

der, I am, with good wishes to you personally.—ANTONIO BASTIDA."

This is Mr. Bastida's letter to the *Call*, which was also not answered:

"I regret to report that to me the Platform of the Socialist Party of New York State appears weak. For, were all of its political demands granted—ahead of the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth—it would result only in increased rent; the Landlord then, as now, would charge the community for all the benefits enjoyed by the community. There is nothing in the platform against private ownership of land, consequently the Landlord can remain tranquil in his faith that Socialists will continue blind to the fact that the tenure of land is held under State laws, and that each State has the power, through taxation, to destroy private property in land.

I do not cavil at or object to any of the planks in the platform, for I am not a Socialist and do not pretend to formulate their demands, but I do assert that the platform would have been stronger had it followed its numerous planks by the statement that in order to secure the adoption of these demands it would pledge all its State candidates to,

1st. The Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

2nd. A Tax on Land Values high enough to fully Absorb Rent. Had this been done, no part of the Socialist program would have been lessened, and conscientious Single Taxers would feel in duty bound to support your candidates. After the attainment of the I, R. and R., your other demands could be brought forward and each one decided on its merits.

Some day there will arise a Socialist of independent brains and firm character, who will not be blinded by stereotyped phrases, but will see that the Co-operative Commonwealth must be attained by steps and stages; undeterred by the cry of "Opportunist" or "Single Taxer" he will see that to appropriate and command the use of the machinery of production a national fight in the federal field is mandatory; on the other hand, he will perceive clearly that the land question is a State issue and that to let land remain

in the hands of the landlord, until the Co-operative Commonwealth is attained, is CRIMINAL.—ANTONIO BASTIDA."

THE WORK IN BOSTON.

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Single Tax League was held at the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, Mass., on Friday evening, October 30, 1914.

Secretary Goodale's report for the past year showed very gratifying results, the membership of the League having been increased 50% during the year, in addition to which 259 persons have signed cards indicating their belief in the abolition of taxes on personal property and buildings, etc., with a corresponding increase in the taxes in land values.

Members of the League have delivered addresses before political clubs, labor unions, granges, boards of trade and many other public and private gatherings. Mr. Robert B. Capon and Mr. W. L. Crosman, with occasional assistance, have conducted Sunday afternoon meetings on Boston Common throughout the summer.

Mr. H. D. Nunn engineered the League's activity in connection with legislative work. The legislative committee accorded the members of the League a most important and favorable hearing. Three petitions for amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution were submitted, involving various forms of taxation reforms, from classification of property to straight land value taxation. None of these was adopted, but there were indications that a greater impression had been made on the Legislature than in former years.

From now on the League will exert a part of its energies to the organizing of local branches. This is one of the reasons that rendered incorporation advisable.

The following officers were elected: President, Lewis A. Johnson; First Vice President, Henry D. Nunn; Second Vice President, M. C. O'Neill; Treasurer, Robert E. Blakeslee; Secretary, Ernest E. Brazier. The Executive Committee, in addition to the above officers, includes Edmund J. Burke, Robert B. Capon, James R. Carret,

John S. Codman, Hollis C. Joy, Charles H. Porter, Francis C. Goodale, Alexander MacKendrick, Professor John R. Nichols and Professor Comfort A. Adams.

DR. FRANCIS H. ROWLEY in that admirable periodical *Dumb Animals*, says in allusion to the European war: "May the victory come to those through whom it can best be used to hasten the day of reason among the nations of the earth, to serve the rights of man, and to bring the dawn of universal peace." As "a point of information" and in no spirit of caviling, what do you interpret, Doctor, these rights of man to be?

WAS A GREAT NEGRO THE FIRST FREE TRADER?

It was further decreed that all religious qualifications should be abolished, and, most remarkable of all, that the ports of San Domingo should be thrown open to the world. It may therefore be not unfairly claimed for Toussaint that he was the first practical Free Trader!—*Splendid Failures*, by Henry Graham, London, Eng., 1913.

THE Fels Fund has sent several kinds of packages of literature to the 135 high schools in the State of Washington, where the pupils are taking part in debates.

THE National Farmers' Association in convention at Fort Worth, Texas, adopted a report of its committee on farm ownership which asserts that there is no hope for the landless, penniless man save in the adoption of those reforms which have proved so successful in New Zealand. If we avoid the mistakes into which the land reformers of New Zealand fell, and adopt such features of its legislation as have proven successful, we will have the beginnings of a true system of land reform.

A SINGLE Tax Sunday school meets in the public library at Cleveland. W. F. Bien is the superintendent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES AND RENT.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The article in July-August number by Philip H. Cornick once more brings forward the question, "Do natural advantages help in the fixing of rent?"

There are two widely differing conditions of rent; that under the present tenure of "fee simple," or rent to a private landlord, and that under the system of "absolute freehold," which Henry George contemplated and which his followers desire to bring about.

That those who formulated the "Ricardian law" thought only in terms of "fee simple," we are quite assured, and that that law takes cognizance of natural advantages is equally certain, for the private landlord takes all wealth produced beyond a bare living for those who have produced it.

We may say that the idea presented to the average man is somewhat thus:

This is the private landlord's world; if so it is very good of the private landlord to let us use his world on any conditions whatever.

Some few have decided that it is not the private landlord's world, and have made up their minds that it is everybody's world, but those who have even a small knowledge of the true relationship of man to man, know that this world does not belong to man at all, but that all men are free to use it as they may require; nothing belongs to man, except that which owes its origin to man.

Now, the rent we wish to assess is not a payment for permission to use the earth, for every man's right being to use all natural opportunities freely, no man may charge men for using the earth. What, then, is this new rent?

All that a man produces is his, all that all men produce is all men's; when a man works away from his fellows, or entirely without their aid, all that he makes is his absolutely, and it is stealing for individual man as for all men to take from him by force, fraud or stealth what is his.