opposed the resolutions because "the United States should not go into direct taxation of land values. This is a matter for the States, and not for the Federal Government, which should tax each State according to its representation in the Congress, and let each State make its direct tax on the land." Mr. Powell moved to lay the resolution on the table, and this motion was seconded and carried. It was again taken from the table, and referred back to the committee for revision to conform to the sense of the convention in its opposition to any federal taxes on land values.

It seemed to be the sense of the convention that the Resolutions conferring power upon the governing board of the league should be so worded as to guard against the organization being drawn into the support of political candidates and this was perhaps best expressed by Mr. Wolf of Fairhope, who said:

"For fifteen years I was very near to our leader Henry George, and I think I am in a position to know his attitude in regard to political action. He recognized the fact, as all of us do, that we cannot accomplish, can only attain our end by political action, but he did not wish to confuse a purely propaganda effort with political action.

Now we are here representing the whole of America, with all kinds of ideas and all kinds of political schemes (Voice from audience "and Canada.")

Canada I believe is in America. Now do not let us mix these things up with politics. Let us keep this continental Association for the propaganda of our ideas and leave the different sections of the country, the different sections of America, to do just as the people of that section prefer to do in regard to political action.

I really think that the resolution ought to be left just as it is presented."

To this Mr. Doubleday of Brooklyn added: "I want to say that I think there is every reason to justify the conviction that there is always danger of the large body of Single Taxers being drawn in the direction of some particular man or party in which action we cannot all agree. I imagine that is largely the cause of this carefulness lest we be led into an attitude where the power

might be applied to the dissatisfaction of some who are Single Taxers. Now what Mr. Wolf has said is absolutely true. So while throwing no hamper upon our individual efforts, let us reserve our organization work for the propaganda of our ideas and for nothing else. That is not a barrier in the way of our work. I think those who have friends they would like to see promoted to office, can rest their case with perfect security in their various home clubs and organizations. There we can organize the forces of our influence in the direction of those we wish to elect."

Mr. Hill, of Baltimore, made a plea for Washington, D. C., as the headquarters of the League. When it was pointed out that the most active secretary that we could possibly get for the League, the gentleman named in the Report of Committee on Plan and Scope" was a resident of New York City, Mr. Hill withdrew his motion and substituted one authorizing the Committee to have its headquarters either in New York or Washington, as in the future may be considered advisable.

Miss Maud Malone, of New York, moved to amend the report of the Committee on Plan of Organization by providing for three women vice-presidents. This motion was carried.

Senator Howe spoke to his resolutions providing for the printing of general leaflets and tracts for distribution. Mr. W. A. Douglass and Mr. "Billy" Radcliffe also spoke to these resolutions.

Mr. Polak, of New York City, offered a resolution providing for the enactment of a statute giving option to municipalities and counties to exempt from taxation improvements not to exceed three thousand dollars in value on any one separately assessed parcel. Mr. Leubuscher and Senator Howe spoke to these resolutions.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION OF SECOND DAY.

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Munroe.

Governor Garvin spoke in advocacy of concentrating to some extent our forces upon Rhode Island, urging that with systematized effort and the presence of John Z. White and "Billy" Radcliffe the two Houses of the State might be captured, even the city of Providence, "and when you get the city of Providence," said the Governor, "you have got the State." This motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

On motion of Senator Howe that the conference now proceed to the consideration of ways and means for the effective promotion of the Single Tax, the conference listened to Mr. Sudell, of Philadelphia, in advocacy of an agitation to secure the separate assessment of land values and improvements in the various States. Mr. Sudell said:

"So far as I know there is not a State in the Union doing this to-day. In Massachusetts they have had it for a number of years, but it does not really separate, because in the improvements there are only counted the buildings, so in the country districts the farms which we count as improvements are

counted in land value. You cannot show the farmer how much land value he really has, and so far as I know there is not really a separation of land value and improvements made in any State in the Union. I may be wrong, but I have seen no figures. Now, it is done and done very effectively in New York City, and I cannot conceive of any better method of Single Tax agitation than giving the relative proportion of improvements and land value in the country so we can lay the argument and figures before our farming population. Our difficulty is not with the city population. The farmers have an idea that we are going to lay all the tax on their land and it is very difficult to disabuse them of that idea."

Mr. Will Ryan, of New York, who had just returned from the National Tax Conference at Columbus, at the invitation of the convention now took the floor, and spoke of the constitutional inhibitions in many States interfering with needed changes in the tax laws that legislatures might be prevailed upon to make in response to enlightened public sentiment. Mr. Ryan urged that we should address ourselves to the work of helping to remove these obstructions in the way, when progress was making among the people in that direction. Mr. Ryan instanced Minnesota, where such an amendment had passed, this State now being on the eve of making changes in the tax laws; Montana, which will vote on such a constitutional amendment next November; and Kentucky, where it is hoped a bill will be introduced at this session.

Mr. Warren, of Detroit, spoke upon his Liberian colonization project, and Mr. Hill, of Maryland, who is well acquainted with the work of the American Colonization Society, added a few words to those of Mr. Warren.

Mr. Chas. D. Ryan of Philadelphia, on the invitation of the Conference explained his letter writing scheme. Mr. Ryan is a young man, full of that enthusiasm which animated so many of us twenty years ago—and which not all of us have succeeded in retaining—and the Conference listened with interest to him while he explained his methods of work, and rewarded him with generous applause when he resumed his seat.

Mr. Norton, of Daphne, Alabama, outlined the advantages of securing Single Tax matter in papers making use of "plates" or "ready prints."

Mr. M. W. Norwalk, of New York, moved that a tax of one dollar be collected by the officers of the League from each Single Taxer, which would entitle him to membership in the League, also to be a delegate or send a proxy delegate to the conventions. This motion was referred to the committee.

Mr. Wm. Lloyd Garrison whose name had been selected for the presidency by the Committee on Organization rose and declined the honor. Henry George, Jr., was nominated but also declined, saying: "I do not think my name in this connection would lend anything to the work. I think it would be far better for this convention to elect some one else of prominence whose name would give weight to the League." Mr. Brown, of Fairhope, now placed Mr. Daniel Kiefer in nomination; Mr. Kiefer declined. Mr. Kohler, of Brooklyn, nominated Governor Garvin who also declined. Mr. Bolton Hall

was nominated by Mr. Sudell, of Philadelphia, and there being no other candidates, Mr. Hall was elected by acclamation.

It was now moved and carried that the officers elected be empowered to carry out the duties of the Executive Committee until such committee was appointed. Mr. Bengough, of Toronto, now rose and said: "I think action should be taken to formally adopt THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW as the national organ of the conference." Mr. Gaston of Fairhope, editor of the *Fairhope Courier*, while paying a high compliment to the REVIEW, objected to the term "organ," and the motion was amended by Governor Garvin that the REVIEW be adopted as "the medium of communication between the executive committee of the League and the Single Taxers of the United States," and the motion unanimously prevailed.

The last act of the Conference was the adoption on motion of Mrs. Ryan of Brooklyn of the badge designed by Miss Hicks as the emblem of the League, with the addition of the words, "The American Single Tax League." Included in the motion which was carried with enthusiasm, was an expression of the thanks of the Conference to the lady whose artistic labors had furnished the body of our believers with so appropriate an emblem.

Thus ended in a spirit of enthusiasm and high hope the National Conference of 1907, which has rung up the curtain on a new era of activity in a movement begun in a mayoralty campaign in this city twenty-one years ago.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND RESOLUTIONS AS FINALLY AMENDED AND ADOPTED.

Following is the Report of the Committee on Plan and Scope presenting the Plan of Organization, which was adopted as amended and constitutes the law under which the organization will proceed to do its work:

The governing body shall consist of a president, seven vice-presidents, three of whom shall be women, a general secretary, a treasurer, and an executive committee which shall consist of five members from each state and territory of the United States, and each province of the dominion of Canada.

Each state, territory or province that is represented at this conference, or has signified its intention of being so represented, shall select its committeemen, and this committee thus constituted shall have the power to add the names of committeemen as state organizations are developed.

The officers and executive committee shall hold office until their successors are elected at the next conference.

The governing body shall have the power to fill vacancies, and shall embody the principles of the Initiative and Referendum in their by-laws.

The Committee further recommend the selection of the following board of officers :

President Bolton Hall, 1st Vice-President, James W. Bucklin, of Colorado, 2nd Vice-President, Warren Worth Bailey, of Penn., 3rd Vice-President, Jackson H. Ralston, of District of Columbia, 4th Vice-President, Wm. A.



Douglass, of Toronto, 5th Vice-President, Mrs. John S. Crosby, of New York, 6th Vice-President, Mrs. Frances M. Milne, of California, 7th Vice-President, Miss Margaret Haley, of Chicago. General Secretary, John J. Murphy, Treasurer, Chas. H. Ingersoll.

PRESENTED BY JOHN J. MURPHY.

This conference hereby organizes the American Single Tax League. The purposes of the League shall be to secure the adoption of the Single Tax by the direct presentation of its principles and to spread the knowledge of the fact that the value of land, exclusive of improvements therein and thereon, is the product and should be the property of the Community, and not of individuals.

This common ownership of land value can be secured, together with individual possession of land, by exempting from taxation all labor products, including improvements on land, and taking, by taxation, the rental value of land for Governmental expenses.

Therefore this Conference confers upon the Governing Body of the League, when created, the widest discretion as to methods of propaganda and use of the funds of the League for the advancement of the principals above outlined.

PRESENTED BY MR. POLAK, OF NEW YORK

Resolved: that the delegates to this conference be urged to agitate for the enactment of a statute in their respective states giving the option to Counties and Municipalities, of exempting from taxation improvements not to exceed three thousand dollars in value on any one separately assessed parcel.

PRESENTED BY GOV. GARVIN.

Resolved: That we approve such an amendment to the United States Constitution as shall provide in Article xvii, That no tax or duty shall be laid upon articles imported into the United States, or any place subject to its jurisdiction, but the revenue needed should be derived from land values. Provided, that land owned by the United States, or by any state or subdivision thereof, shall be exempt from taxation.

PRESENTED BY GOV. GARVIN.

We declare that all values created by the community go to increase the rent of the land and that the people are equally entitled to that rent, because all have equal right to the land. "The earth is for all."

PRESENTED BY MISS MAUD MALONE, OF NEW YORK.

Resolved: That the American Single Tax Conference is in favor of the passage of the proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution securing for women the right of suffrage.

PRESENTED BY GOV. GARVIN.

Resolved: That we approve such an amendment to the U. S. Constitution as shall provide in Article xvi, That any one million electors, by filing a

petition therefor with the Attorney General of the United States, not less than six months nor more than two years prior to any Congressional election, may propose any specific and particular amendment to the Constitution.

Any proposition so made shall be printed upon ballots to be used at said congressional election, and if approved by a majority of the electors voting therefor, shall six months thereafter become a part of the Constitution.

INTRODUCED BY HON. ROBERT BAKER.

We declare that the present financial panic, like all previous recurring industrial paroxysms, is due to special privilege, which enables the few to levy toll on the many, through tariff, railroad and land monopolies, and to speculate in such privileges.

We assert that further panics, with their accompanying periods of industrial depression and widespread suffering are inevitable, as long as monopoly continues; and that their recurrence can be averted only by the entire abolition of special privilege, thereby securing to all their inalienable equal right of access to natural resources.

We therefore demand the abolition of all law-made privilege, municipal, state and national, and the absorption through taxation of the rental value of land, as the only means of securing real and permanent prosperity to all the people.

PRESENTED BY SENATOR HOWE, OF CLEVELAND.

Resolved: That the Executive Committee of the American Single Tax Conference have prepared for general distribution as propaganda matter leaflets or pamphlets dealing with current social and political problems, such as the slum and the tenement, the appraisal of real estate, the correction of monopoly, the value and the taxation of franchises, and other concrete questions of administrative Single Tax, which leaflets may be sold to local committees or otherwise distributed throughout the country.

And be it further resolved, that said committee prepare forms of bills for presentation to the legislatures of the various states whose ultimate purpose shall be the freeing of the state from constitutional limitation, and the cities or countries from state interference.

PRESENTED BY GOV. GARVIN.

Resolved: That the plan formulated by President Roosevelt, from necessity it may be rather than from choice, will never curb the trusts, nor prevent them from dictating the prices of what they buy and what they sell.

In order that the trusts may cease to oppress the people, it is necessary that all legislation granting special privileges should be superceded by laws which do justice to all.

We believe that regulation or restriction of monopoly is entirely ineffective and that what is needed is abolition.

Recommended by the Henry George Club of Rhode Island.

PRESENTED BY MR. BOLTON HALL.

Whereas, the President of the United States has called a conference to meet in May next to conserve the forests and other natural resources of the country as being, in his words, "the most weighty question now before the people", be it

Resolved, that this conference appoint Messrs. Howe and Garvin to hold a meeting and take such action as they deem wise with reference to this matter.

This last resolution was referred to the executive committee, which consists of the officers elect of the League until such executive committee is appointed.

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## THE PUBLIC MEETING AT MURRAY HILL LYCEUM, NOV. 18TH, 1907.

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The public meeting arranged for Monday night, Nov. 18th, was a great success, notwithstanding that it fell upon a dismal, rainy evening. The meeting hall, situated in 34th Street, near Third Avenue, will accommodate one thousand persons, and as numbers remained standing during the speechmaking it may be estimated that there were about twelve hundred in attendance. Had the night been more favorable the hall would surely not have held half of those who would have sought admittance.

Mr. Henry George, Jr., as chairman, opened the meeting in an address which follows. Raymond Robins, Hamlin Garland, the distinguished novelist, ex-Governor Garvin, Senator Howe, J. W. Bengough, and "Billy" Radcliffe were among the speakers. The latter was not on the programme to speak, but loud calls for him from the audience prevailed upon this old war horse of the movement to take the platform. He told something of his experience in Cleveland, and aroused the enthusiasm of his hearers. His rough and ready mode of exposition, and his fine fighting qualities have always made "Billy" Radcliffe a prime favorite with audiences that recognize a man when they see one, and the applause that greeted him was a genuine tribute to one who for twenty years has devoted himself to the agitation for human rights.

The speech of Mr. Robins disclosed the advent among us of a new and singularly forcible platform orator. This man whose life has been so full of incident, who has been by turns miner, logger, settlement worker, fighter against political thugs and plug uglies of Chicago, and member of the Board of Education in that city—who is an incarnation of moral and physical—and shall we say mental?—courage, is a type of orator born out of the freer intellectual conditions of the West and his own roving life, supplemented by a keen sensitiveness to the sufferings of humanity and a sleepless intellectual curiosity. The audience were treated to a new exposition of the problem to be solved and

a new revelation of what is involved in its solution by the method of the Single Tax.

Hamlin Garland fittingly characterized Mr. Robbins' speech as one of the best statements of our principles which it had ever been his fortune to listen to in his many years acquaintance with the movement. As for himself he asked his audience to believe that though his name had not figured prominently of late years in the movement, he had not lost any of his interest in the cause and such talents as he possessed were always at its service.

At the conclusion of the meeting Frederick C. Leubuscher obtained the floor on recognition of the chairman and explained that the committee appointed to arrange the duties of the two days conference were in need of funds. A committee having been appointed to pass the hat \$156.00 were collected, after which the meeting adjourned.

The speeches follow:

#### ADDRESS OF HENRY GEORGE, JR.

In opening this public meeting under the auspices of the American Single Tax Conference it appears fitting to take note of present economic conditions.

Following a period of great business activity, which many fatuously believed could have no cessation, we have suddenly suffered a bank panic, credit has shrunk and the indications are many that the country is entering upon a season of hard times.

The immediate cause of the sudden change is to be sought in Wall Street. The Olympian gods there—the Morgan and the Rockefeller groups—appear to have concluded that the time had grown ripe for closing in on some rival banks and trust companies that were backing mineral, transportation and industrial corporations in rivalry to similar Morgan and Rockefeller companies. These Wall Street gods controlled the New York Clearing House, which, presumably at their bidding, suddenly refused to do business with the objectionable financial institutions unless their officers and directors should be changed for officers and directors of the Morgan-Rockefeller choosing.

Business credit had long been at a tension, and the public, taken unawares by this move, feared that a revelation of crooked banking was to be added to the long, sickening list of huge, stock-jobbing insurance, industrial and railroad inflations. Naturally depositors ran to the attacked institutions for their money, and, finding difficulty in getting it, spread the alarm. Thereupon the Morgan-Rockefeller depositors becoming frightened, joined in the demand.

Thus the great ones having gone forth silently, covertly to hunt, found themselves to be hunted, and that in the full flood of day. The general public was at their heels.

They grew alarmed. They cried aloud for help, and, as usual, their cry went Washingtonward, "Come and help us save the banks and the credit of the country," they called appealingly. The government heard this cry from Wall Street, as it generally does. The Secretary hurried up in person. He