

weekly for some years. It was very aggressive along free trade lines, and attracted wide attention for its radical utterances. It was about the first paper in the United States to strongly advocate the adoption of the Australian ballot, and though the *News* was bitterly denounced through the State for its advocacy of this beneficent ballot reform, it remains to the credit of that paper that Indiana was one of the earliest States in the Union to adopt the Australian ballot. In 1887 and 1888 the *News* was published as a daily, but it went to the wall, the Bailey Brothers making an assignment.

Without a dollar in the world they found themselves in Chicago in 1888, where they soon found employment on the newspapers, W. W. securing a reportorial position on the *Chicago Evening Mail*. Some few months later he became an editorial writer on the *Chicago Evening News*. This position he held for five years, during which time he became a very strong advocate of the taxation of public franchises. Victor Lawson, the proprietor of the *News*, deprecated Mr. Bailey's insistence in pressing this question, but he managed to weave the central idea in a greater part of his editorial work on the *News* that the streets of Chicago belonged to the people and that corporations using them should be assessed the value of them. About 1890 Mr. Bailey, who had for several years been a convert to "Progress and Poverty," was chosen president of the Chicago Single Tax Club, which held meetings every week in the parlors of the Grand Pacific Hotel. This position he held for three or four successive terms and under his management of the society it grew in membership from a handful of men and women to a most pretentious and influential organization of more than one thousand very earnest men and women, many of whom were among the most prominent business and professional men in the city.

One of Mr. Bailey's policies as president of the Chicago Single Tax Club was to present at every meeting night some able talker against free trade or the single tax, and then for one hour turning the batteries of the Single Tax Club against the speaker. Many an able man went to the Chicago Single Tax Club at the invitation of Mr. Bailey, full in the conviction that he would make monkeys of the single taxes and show them the utter fallacy of the single tax, but at the close of the meeting found himself so completely routed by the logic of the single taxers that he would meekly admit to the audience that he had underestimated the virtue and strength of the single tax cause. The single tax society in Chicago became a powerful factor during this time in forcing public attention to the great question of franchises, with the result that Chicago is now irrevocably committed to public ownership of all public utilities. Though Mr. Bailey was the first to persistently keep this question before

the people of Chicago, and though he found it very difficult at that time to get his editorials in the *News* without being blue-penciled, there are few if any of the great papers of Chicago now that are not radically in favor of the principle early advocated by Mr. Bailey.

In February, 1893, Mr. Bailey and his brother became the proprietors of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, *Democrat*. It was through the late Henry George, who recognized in Mr. Bailey a writer of ability on economic questions, that he was induced to locate in Johnstown. Mr. George's son Richard was at that time a resident of Johnstown and he frequently visited there. It occurred to him that the field was a fine one for Mr. Bailey's talent, and he urged Mr. Bailey to purchase the Johnstown *Democrat*, which was at that time a losing venture. The vitality thrown into the *Democrat* by the Baileys soon attracted attention in all directions. It has since 1893 up to the present time been a most persistent advocate of the single tax, the taxation of public franchises, the abolition of all special privileges, the initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and woman suffrage.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

When Mrs. John S. Crosby, president of the Woman's National Single Tax League, let fall the gavel which opened the second conference of that body in the parlors of the Tuxedo, New York City, mingled with anxiety for the successful fruition of her labor in bringing together the largest number of regularly accredited delegates yet attained, those present glowed with pardonable pride.

There sat before her a truly representative class of women, representative of the virile land which bore them, representative of the professions, the arts, the home, and in that yet larger and greater sense, knowledge of the fact that they were economic factors bound with men to direct the destinies of this country and determined to apply their reason to the task.

Three years ago a number of single tax women formed a separate organization in Washington, D. C., not in derogation of nor antagonism to the men of the Capital City who had done wisely and well, but proceeding upon the theory that it might be possible to reach and hold members who from diffidence could not be drawn into a mixed club. Every courtesy was extended by their brothers in the faith, financial and moral support was accorded, and the open meetings enthusiastically attended. Thus encouraged, the idea suggested itself that a National Conference be called, and a National League, if possible, effected. Credit for the inception of the project lies, probably, conjointly with Helen Hartnett Mitchell, of Kansas, and Mrs. Jennie L. Monroe, of Washington, D. C.,

but they were ably seconded by other members of the Club, who threw open their homes to visiting delegates and loyally assisted in perfecting details and making the undertaking an assured success. It sat in the morning hour during the month of February, for three consecutive days, and during that time effected its purpose, adopted a constitution and by-laws, elected a full body of officers, listened to several eloquent and distinguished speakers, and parted with every indication of wider activity and centralized effort for good. The leaven worked. During two years it spread and permeated. A sensible provision in the constitution gave to individual single taxers the right to join the League upon the payment of one dollar annually to the National Treasurer, the membership carrying with it the right to vote. In this way a nucleus could be formed in any community round which gradually new converts could rally and eventually a club be formed, the fee of each club being five dollars. No better illustration of the effect of personal effort and sincere conviction is necessary than the astonishing results attained by Miss Anthony and her faithful followers in their long struggle against prejudice and precedent—those twin tyrants who break rebels to their rotten code upon the rack of public opinion, until a dauntless tongue or pen puts them to rout.

So it is hoped this League may grow and wax powerful enough to give its aid to measures of tax reform in the several States and Territories of the Union.

The expense incurred in the holding of the second conference of the League had been generously met by personal donations on the part of single tax sympathizers in New York City, and the delegates, who were the guests of the resident members and most lavishly entertained on their visit, met in elegant apartments where light and air were as free as they hope to make the land.

The morning sessions, beginning at 10:30 A. M., on June 26, continued until July 28, and were devoted to routine business, general discussion, and the delivery of several notable addresses. The Rev. Father McLaughlin, a venerable priest, and coadjutor of the late Father McGlynn, opened with the Lord's Prayer, and spoke touchingly of industrial feudalism versus chattel slavery, exhorting his hearers to overthrow the former, not by force of arms, but by law and reason, and release from a thralldom more galling than ever encompassed the negro, the white slaves of today. Miss Eva J. Turner of Brooklyn, N. Y., delighted her auditors by an able exposition of the "World's work," as a preferable theme to "Woman's work." The scope of her subject was worthy of its presentation. With perceptions peculiarly rare she struck to the core of all reform work and measures, the purpose, the principle and the life of the individual. Miss Turner forced home upon her hearers the

conviction that they themselves were the best exemplars of their teachings, and exhorted them to plain living and high thinking. Mrs. J. L. Monroe of Washington, D. C., next addressed the Conference upon the necessity for and benefit to be derived from organization. Mrs. George, who was present, received a warm expression of regard from the delegates and visitors who crowded about her eager to meet the gentle helpmate of the illustrious dead.

The night reception, held in the brilliant red parlors of the Tuxedo, was a notable affair—notable in the gathering of distinguished men and women and the intellectual tone which pervaded it. Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox assisted Mrs. Crosby and the reception committee in receiving the guests. Mrs. Wilcox has given of late the aid of her brilliant pen to the cause with beneficent results. The seers of the earth have been its poets—they have seen always with the spirit's eye. Before them flashes the vision beautiful of a hope terrestrial, the world and Christ which "is to be," and words are woven into prophecy.

Before the program of the evening began refreshments were served. Miss Friese rendered a piano solo, and Judge Seabury, of New York, made the address of welcome, which was briefly responded to by Miss Bessie A. Dwyer, of Washington, D. C. A vocal solo by Miss Bastow was followed by an original alphabetical poem by Miss Myrtle Stumm. Mr. Carl Venth gave a violin solo, and encore, after which Mr. Bolton Hall read several of his fables. Mr. John S. Crosby then spoke upon the single tax, a theme which never fails to inspire him to eloquence, and Mr. Richard George concluded the evening with some interesting reminiscences of his father.

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Upon the day following, June 17, the Conference promptly convened in business session, Mrs. J. L. Munroe, National Treasurer, submitted a report showing admittance to the League of the Women's Single Tax Club of Brooklyn, N. Y., the Woman's Single Tax Club of New York, N. Y., the Woman's Single Tax Club of Washington, D. C., and the Woman's Single Tax Club of New Haven, Conn., besides seven individual members scattered throughout the Union.

Mrs. August Lewis, of New York City, was unanimously elected an honorary member.

Mrs. Florence Burleigh, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, read the resolutions reported, and with a single omission, they were adopted as follows:

Whereas, the single tax philosophy is based upon the truth that all men having the equal right to live, have an equal right to the use of the earth from which they draw the means of living and to the full product of their labor, and

Whereas, the Woman's National Single

Tax League is organized for the purpose of securing the adoption of the single tax, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Conference of this League sends its greeting to the Fairhope Colony, Alabama, which is making the best attempt possible under the present laws to establish the single tax.

Resolved, that this Conference extends its appreciation to those newspapers which have published single tax articles and reports of single tax work.

Resolved, that this Conference protests against the cruel treatment of the miners and the enormous price of coal, both of which would be impossible if existing tax laws were enforced and the mining lands assessed on the same basis as other lands.

Resolved, that this Conference calls the attention of the public to the hampering of business, the ruining of buildings from the use of soft coal, the hardship imposed upon the public by the high price of coal and to the interference with the usual public school supply of coal by reason of such high prices.

The constitution as amended, was then carefully considered, and adopted. Copies of it can be secured by application to the National President, Mrs. J. S. Crosby, 7 West 108th st., New York City, or Mrs. J. L. Munroe, Treasurer, 150 A st., N. E., Washington, D. C.

The President then introduced Miss Ida Hibbard, who read an admirable paper upon Henry George and his life work. This will be printed in pamphlet form and circulated by the League.

Mrs. Florence Burleigh, of Philadelphia, Pa., delighted her audience by a too brief talk. Analyzing the different reform movements, suffrage, temperance, social purity, organized charity and others, she portrayed the limitations of each in turn.

The evening reception was quite as largely attended, the parlors being filled. Music opened the program, a vocal solo by Mr. Peter Aitken of Brooklyn, who received a hearty encore. Miss Anita Truman, of New Haven, Conn., who needs no introduction to progressive thinkers, delivered an address upon woman's work for the single tax. Miss Anna George, who possesses a voice of rare sweetness, sang, and graciously responded to an encore; and Mr. Lawson Purdy gave a concise account of the practical progress of the movement in the various State Legislatures. Mr. J. S. Crosby responded to a demand for a few words; and Mrs. J. L. Munroe spontaneously declared that referring to Mr. Purdy's recent remarks anent the difficulty in amending State constitutions, that speaking generally she abhorred constitutions and regarded them as retarders of political reform—the dead tying the hands of the living.

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On June 28, the morning hours were devoted to unfinished business and the election

of national officers. Mrs. Kate A. Freeman, who had acted as secretary pro tem, was especially remembered, and was commended for the quality of her work, and Mrs. Crosby, as presiding officer, and the New York members for their munificent hospitality. So gracious indeed in this regard was the spirit manifested as to lead to the remark that only the Weather Clerk had escaped, a regrettable oversight, as that gentleman had furnished a particularly fine article of weather.

The officers elected were in three instances re-elected, Mrs. Crosby, Miss Dyer and Mrs. Munroe. They are in full as follows:

President—Mrs. John S. Crosby, 7 West 108th st., New York.

Vice-President—Miss Bessie A. Dwyer, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, 890 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Recording Secretary—Dr. Mary D. Hussey, East Orange, N. J.

Treasurer—Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, 150 A st., N. E., Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Florence Burleigh, 5636 Morton st., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Gussie W. Pomeroy, 233 Orchard st., New Haven, Conn.

The Conference then adjourned in a body to Fort Hamilton, where they enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Henry George, who tendered them and her host of friends a public reception, assisted by her daughter, Miss Anna, and her son, Mr. Richard George. The guests partook of refreshments, and were entertained by music, instrumental and vocal. They lingered until the sun was low in the horizon, being loath to depart, but when they did so it was in hope of even a better day and brighter hour for the cause which lies so close to their hearts.

BESSIE AGNES DWYER.

OHIO AS A STORM CENTER.—A REVIEW OF THE WORK.

[Expressly for the Review.]

BY J. B. VINING, SEC'Y OHIO SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

Ohio is fast becoming the center of the Single Tax universe; aside from Colorado, I know of no state in the Union that is so filled with unrest. We are surely in the travail of a new birth. Just now a chaotic state exists owing to the recent decision of the Supreme Court which has declared unconstitutional much of the law governing our municipalities. Here in Cleveland it has done away with the so-called "Federal Plan" and, unless changed, will displace all of Mayor Johnson's cabinet.

For more than a year past, dating from Mayor Johnson's election in the spring of 1901, one event has followed upon the heels of another in such rapid succession that there