

## Coming Dinner to Alfred Bishop Mason

ON May 6, 1931, the Manhattan Single Tax Club will give a complimentary dinner to Alfred Bishop Mason, vice president of that club since 1914, at the National Vaudeville Artists' Club, 227 West 46th Street, New York City, at 6:30 P. M.

Mr. Mason has been a resident of Florence, Italy, for some ten years, and advantage is taken of his visit here to his old home to pay respect to our friend and ardent, earnest fellow Single Taxer.

While Mr. Mason is well advanced in years—born 1851—his spirit is young, his mind extremely active. Of late he has been busy with his pen. In 1919 he produced "Tom Strong, Lincoln's Scout;" in 1929, "A Duchess and Her Daughter;" 1930, "Walpole's England." He is the translator and editor of Von Holst's Constitutional History of United States, published in 1876, and many other books.

Reserve your tickets early. Phone Columbus 5-4993, or send to Manhattan Single Tax Club, 1860 Broadway, New York, N. Y. Tickets are \$3 each.

## A Single Tax Crusader

THE late W. A. Douglas was a man with a cause. To this cause he subordinated all else. He devoted his life to the preaching of a doctrine in a city where the doctrine was never popular. The doctrine was Single Tax and the city was Toronto.

Mr. Douglas wished to have municipal tax revenues derived wholly from the land. He resented, as every homeowner must sometimes resent, the penalizing of those who improve the land by placing buildings upon it. He could not see justice in a law which says that a new veranda or an added wing shall mean higher assessment and higher taxation. He felt that a far better plan would be to penalize those who hold land unused or inadequately used in the hope of an ultimate profit. He was a man of intellect as well as the spirit of the crusader and he urged these views upon the public with cogency and energy at every opportunity on the platform, through the columns of the Single Tax paper, *The Square Deal*, and through the columns of the daily press. He did not mind being called a crank, for he was conscious that he had logic to support his view.

He was a man who wished to be a benefactor to his fellows. He felt that he had a boon for them, and he was willing to devote his life to explaining the opportunity for public betterment which he believed Single Tax afforded. He lived to see one partial adoption of the principle in Toronto. Houses assessed at \$4,000 and under are, in this city, taxed upon only a portion of their assessment, and in the case of the smaller houses on only half their assessment. But when a vote of the people was taken

some years ago upon a further extension of this principle so as to remove a portion of the levy from buildings in general, the decision was adverse. Mr. Douglass was not discouraged, and never ceased to promote the cause which had become so dear to his heart.

Toronto is the poorer for his passing; the world needs more men like him. It is from such minds—from such devotion to a cause—that great reforms have sprung.

*Toronto Daily Star*, March 19, 1931.

## Words of Professor Dewey

AT a meeting called by the League for Independent Political Action at the Hotel Woodstock in this city a few weeks ago, Prof. Dewey said: "I am not wedded to any form of words and I should like to read to you the platform presented to me in a letter from an influential lawyer in California. 'The purpose,' he writes is the abolition of privilege, the unjust economic advantage by possession of which a small group controls our natural resources, industry and credit, prevents equal opportunity of development for all, and thus dictates the conditions under which we live. To remedy this we advocate:

"(1) Public Control of natural resources by taxation of all land values (including land containing coal, oil, natural gas, commercial timber and water power) in order to prevent monopoly and speculation, to aid industry and to force idle lands into use.

"(2) Public Ownership, as rapidly as may be practicable, by nation, state and municipality, of transportation, communication, water power and public utilities which are in their nature complete monopolies.

"(3) Resumption by the National Government of its constitutional power to issue money and control credit.

"(4) Equal Rights, economic, legal and political, for all citizens and ALL CIVIL RIGHTS, including free speech, free press and peaceable assembly, as guaranteed by the Constitution.

"So far the letter. If a fifth plank were added dealing with economic matters, a policy which would bring peace and friendliness into our international relations, I think the main outlines for the foundation of a new party are fairly if briefly before you.

"Even if a new party were in power, it would take time to bring the needed economic changes into social effect. To bring about a social change is something much wider than political action. It requires changes in education, in the social responsibilities of the churches, and a multitude of other things, including changes in the attitude of men in responsible places in industry. But there is an immediate and central issue which is of a definitely political nature. Before desired legislative, administrative and judicial changes can be brought about, control of government must be redeemed from the special interests which have usurped it and restored to the people."