

THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

A Record of the Progress of Single Tax and Tax Reform
Throughout the World.

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE **NEW YORK STATE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE** AT **BUFFALO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1914.**

Editors throughout the State to whom this issue containing the report of the Buffalo Conference is sent are at liberty to use any part of the matter contained herein, with or without credit.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

MORNING SESSION.

It was not a large but certainly a representative gathering of Western and Central New York Single Taxers that met in the Sunday School room of the Calvary Presbyterian Church at the invitation of its progressive pastor, Rev. John Wilson Ross, to take part in the Second Annual Conference of the New York State Single Tax League, on September 5. It was 10.45 when the conference was called to order by the president of the League, Mr. Horace Sague, of Poughkeepsie. Joseph Dana Miller acted as Secretary of the Conference.

President Sague spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT SAGUE.

We are assembled on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of our guide and leader, Henry George, to council together how we may most effectively diffuse a wider and clearer understanding of the truths he so convincingly expounded in his great book, *Progress and Poverty*.

Were he still with us in the flesh I am sure he would deprecate any attempted glorification of his name, and be greatly elated over every sincere effort to propagate the philosophy he labored all his life to popularize and clarify. Therefore, we pay our tribute of respectful love to our great mentor by greater consecration in the work of Single Tax propaganda.

On July 4th we completed our first year's existence as a State Single Tax League. Through the kind services of our Single Tax co-worker, Frederick C. Leubuscher, of New York, the League was incorporated September 24th, 1913. Our first year's success encourages the belief that this year's activities will be even more fruitful. We have made a good beginning, and expect an increasing, active, supporting membership. Already our membership numbers 946, of whom 134 are paying dues and making donations. In time, the League's extending activities will assuredly win the apathetic part of our membership to enthusiastic cooperation.

To Mr. Wesley E. Barker, our active, efficient secretary, until his removal to Toronto necessitated the surrender of his office, is due the thanks of this organization for faithful, effective work. Before resigning his office he had carried to success the organization of the League through the difficult preliminary and earlier formative stages. His position of secretary has been willingly assumed by our assistant secretary, Mr. Joseph Dana Miller, editor of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*.

Mention should be made, and credit accorded to many of our members for good work. I wish my information was comprehensive enough to include all who have been active. Some have modestly gone about the work without reporting their activity, and I must, therefore, acknowledge our appreciation of their efforts without mentioning them individually. But I may speak a word of thanks for good local propaganda done by Mrs. Katherine E. Bradley, of Olean; Z. K. Greene, of Middletown; Andrew Hutton, of Schenectady; Charles M. Crook, of Catskill; Charles H. Flewwellen, of Ossining; Charles Le Baron Goeller, of Union-Endicott; Thomas H. Work, of Buffalo; Grace Isabel Colbron, of New York City; E. C. Clark, of Cleveland; Ellen A. Freeman, of Troy; J. Healy, of Brooklyn; Larry Henry, of New York; Bolton Hall, of New York; C. A. Lingham, of Lockport; W. B. Northrop, of Brooklyn; Charlotte Schetter, of Orange; S. W. Simpson, of New York and Miss A. Youngman, of New York. Mr. H. B. Maurer, of Brooklyn, has printed and circulated at his personal expense, a reproduction of a cartoon originally published in the *Public*, entitled, "The Creator only can give title to the land, as He only can give a bill of sale for a slave." Copies of this cartoon are sent free on application; quantities sold at cost. He also sends a copy to every letter writer whose published communication in the newspapers gives evidence of an intelligent idea of social problems. All Single Taxers should adopt this individual method of propaganda. Wherever you see a published letter that indicates the writer is interested in economic questions, send him a tract. It would be well if, in addition, you enclose a personal note.

On October 25th a meeting was held in the hotel Touraine by the Buffalo Single Taxers to welcome Single Taxers attending the National Tax Conference in session at the hotel Iroquois, October 23d to 25th.

November 3d the League membership was apprised by letter of the

prospective lecture tour of Miss Grace Isabel Colbron. As a result Miss Colbron addressed many meetings, but to do justice to her work, I consider it best to read her report of the trip. Before doing so, however, I shall read the announcement of her prospective trip, so that you may appreciate the difficulties under which these dates were arranged.

"Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, of the Henry George Lecture Bureau, addresses the State Federation of Women's Clubs on the Single Tax, Buffalo, November 12th. Miss Colbron is a cultured woman of note, a well known literary and dramatic critic, playwright and translator. She speaks to gatherings of both men and women, city clubs, church organizations, schools, colleges, etc.

"I urge you to join with your fellow Single Taxers in arranging a meeting to be addressed by Miss Colbron. She has consented to speak for the State Single Tax League. Interest the principal of the High or Normal school or college in your town to invite Miss Colbron to address their scholars either in assembly or class room, find out what church clubs, woman's clubs or civic clubs have meetings during the time Miss Colbron will be in your vicinity, and ascertain if there is a place she can fill on the programme. Arrange meetings in town halls or lyceum halls. See the editors of local papers. Miss Colbron is good for interviews, and makes good 'news' material.

"We are pressed for time, therefore, you should notify me by November 6th, or not later than November 7th whether you can arrange a meeting to be addressed by Miss Colbron. Telegraph me your date, send details by letter; this is necessary to arrange tour. You may arrange tentatively, for dates between November 13th and November 24th, as Miss Colbron leaves Buffalo November 12th on her trip back to New York city.

Miss Colbron is accustomed to speaking two or three times a day, so do not be afraid of making that many dates."

I read now from her report:

REPORT OF LECTURE WORK OF GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

"In Buffalo, the first stop, our energetic comrades had arranged a very full programme for the two days and a half to be spent in that city. Tuesday morning, November 11th, at 8:30, I addressed the entire student body, one thousand in number, of the Central High school. The principal, Dr. Vogt, expressed himself as greatly interested by my talk. I asked him if he had ever had Single Tax speakers before. He replied that he had not, but hoped that he might for the future. He expressed a wish that the Buffalo Single Tax club would notify him when any of our prominent speakers passed through the town

"That evening Mr. John Mc F. Howie, proprietor of the hotel Touraine, and a good Single Taxer, invited the Buffalo Club to a dinner in the hotel. The dinner was given in honor of Mr. W. S. Rann, newly elected Corporation Counsel for Buffalo. I was kindly asked to make the principal speech of

the evening. There were between thirty and forty present, most of them Single Taxers of long standing. Mr. Rann made a short but very interesting speech, giving as clear and concentrated a definition of the theory of just taxation as it has ever been my good fortune to hear. The city of Buffalo is to be congratulated on having, in an important post, a public official of Mr. Rann's ability and power of clear thinking.

"On Wednesday morning, November 12, I spoke on taxation before the New York State Confederation of Women's Clubs. Without having the exact figures at my disposal I should say the audience, delegates and visitors to the convention numbered between three and four hundred. That afternoon I addressed the two hundred pupils of the Nichols school, a large private school for well-to-do boys. The attention given me by the pupils, even the little fellows of twelve and fourteen years old, was most gratifying. Mr. Allen, the principal, said that several of the boys had come to him after the lecture and asked him how they could read up on the subject.

"That evening one of our Buffalo comrades, Mr. Jackson, of North Tonawanda, captured the prayer meeting in his church and turned it over to me. There was quite a good attendance, and while the occasion did not allow of open discussion during the meeting, we had, at least, twenty minutes of formal discussion afterwards.

"On Thursday morning, I spoke at the State Normal school before the student body of five hundred, mostly girls, with some few boys. The principal had chosen a talk on the 'drama', but expressed himself as so pleased that, in order to have me talk to his pupils again, he would ask for a talk on Single Tax at some future time.

"At one o'clock on Thursday I had the honor of being invited as chief guest of the Rotary Club luncheon. From the composition of the audience this was easily the most important Buffalo engagement. The Rotary Club, which has about two hundred members, is composed of representative business and professional men of the city. Each business or profession is represented by one member only who must have a good reputation in his profession or, if a business man, be at the head of his own business. It was, therefore, an audience representative of the most important commercial and professional interests in the town. They had never had a woman speak to them before, nor had they ever had a Single Tax talk given them. Some of them, indeed, seemed to find the line of argument quite new and rather interesting.

"Most of the Buffalo engagements (excepting the State Federation Convention) had been secured by the untiring effort of Messrs. Thomas K. and H. H. Work, who are indeed the live 'wires' for Single Tax work in Buffalo. They had had but a very short time after being notified of my coming to Buffalo to address the State Federation, and the fact that they had secured six other engagements for that two and a half days, and all of them engagements of considerable importance, was proof of what a really energetic Single

Taxer can do when a proposition is put up to him. Thanks are due also to Mr. Jackson for the Wednesday evening engagement in North Tonawanda. Buffalo is fortunate in having in these gentlemen, in Mr. Howie, Mr. Sylvester Croll and several others, Single Taxers who are ready and willing to work for the cause and to make sacrifices of time and money for it. Also with Mr. Rann in so important a position as that of corporation counsel, Buffalo ought to be a starting point for innovations in the line of progress.

"From Buffalo I went to Cleveland, N. Y., a little town on lake Oneida. The engagements were secured by the energy of Mr. E. C. Clark, a veteran Single Taxer who has lived in Cleveland for several years. He arranged for an address to the high school pupils and hired halls for two meetings in Cleveland and one in Bernard's Bay, a short distance away. Besides entertaining me in his home Mr. Clark bore all expense of advertising, handbills, etc. Cleveland is also the home of another veteran in the cause, Mr. M. B. Dwyer, and owing to the constant proselyting efforts of Mr. Clark and Mr. Dwyer some of the more able men and women of the little town are becoming interested. Mr. Clark hopes to start a debating club or study club among the high school pupils as a basis for organization in Cleveland.

"The next stop after Cleveland was Sodus, a town about thirty-five miles east of Rochester, near the lake. Here we are fortunate enough in having a 'live wire' in the person of Mr. Lewis H. Clark, for many years a teacher in the high school in Sodus. Another good Single Taxer, Mr. King Flemming, a prosperous farmer, lives in or rather near Sodus. The two together manage to keep a little something doing all the time. Mr. Clark arranged a public meeting in the auditorium of the high school on the evening of Monday, November 17th. Next morning I addressed the entire high school in assembly hour and was then asked to talk to the German class in German and to return again in the afternoon for a short talk to the class in American history. As the high school is really a centre of community life in Sodus, these engagements were of considerable importance. Professor Clark bore the expense attached to the Monday night meeting as well as entertaining me in his own home. He is trying to start an organization in Sodus but thinks very well of a rather wider plan of district chairmen, along the line of political organization. Local organization in Sodus itself, Professor Clark thinks, had better take the form of a study club, whereas, the propaganda organization should be put in some such shape as would unite some ten or fifteen towns which cover all that rich fruit growing district of New York State. Mr. Clark promised to put his ideas for district organization on paper and send it to the State League. Any suggestions of his would be well worth listening to, as he knows that part of the State, its needs and possibilities, thoroughly well. It is also valuable to have as our representative in any district, a man who possesses high cultivation as well as the ability to think clearly.

"From Sodus I went to Albany, where I spoke to the newly organized

People's Forum on the evening of Wednesday, November 19. Mr. J. Erskine Ward, of the Excise Department, arranged the opportunity. Mr. Ward is doing much to keep Single Tax sentiment alive at the State capital, and his political position enables him to speak with authority on the subject of taxation. It is encouraging to find such thorough-going Single Taxers in office, or otherwise in positions of importance, throughout the State.

"Thursday afternoon I spoke in the high school at Marlborough, on the West Shore, opposite Poughkeepsie. Mr. Charles H. Baildon, a member of the Board of Education, had secured that engagement. Mr. Baildon is a convinced Single Taxer of long standing, ready to keep the cause alive in his town as much as he can.

"I was to have spoken in Poughkeepsie that evening, but through some mistake concerning the hall to be engaged, the meeting had to be postponed until Friday. This made it impossible for me to accept the engagement as I was scheduled to speak in Cooper Union, in New York City, on that evening.

"From what little I could see on so short a trip, visiting so few towns, we have already in New York State the material to hold together an organization which may be of much good for the cause. I certainly think that it is of great importance for some speaker to make a tour of the entire State as early as possible. There is nothing like the personal contact in arousing Single Taxers to the understanding of the need for, and the possibilities of, concerted action. Whether it is expedient to endeavor to organize clubs in all the towns, banding them together in the State League, or whether some other plan would be better, would have to be discussed. Personally, I think the center organization, after the plan of a national party committee, and district chairmen everywhere, might be the better way to hold the State together. It could be left to these district chairmen to start local organizations in the form of study or debating clubs in their towns. In this way many could be drawn in who are not yet ready to announce themselves Single Taxers because they know so little about it. They could come in and learn and then take their choice of confession. Meanwhile the organization would be held together by the district chairmen, who would be responsible for sending out literature, for canvassing their neighborhoods and standing ready to furnish lists of names to the central State committee whenever needed by the latter. This, of course, would have to be threshed out in a meeting of the executive board of the League. At all events, it seemed to me as if the time was ripe for some definite work in organizing the entire State. With the forces we have in this city, and with the very encouraging outlook in Buffalo, it should not be difficult to make other towns also live centres of work."

This concludes Miss Colbron's report.

On December 15 the membership of the League was circularized from headquarters urging individual activity, with suggested plans of how to

conduct meetings—methods of propaganda, and how to organize Single Tax clubs. Also a copy of Rusby's Single Tax exposition, entitled, "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries, and Lower Wages" was enclosed.

March 10 the League membership was again circularized from headquarters with a tentative report on the proposed activities, which included a State organizer, the formation of collegiate Single Tax clubs and a proposed high-school essay contest. The high-school contest is the only activity actually consummated, and of that I shall speak later.

June 3 there was mailed to our members a postal card printed in our National colors, red, white and blue, designed by W. B. Northrop, entitled "Who owns the United States," showing by a reduced government map that an extremely large portion has been granted to the railroads of the United States. These postals were also mailed to members of Congress.

Altogether, 4,085 pieces of literature, consisting of books, booklets, tracts, illustrated postal cards and clippings were sent out from headquarters, not counting in this the League's own circulars and letters.

An effort was made to hold meetings within fifty miles of New York City in places where we could send volunteer speakers at nominal expense. The Rev. Dr. John J. Hallimond, Superintendent of the Bowery Mission, famous throughout the world for its bread line, consented to fill such engagements as we could make, not over fifty miles from town. Once the way is open there are many others willing to be drafted for this kind of work. This year a more systematic cultivation of this line of propaganda will be instituted. Charles H. Flewwellen, of Ossining, secured a moving picture auditorium for a Sunday night meeting to be addressed by the Rev. Dr. John J. Hallimond, and had completed all arrangements when the Doctor was, unfortunately, stricken with a serious illness from which he now is slowly climbing back to what we hope is robust good health. This attempt is mentioned to indicate what can be done by other live Single Taxers in their own section of the State. Buffalo can cover a great deal of territory, as can other centres of activity. Moving picture theatres are splendidly adapted for Sunday lectures. These theatres, if not open for free lectures on Sunday, would be dark, therefore owners would be perfectly willing to grant their use for lecture purposes, as it advertises their place and accustoms possible patrons to visit their theatre. I cannot urge upon you too emphatically the advantages of the picture houses for lecture use. This work, if properly pushed, will lead to the development of centres of neighborhood propaganda, and make possible the placing of eminent speakers for a State tour.

All due paying members, not at the time (January, 1914) subscribers to the National Organ, the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, were put upon the subscription list of the magazine, and advised of the League's action, together with the added information that they were privileged to send the subscription price of one dollar per year to the publisher, but if they failed to do so, it would not cancel their subscription, as the League would pay it. Our pur-

pose in this is to develop a medium of communication among the League's members, which will serve to keep the membership informed of the League's activities at closer intervals and at less cost than is possible through circulars sent out by mail. I am glad to report that a large number remitted their subscription, as requested, to the publisher. Headquarters' operations can be gauged by calling attention to the number of letters received and sent out. From September 15th to July 16th the office received 192 communications and wrote and mailed 283 letters.

Our expenditure for propaganda literature over the same period of time was:

5,000 Copies of Rusby's Booklet.....	\$50.00
4 Copies of "Progress and Poverty".....	1.00
5,000 Copies of "Who Owns the United States," (Postal Card).....	20.00
100 Copies of the "Shovelcrats".....	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$76.00

Donations by Joseph Dana Miller, editor of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

- 400 Copies of a 1913 Single Tax Catechism.
- 15 Copies of "Better than Socialism."
- 75 Copies of "Moses."
- 60 Copies of "My Dictatorship."
- 15 Copies of "Not a Single Tax."
- 100 Copies of "The Philosophy of the Single Tax."
- 35 Copies of "Rusby's Booklet."
- 90 Copies of "The Labor Question."

In addition, from Mr. William Lustgarten, 100 copies of a reprint from the *Times*, entitled Find Single Tax Success.

We have on hand 7,494 pieces of propaganda literature.

For printing circulars and for stationery we expended \$139.22. For postage, \$122.73, indicating that there were over 6,000 letters addressed and mailed from the office.

Miss Eva Goldstein, with the consent of her employer, Mr. William Lustgarten, did most creditable work, without compensation, as stenographer, typist and accountant. It would be a fitting recognition of her unselfish volunteer work for the Conference to acknowledge by vote their appreciation of her services. Mr. William Lustgarten is entitled to our heartiest thanks for unremitting watchfulness over the League's activities, and rent-free office and office equipment.

Probably the most engrossing activity is the High School prize essay contest on the philosophy of Henry George, open to all High School scholars in this State. The contest is not yet closed. The educational effects are already quite apparent in the many newspaper notices received. The preparation of the conditions of the contest and its effective launching was the work, in great measure, of Professor Charles A. Downer, of the College of

the City of New York. Under his direction a special committee on High School Essay Contest was organized, consisting of Poultney Bigelow, Historian; Arthur H. Folwell, Literary editor of *Puck*; the Rev. George R. Lunn, ex-Mayor of Schenectady; the Hon. Thomas Mott Osborne, ex-Mayor of Auburn; the Hon. William S. Rann, Corporation Counsel of Buffalo; Professor Charles A. Downer, Secretary. The Committee of Awards consists of Amelia E. Barr, famous authoress; Dr. Frederic C. Howe, director of the People's Institute; Professor Henry M. Leipziger, of New York, supervisor of lectures; Dr. Walter Mendelsohn, trustee of Columbia University; Hon. John J. Murphy, Tenement House Commissioner of the City of New York; Ella Wheeler Wilcox, poet and essayist.

To afford ample time for the contestants to prepare essay during the vacation period, it was decided to defer the submission of essays until October 1st; it is too early at this time to report the result.

To all principals of high schools in the State there was mailed a copy of the terms of the contest, along with a letter requesting that the project be submitted to their students. Forty-four replies were received from principals, of which thirty-eight were favorable—some of them enthusiastic. A selection of extracts from these letters will, probably, give you a clearer idea of the interest aroused. "Will be pleased to enter some of our students in competition." "We thank you for the opportunity." "It will give us pleasure to direct the attention of our high school students to this contest." Another endorses the project "O. K." "We shall be very much pleased to submit the proposition to our school." "I shall be pleased to call the attention of our students to the prize contest." "I have taken pleasure in giving notice to the high school of your essay contest." "Regarding the Henry George contest, I am glad to see sufficient interest being taken in this topic to induce boys and girls to write on this subject by offering prizes." "A number of our boys expect to enter the Single Tax essay contest." "I have been very glad to receive your circular. I will post the notice in school, and see that it is sent to the local papers, and send copies of same when printed." In one place a local paper printed an interesting offer of a resident business man agreeing to double the prize if awarded to a contestant from the local high school.

We also sent to the editors of all the local papers throughout the State, copies of the circulars giving details of the contest, accompanied by a note stating that any publicity they gave would be greatly appreciated. Our method of collecting the newspapers in which announcements appeared was not calculated to produce the best results, for we had to put the burden upon the publisher of not only donating a copy of the paper, but also the trouble of wrapping, addressing and mailing a copy to us. Despite this handicap, we received thirty-six newspapers and one magazine which published announcements of the contest; not one of them was unfavorable. The smallest notice occupied three inches of space, and the largest

was sixteen inches long. Some accounts were made conspicuous by large display headings. The total newspaper space, of which we have record, announcing the contest, amounts to 258 inches.

The educational value of this contest cannot be adequately computed. No doubt, it will be productive of great good a long time after we have thought its influence spent.

ACTIVITIES OF THE REAL ESTATE INTERESTS.

One of the many interesting unexpected effects of the contest is evidenced by the action of the Allied Real Estate Interests, an organization which combines the real estate interests of this State under the direction and presidency of Allan Robinson, a resourceful man, who is largely interested in real estate. He is adroit and persistent in his opposition to the Single Tax, serving without pay, seriously apprehensive of danger threatening privilege by the success of the Single Tax. He has attacked the Single Tax savagely in frequent essays in a magazine he projected largely for the purpose of combating the Single Tax, which magazine he calls *The Real Estate Magazine*. He gives his time and ability unstintingly, and will go anywhere, any time, where an audience can be gathered to hear him attack the Single Tax. On April 30th he addressed the real estate interests of the State with this statement:

"Enclosed is a statement issued by the Single Taxers telling their plans for New York State. Their plans make the socialistic propaganda pale by comparison—yet, the National Civic Federation is spending thousands of dollars to counteract socialism, and no one, except the Allied Real Estate Interests, is doing anything against the Single Tax.

"Have you ever realized how much easier the Single Tax would come than socialism? All that is necessary is to increase the taxes upon land until they absorb the entire ground rent, and then land loses all its selling value. This, in effect, would be socialism of the land, and with that step accomplished, the entire socialistic programme would move measurably nearer.

"Josiah Wedgewood, the foremost English Single Taxer says: 'If the the destruction of land monopoly did not carry with it the destruction of capitalism it would be insufficient, and land reform would be preached in vain.'

"The best way to fight socialism is to fight the socialization of land, but it is hard to get the anti-socialists to see it that way; so it is left to the anti-Single Taxers, and chiefly to this association to fight, not only their own battle, but the battle of socialism as well.

"The election of Senators, Assemblymen and delegates to next year's constitutional convention takes place this fall. There must be a good deal of education done between now and then, unless we want Single Taxers to write Single Tax doctrines into our organic law. In Ohio last year, the president of the Constitutional Convention was a radical Single Taxer."

This statement he followed on May 11th with another letter from which I quote:

"A real property owner who received my letter of April 30th said that it stated the case too strongly, and that if the Single Taxers are as determined to win as he should infer from their printed plan for their State campaign, real estate owners would have hard work in trying to combat them. This is the counsel of discouragement. Why should we be discouraged? When we first started this fight three years ago, the City Club, the Citizen's Union and the Federation of Churches were against us. The first two are opposed to 'halving the tax upon improvements', and the third is quiescent. Wherever we have met the Single Taxers in a fair fight, we have beaten them."

With supreme satisfaction we accept this evidence of the invincibility of the Single Tax philosophy shown by the futile opposition of the Allied Real Estate Interests of New York State.

And now it is my sad duty to report that since our last conference we have suffered the loss of those sterling Single Taxers, Henry L. Hinton, October 8th: Edward L. Heydecker, February 10th: John S. Crosby, February 25th and William K. Austin, March 4th.

I cannot hope to adequately express the full measure of good work these men have accomplished. Our prophet has already phrased the euology of our soldiers in the cause:

"Beneath things, he seeks the law; he would know how the globe was forged and the stars were hung, and trace to their origins the springs of life. He turns his back upon the feast and renounces the place of power: he leaves it to others to accumulate wealth, to gratify pleasant tastes, to bask themselves in the warm sunshine of the brief day. He works for those he never saw and never can see; for a fame, or may be but for a scant justice that can only come long after the clods have rattled upon his coffin lid. He toils in the advance, where it is cold, and there is little cheer from men, and the stones are sharp and the brambles thick. Amid the scoffs of the present and the sneers that stab like knives, he builds for the future; he cuts the trail that progressive humanity may hereafter broaden into a highroad."

Anyone of the most distinguished citizens of this State would consider it a high privilege to be asked to welcome a gathering of Single Taxers. We felt we could chose from among the greatest, and selected one who is a robust Single Taxer, the Corporation Counsel of Buffalo, the Hon. William S Rann, to welcome you to this beautiful city—

Single Taxers, I present to you one of our faithful members, Mr. Rann.

REMARKS OF HON. WILLIAM S. RANN.

Mr. Rann welcomed the visitors in behalf of the Single Taxers of Buffalo. He commented on the growth of the movement and said that it required a high order of intelligence to recognize all the effects of the Single Tax, yet

the prospects of the cause are very cheering. We have only to compare conditions prevailing now and when Progress and Poverty first appeared. The aims of the New York State Single Tax League, as I understand them, are very practical. We want to reach the men and women and children of the State. This Conference started late and I am going to cut my remarks short. When we see what has been accomplished in England, in New Zealand and Australia, in the German cities and in the principal German colony, Kiauchau, in China, we can congratulate ourselves. In the name of the Single Taxers of Buffalo I welcome you all.

REMARKS OF THE HON. JOHN J. MURPHY.

On behalf of the visitors to Buffalo I want to voice the sentiments of the last speaker. We find men like him holding high official positions in every city of the Union and keeping alive this propaganda of ours. Our opponents find more in our cause than the strength of numbers. Mr. Murphy spoke of the efficient leadership of Allan Robinson of the opposition in New York. The fact that Mr. Robinson's organization, as noted by the president, is taking heed of the League's activities is a tribute to our work. Perhaps much can be done from your end of the State, for suspicion seems to be attached by communities such as Mr. Sague represents to any proposition that originates in New York. But movements that originate in Buffalo seem to have a savor of ruralism! Mr. Murphy spoke of the possibility of systematizing the work that had been outlined in the president's address. This work can be enlarged and extended. We cannot have always with us propagandists of the power of Henry George. But because this movement is a democratic one we must have many men of average abilities to expound our doctrines. Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Rann for his address of welcome.

Mr. Benjamin Doblin as treasurer of the League said that financial reports of Single Tax organizations were usually very distressing considerations. But contrary to the usual custom he was glad to report a surplus instead of a deficit. He then presented the following report, which was adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DISBURSEMENTS	RECEIPTS.
Printing.....\$139.32	Balance received from Mr.
Postage.....122.73	Barker.....\$38.77
Literature.....76.00	Dues.....29.00
Subscription to SINGLE TAX	Literature.....6.81
REVIEW sent to a number	Dinners.....112.00
of members.....37.05	Refund Subscription, SINGLE
Dinner to Fowlds.....148.75	TAX REVIEW.....11.30
Miscellaneous.....14.50	Donations.....450.27
Total disbursements.....\$538.35	Total receipts.....\$648.15
	538.35
	Balance on hand.....\$109.80

Moved by Mr. Lustgarten that a committee of three on resolutions be appointed by the chair. President Sague then appointed the following committee on resolutions: Ryan, of New York; Clark, of Sodus; and Howie, of Buffalo.

Moved by Mr. Murphy that a committee on nominations be appointed. Carried. The chair appointed as such committee Lustgarten, of New York; Clark, of Cleveland and Doubleday, of New York.

REMARKS OF REV. JOHN WILSON ROSS.

Mr. Ross said: It is a pleasure to have you come to Calvary Church and use it for your Conference. Mr. Howie and Mr. Rann and Mr. Work know that we are not altogether strangers to the Single Tax movement. The first one I met was Peter Witt, of Cleveland. I was so impressed with the speech of Mr. Witt that I heard him deliver at the Ad Club that I invited him to make a speech at our Forum. I then saw Mr. Witt under fire in his replies to questions. I heard his splendid tribute to Tom Johnson. I never knew Tom Johnson, but I had a younger brother who corresponded with him and who was gladdened by his splendid achievements. Back of your gathering is the enthusiasm for an idea that is beginning to make its way. I have never realized as I do now the deep significance of so many of these economic movements.

On the conclusion of his remarks, the pastor gave permission to the Conference to make use of the telephone service and the conveniences of the school room, and to go and come as they pleased during the sessions.

Moved by Mr. Rann that any of those having resolutions to offer hand them to the Secretary to be tendered to the committee.

Mr. Miller read the paper entitled Rural Propaganda, by Le Baron Goeller, which appears elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Le Goeller was formerly a resident of New York and a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, and is the editor of the *Union-Endicott News*, of Union, N. Y.

President Sague now called upon Mr. E. C. Clark, of Cleveland, for a short address.

REMARKS OF E. C. CLARK.

Mr. Clark said that whenever he rose to speak on the great movement he became confused though he had spoken many times and before all sorts of audiences on many topics. He said that the few gathered here were no indication of the thousands who are engaged in solving this problem. In Mexico, as elsewhere, it is the perplexing problem to which the men who have just realized political freedom must endeavor to find a solution. Caranza was right when he told the A B C mediators that they must leave Mexico to solve her own land question, saying to them in effect, How can you solve the land question for us when you have not yet solved it for yourselves?

Mr. Clark told interestingly how he had said to Henry George that men

who complained that he had not provided for compensation in his great work to those whose land would lose in selling value were in error; that he had not only declared for compensation, but had shown the landowners how they might obtain it, and when Mr. George had asked him to explain, pointed to the truth indicated in *Progress and Poverty* that they would gain much more than they would lose in security for themselves, their children and their children's children, and in exchanging a faulty civilization for a better and higher one.

Mr. Clark told of his first meeting with Henry George during the Greeley campaign when Henry George was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention. He heard Henry George advocate free trade, meeting the attacks of the members of the delegation who were sitting with him, at every point. I was immensely interested in the way this little man routed his critics, and I told them that he had done them up finely. I said that I would like to be able to meet the arguments of the opponents of free trade as he had done, and he told me that he would send me some tracts when he got to Brooklyn as the Iroquois Club was putting out some of the Cobden Club literature.

Mr. Clark paid an eloquent tribute to *Progress and Poverty*. It had done more for humanity than all books put together. "One has to read between the lines to get the real message of the work. *Progress and Poverty* is the bible of a great religion. When I die, just say of me that I died in the religion of Henry George."

The Conference here adjourned till 2'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION 2.30 P. M.

The session began by the reading of a paper from Mary Boise Ely by Rev. Dr. John F. Scott, which appears on another page.

Rev. John F. Scott spoke of the Ely School of New York and Greenwich, Conn., as the representative girl's school of the eastern seaboard. Even Bostonians admit that. And nothing is more remarkable than the attachment shown by the pupils for the elder Miss Ely.

George R. Macy, of New York, read a paper on Visualized Propaganda. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

Professor Lewis H. Clark, of Sodus, read the paper on Organization. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

Oscar H. Geiger, of New York, read a paper on Reading Circles. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

The paper of Mr. Geiger was the signal for a discussion as to methods of propaganda. In answer to an inquiry from Mr. Bengough as to how to proceed in the organization of Reading Circles, Mr. Geiger amplified what he had set forth in his paper. He explained that the Reader would read set questions from *Progress and Poverty*. He should be qualified to answer

questions, and to make the interest general he should begin with the easy questions.

Mr. Fink said that he had an idea how the Single Tax could be actively propagated. He suggested that a man should be sent out from headquarters, going into the smaller towns. On his arrival he should visit the newspaper office, and say, my name is Brown, or Smith, or Jones. I am going to speak on the street corner tonight. He might revisit the town, for the thing to be effective should be repeated, and in this way in all these towns the nucleus for a great State organization could be formed. The expense would not be much. Fink had great faith in street corner meetings. It was street corner meetings he declared that elected Henry George to Congress.

Mr. Doblin said Mr. Fink's proposition was intensely interesting, but we didn't have fifty men who could afford the time. The idea was practical if we had the men and the money. But we hadn't. Mr. Geiger's proposition was a practical one. I was very much interested in this proposition when I first heard of it.

When the first meeting is held and found to be enjoyable, there will be those who will start others on their own account. A dozen circles may result from one. Mr. Doblin told of the meetings at the late Dr. Gafney's house in Newark, and an occasion when a paper was read by some fool professor who argued that economic laws were the laws passed by legislatures, and who seemingly knew no better. But even though this was a fool paper it led to a profitable and interesting discussion. These affairs were not much but they showed what could be done. The same objection that I have made to Mr. Fink's proposals applies to the recommendations in the admirable paper of Prof. Clark, of Sodus. What he proposes is just what we ought to do if we had the means. Mr. Doblin made a plea for more team work. He spoke of the work of the League and pointed to the fact that it had cost, as the Treasurer's report had shown, less than \$600 for the year. Of course the reason that we have a surplus is the liberal donations of a single individual. But we ought not to ride a willing horse to death. Mr. Doblin closed with a few words regarding the prize essay offers of the League.

Mr. Lustgarten, chairman of the committee on nominations, now made his report, offering the following nominations.:

For President, Horace Sague, of Poughkeepsie; for Treasurer, Benjamin Doblin, of New York; for Secretaries, Thomas H. Work, of Buffalo, and Joseph Dana Miller, of New York.

For Vice Presidents: Katherine A Bradley, Olean; Professor William H. Drew, Ithaca; Hon. Henry George, Jr., New York; Hon. Fred. C. Howe, New York; Byron W. Holt, Brooklyn; C. A. Lingham, Lockport; Hon. John J. Murphy, Bronx; Hon. George Foster Peabody, Lake George; Hon. Thomas Mott Osborne, Auburn; Rev. John F. Scott, Mt. Vernon; Hon. Wm. Rann, Buffalo; Hon. Edward Polak, Bronx; Z. K. Greene, Middletown; Ella Wheeler Wilcox, New York; Charles H. Flewellin, Ossining.

For Members of the Advisory Board: August Weymann, Bronx; Theodore H. Miller, Poughkeepsie; Hon. John J. Hopper, New York; Herbert A. Jackson, Tonawanda; Dr. J. W. Wiltse, Albany; C. H. Baidon, Marlboro; Evanetta Hare, Troy; Charles M. Crook, Catskill; E. J. Shriver, Richmond; E. S. Doubleday, Brooklyn; Robert Schalkenback, New York; Prof. Lewis H. Clark, Sodus; Andrew Hutton, Schenectady; John McF. Howie, Buffalo; C. H. Fuller, Middletown.

Regularly moved and seconded that the Secretary cast a single vote for these nominations. Carried.

Mr. Scott nominated Mr. Lustgarten for vice president, but the latter declined the nomination.

Moved by Mr. Geiger and seconded by Mr. Miller that a vote of thanks be tendered Miss Eva Goldstein for her self sacrificing labors in behalf of the League. Carried.

Mr. Ryan, chairman of the committee on Resolutions, now reported the following resolutions, which were adopted, after discussion in which Messrs. Howie, Rann, Ryan, Jackson and Fink took part.

After the passing of a resolution of thanks to Mr. Ross for the use of the Sunday School room, the Conference adjourned.

Following are the resolutions adopted by the Conference:

RESOLUTIONS ON THE WAR.

Be it Resolved, That it is the firm opinion of this Conference that the cause of war now devastating Europe is land monopoly, and that we are more than ever impressed with the principle laid down by Henry George that all wars are caused by the monopoly of natural resources. And be it further Resolved, that our hearts go out in fraternal sympathy to the men, women and children who are innocently suffering from the horrors thrust upon them; and

Resolved, That we give our hearty approval to the heroic and successful efforts of President Wilson to maintain peace in our sister republics in America.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO PASTOR, ETC.

Resolved, That we express our appreciation of the hospitality of the Rev. John Wilson Ross, the pastor, and Board of Trustees of the Calvary Presbyterian Church in placing at the disposal of the Conference this church for our Conference; and

Resolved, That we thank the Buffalo Single Taxers for their efforts in behalf of the Conference; and

Resolved, That we express our appreciation of the hospitality of the Hotel Touraine management in making pleasant our stay in Buffalo.

ON PRINTING PROCEEDINGS.

Resolved, That we recommend that the officers and the executive com-

mittee of the League consider the feasibility of printing the proceedings of this Conference for distribution, and to make such charge for same as seems reasonable and desirable.

The following resolution was referred to the Executive Committee with power:

TO INCREASE CIRCULATION OF "THE PUBLIC."

RESOLVED, That, at the expense of the New York State Single Tax League, we place the influential local newspapers of the State on the subscription list of *The Public*. That a sub-committee of three, under the direction of the Executive Committee, be appointed and instructed to ask the selected publishers to send us their paper in exchange for *The Public*.

Reported favorably.

THE BANQUET, EVENING OF SEPT. 5, AT THE HOTEL TOURAINE.

About a hundred Single Taxers sat down to a dinner in the small but recherche dining room of the Hotel Touraine on the evening of September 5. President Sague introduced the genial host of the Touraine as Toastmaster, who said in part:

REMARKS OF JOHN MCF. HOWIE.

It is a great privilege to address Single Taxers. A friend has asked me to read the chapter of Progress and Poverty, the "Inferences from Analogy," the chapter which, however one may controvert, makes the almost inevitable convert. Mr. Howie read that part of the chapter beginning, "The demand for quantity satisfied, he seeks quality, etc." At its conclusion, Mr. Howie said: "Isn't it marvelous, these wonderful words from the Prophet of California. How nearly he comes in his words to Him of Nazareth. Wonderful, that book!"

REMARKS OF REV. JOHN F. SCOTT.

Once a preacher, always a preacher, and in the tremendous suddenness of being called upon in this way, it may not be an inappropriate thing to start off with a Bible story. Mr. Scott told of the last meeting at which Henry George spoke, when some one in the audience said he was for laboring men, and Mr. George's answer, "No, I am not for laboring men—I am for men." There are others here who will speak and who will follow me, and who may speak of our great leader, but none who loved him more and none who render more earnest thanks to Almighty God for having known him.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN J. MURPHY.

At the meeting in New York to wish Hon. George Fowlds a successful trip through the United States and God speed on his journey home, I was called upon to say something of our visitor. I have never met Single Taxers who were not interested in the distinguished brothers who come to our shores. It will be recalled by some of you that Messrs Doblin, Lustgarten, Weymann and myself spent our vacation in Great Britain, and here we saw something of Mr. Fowlds as well as many others of our over-seas comrades. We were royally entertained by our British brothers in the faith. We had it forcibly brought to our attention that affairs in England are not very clearly understood by us here. The Single Tax, or even the absorption of any great part of the land values of the country, is not an issue in Great Britain. But there is an attempt to bring the English system of taxation to the point it occupies here. Mr. Murphy explained the English system under which vacant property pays no taxes. He had been asked if the New York system of tenement house regulation and inspection could be introduced into Great Britain and he had replied that it could not. For if a tenement here should fail to conform with the laws it is closed, and the landlord, because of continuing taxes, has something to worry about. Not so in Great Britain. I found instances where property had been unoccupied for twenty years and because of this had been exempt from rates and taxes. When I was in Dublin in June I found a tract of land that had been unoccupied for twenty years. Not a single house on these four squares had been occupied for that time, and not a dollar had been contributed during that time to the city. Dublin paid £47,000 for property that had been vacant for twenty years and not contributed a dollar or a shilling to the rates. You can see why there are slums in Great Britain.

Mr. Murphy spoke eloquently in praise of Hon. George Fowlds. Never, said he, had the milk of the word been more forcibly expounded. Mr. Murphy expressed the gratitude we should feel to Scotland and particularly to Glasgow. If there is a land values movement in Great Britain today it is due first of all to Henry George's visit and after that to the splendid army of devoted Scotchmen in Glasgow. There is the gallant McHugh who for thirty years has had no other thought so close to his heart as this movement of ours. There is Frederick Verinder who for the same length of time has been the devoted and self sacrificing secretary of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values. Then there is John Paul, that little giant of the movement, another Scot, who combines two qualities we rarely find in combination, enthusiasm and sanity. This man has been largely the source from which Lloyd George drew his inspiration for the land clauses of the British Budget. These men are looking across the Atlantic with hopefulness, and I wish we could justify more the confidence they have placed in us.

Mr. Murphy made a plea for the entrance of the young men into the movement. There is no reason why this cause should be left to men and

women born in the '60's. The speaker referred feelingly to the late Mr. Heydecker, who, facing the operation that he knew might end in death, expressed the hope that John S. Crosby should read the last chapter of *Progress and Poverty* over his remains. But when Mr. Heydecker passed away John S. Crosby was already at death's door through which he followed the younger man only a few days later. When we contemplate such things in these supreme moments are we not justified in terming this our religion? Are we not justified in calling upon men to come with us if at their last moments they would have something to recall with satisfaction? To attain as near as possible to the highest concept of justice is the supreme duty of man. This is the ideal that Henry George taught us. We hear of the Englishmen's, Frenchmen's and American's love of freedom, but this is freedom for themselves, and not for all men. Lincoln put it on the high plane when he said that he who would cease to be a slave must have no slave. Mr. Murphy said that he and his three companions came back from their trip abroad with the spirit of fraternity burning more strongly within them. Mr. George had said that when we see a star we are glad that others also see it. When we told our brothers in England that we were to have a gathering in this city later in the year they asked us to convey their greetings to those who on this side were working for the same cause. We want the New York State Single Tax League, even though as yet they are a handful of men, to carry on this work of necessary education. We ought not, it seems to me, force prematurely into politics this great issue before the minds of men are prepared for it. We must carry on this work of education that men will see what it means and will be able to intelligently apply it.

REMARKS OF REV. BERNARD C. RUGGLES.

"I am one of those younger men in the movement of whom Mr. Murphy has spoken. I am only a student and a very immature student at that. Last night I had to explain the Single Tax, and I am now reminded of the proposition of Miss Ely and what a splendid thing it would be if a copy of *Progress and Poverty* could be placed in the hands of every seminary student. I offer this as a possible suggestion, for it seems to me if the seminary student could read this message of Henry George he might soon learn to unite it with that of the Carpenter of Nazareth."

Toastmaster Howie told of Franz Oppenheimer, professor of Political Economy in the University of Berlin and author of "The State," who said that he had placed in the hands of his 1400 students a copy of *Progress and Poverty* because that was the only book on political economy that would interest anybody. Mr. Howie now called upon Mr. W. E. Barker.

REMARKS OF W. E. BARKER.

Mr. Barker said that he did not know why the toastmaster should introduce him with a Scotch joke since he was only Scotch by marriage. "I left

New York with the best wishes of my friends. I went to Toronto and found a splendid lot of fellows there. I thought I was going to get out of politics when I changed my residence, but I found on my arrival that our young friend Farmer was running for assessor. And he was running on a platform in which the planks were "Tax Land Values and Abolish the Bar." The result was this; Farmer lost though he ran ahead of his ticket, and we did not abolish the bar.

I was mighty glad to meet our old friend, Jim Brown. The Central Committee sent him to stump the Tamiskaming district, in which lies the great Cobalt mines, and he stumped so successfully for Arthur Roebuck that the result was in doubt for a long time, notwithstanding the enormous funds used by the opposition. We went into that campaign and urged, along with our own ideas, the abolition of the bar with great stress and an amazing amount of eloquence. It would astonish you to hear how very eloquent some of our speakers were to have the bar abolished—you would never have believed it of some of them—though none of them, with all their earnestness to have the bar abolished forgot to ask for the abolition of the tax on improvements.

I believe this League was right when a year ago we laid it down in our platform that we should confine ourselves strictly to educational work. I am over the line. I do not know where I shall be when the next conference is called. I agree with Mr. Murphy that we are not getting young men. But if we are not getting them it is our fault in not bringing the Single Tax to young men. Mr. Barker closed with a message of good cheer from the workers of Toronto.

REMARKS OF REV. JOHN WILSON ROSS.

"If I have been useful in any movement in Buffalo it was because of the men who are behind me. During the last few years I have been privileged to hear several of your representative men expound the doctrine, and in every speech I have listened to the note of optimism has been vibrant. That note of optimism is justified by the progress that is being made. I have noted, too, the sentiment of brotherhood. It is a great thing to come into different worlds of thought from that in which you were brought up. I have come to realize that outside of the church in which I live there is a sphere of religion. You yourselves have impressed me with the spirit of fraternity that is yours, and also with that note of intellectual freedom that seems characteristic of you."

REMARKS OF ASSEMBLYMAN THAYER.

"The last Single Tax meeting I attended was twenty years ago in this city and it was addressed by Father McGlynn. That meeting kept up till 2 o'clock. I was a young man then and I had a young girl with me and I had to cross lots to see her home. The occasion is impressed on me, for-I was

never out so late before. I was your representative in the Assembly. I am glad that you approve of my course on the Herrick-Schaap bill. I consulted with Mr. Schaap about the advisability of pushing the bill to a vote and we came to the conclusion that it would be unwise to force the bill and get only two votes for it and one hundred and forty-eight against it. Here was a conservative measure, but it had little chance of receiving the support that its importance deserved. Because it hadn't the votes behind it it had little support. There are no idealists in the legislature.

"It seems self-evident to me that men who control the land control the sources of supply. It seems self-evident to me that to put taxes on improvements is to discourage improvements. How human reason can get around such propositions seems to me a mystery. I did not expect to speak on the Single Tax—I know so little of the movement. But I am glad to be among those who follow great causes regardless of whether these can be immediately successful or not."

The musical entertainment now followed. A quartette consisting of Mr. H. H. Work, 1st tenor, T. H. Work, 2d tenor, J. W. Work, 2nd bass, and John Work, 1st bass, sang "The Earth Was Made For All" to the tune of the Anvil Chorus, and responding to an encore gave "The Sandman." Mrs. Gould provided the piano accompaniment.

Mr. J. W. Bengough was now called upon by the Toastmaster and said that it would be inappropriate to deliver even a lecturette on such an occasion, so he would give a little pictorial allegory. He followed with his most interesting chalk talks, drawing with swift and sure touches on the blackboard those striking caricatures that have made these entertainments of his so popular, and punctuating them with inimitably funny comments. Drawing a picture of a dude casting a shadow, which he called "land value," the dude "population," and behind a hill a landlord, he explained that the owner of the hill would try to collect from the dude the value of the shadow, which he called "population value." But if the dude went away he carried his shadow with him. Land value is the shadow of the people, so instead of speaking of land value we might call it "population value."

Mr. Bengough expressed sympathy with Robinson Crusoe, he said, not for being wrecked, for sailors are often wrecked, he said, but rather for being wrecked on such an island as Juan Fernandez. Manhattan Island and Juan Fernandez are about the same size, and were worth just about as much. But if Robinson had landed in Manhattan Island he and his heirs and assigns forever might have claimed the island, which is now worth about fifteen hundred million just because of population.

Mr. Bengough closed by reciting "Little Orphant Charlie," a parody on "Little Orphant Annie," which has come to be well known to most of our readers.

At the request of Toastmaster Howie, Mr. Doblin dismissed the diners. Mr. Doblin said, "This meeting ought to be dismissed with a song, but a speech

from me is in the nature of an anti-climax. You have a poor instrument to express the thanks of us all to our genial host." Mr. Doblin spoke of the responsibility that all must feel rests upon us. "We need not worry if the full Single Tax does not come in our time. Perhaps if it should come now before public opinion was educated up to it we would not know what to do with it. I shall now dismiss you all with the hope that we will all meet at the next Conference, but before doing so I want to make an appeal for the support of our work. Napoleon said armies moved on their bellies. More emphatically still a movement like ours moves on its belly. So I ask your moral and financial support, and with renewed thanks to our host and others who have helped to make this affair a success, I dismiss this Second Conference of the New York State Single Tax League."

Thus the Second Annual Conference came to an end.

PROPAGANDA IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

By CHAS. LE BARON GOELLER.

(Read at the Buffalo Conference of the New York State Single Tax League.)

Our first consideration should be the present temper of the farmers and other rural dwellers toward the Single Tax. The attitude of practically all of these people is hostile, which is a fruit of the intense opposition to Henry George when Progress and Poverty appeared.

The writer can illustrate this by his own experience, having come from the city of New York to a village of 1500 inhabitants. In May, 1910, we purchased the *Union-Endicott News*. At once we seemed to be on the outside of things. We had difficulty in getting the news. Word had been spread that we were Socialists and Anarchists (a Single Tax man is always called a Socialist here) and people gave us a wide berth. A few months after we received what was practically orders from the political throne to say certain things in the paper. We refused and printed something distasteful to the rulers, and then war was declared. We were told that we would be run out of town, our paper ruined if we would not sell out cheap. We determined to fight it out, and a year or so later a paper was to have been started to oust us, but we told a thing or two to the man who was imported to run the office, and the paper was dropped. This we speak of because it occurred on account of our being Single Taxers. In the early '80s my father preached Single Tax when he was here visiting, and in that way we were at once spotted. It is impractical for a country paper as yet to say much about the Single Tax. The one worst thing happens. The subscribers just drop the paper. The best thing for a paper to do is to print contributed articles.