

now appear, any changes being merely in the interest of good literary form.

The second section now reads: "The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States," etc.

It can hardly be denied that the convention tended steadily to augment the powers of the court. Johnson added equity to the proper legal powers of the Supreme Court. Then he secured the insertion of the words, "this constitution." Then Madison extended whatever was objectionable in the powers of the Supreme Court to the whole federal court, and the Committee on Detail massed it all in one section, and made it read beautifully—in a literary sense.

The fact is that the constitution of the United States was and is a compromise between the democratic and aristocratic theories of government, in which the aristocrats have rather the best of the bargain. Neither democrat nor aristocrat was satisfied, and the compromise was possible only because of fear of invasion by foreign power. As its history fully demonstrates the real importance of the constitution lies in the interpretation or construction that may be given to it. And there's the rub, for democrats have lacked the wit or the courage (maybe both) to bend it to freedom's gain, while neither stupidity nor cowardice has brought hesitancy to the victorious career of their adversaries—"What's the constitution among friends?"

JOHN Z. WHITE.

THE FIRST STEP.

Those who, years ago, perceived that the settlement of the land question must precede the solution of the vexing problems created by advancing civilization, find it difficult to become reconciled to the apparent apathy and indifference of intelligent people. The connection of cause and effect between land monopoly and enslaving poverty, with all of its dire consequences, is so obvious to us that we are dazed and mystified, and many have become disheartened and have suspended effort, because of its delayed recognition by

sensible people. Whatever the underlying cause of this slow development, we must accept it as a fact and change the direction of our activities accordingly. Perchance, the fault lies more in our own misdirected efforts than in the minds and dispositions of the unconverted.

Henry George, conscious of the ultimate revolutionary outcome of his proposal and reflecting upon the stubborn persistence of error and crooked thinking shown in history through the slow and reluctant acquiescence in radical social change, always admitted that he was unable to foresee how or when the Single Tax would be embodied in state or national policy. Plainly, his disciples have been over-sanguine and they must now frankly acknowledge that the ground has not yet been sufficiently cleared to permit the building of even the foundations of the temple of justice.

It now appears to me that the immediate, pressing need is the democratizing of government through direct legislation by means of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. Reformers of every shade ought to combine on that proposition, for it is for the manifest advantage of each cause however divergent it may be from others. Its accomplishment would place every proposed reform at the starting post with even chances in the race. The outlook for this innovation is certainly promising, and it is reasonable to believe that before many years it may be generally introduced.

While we should neglect no opportunity to push our propaganda we ought to concentrate upon this indispensable preliminary and welcome every alliance for that purpose. There are evidences of a revival of Single Tax activity in the near future. The attempt to secure contributions to the fund for "the promotion of land value taxation" to equal in amount the splendid offer of Mr. Joseph Fels will stimulate our workers to renewed exertions in spreading our propaganda. It should at the same time be utilized to agitate for direct legislation.

Single Taxers rarely find it difficult to secure an understanding of our aim by honest, thinking men, and few objections to its moral and logical soundness are encountered. All that is needed is opportunity and this opportunity aggressive work

for direct legislation will supply in abundance. When social discontent becomes so general—as in time it must—as to compel attention to social maladjustment, we shall surely get a hearing. Never, for an instant has my faith wavered that when the proper time arrives the Single Tax will sweep the country like a prairie fire.

In the face of repeated discouragement and disappointment I have held unswervingly to this conviction. We have selected for the site of our temple the primeval rock and the structure when built will abide forever. If the common people really want the kind of government that will spontaneously confer its benefits on even the humblest, the taking of social values for public revenue is as inevitable as the morrow.

As a necessary and indispensable first step I am convinced that direct legislation is the most important. In the "Science of Political Economy" George defines the often misapplied term "laissez faire" as meaning, in the warning words of the heralds in the tournament, "clear the course and let them at it." And that will be one function of the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

ALFRED J. WOLF.

REPORT OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

Up in the Delaware hills on a smiling plateau which forms the highest part of the State, and on the road between Phila. and Wilmington is Arden; a little colony of radicals of various colorings, known to the outer world, however, as a Single Tax colony, because of the well known convictions of its founder, Mr. Frank Stephens; and because its land is not sold, but rented at an annual rent according to its desirability, to those who wish to hold it.

In this idyllic spot the Women's National Single Tax League, for the first time forsaking the rush and whirl of the city, held its 8th annual conference on July 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1909.

The first meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, at 3.30 Sat. afternoon, in the pretty little

open air theatre which is the pride of Arden and which is officially known as the "Field Theatre."

After the reading of the minutes of the last Conference by the Secy., Mrs. Freeman, reports were given by officers and delegates of the work being done in their respective localities. Then committees were appointed and an interesting informal talk followed.

The Arden colony finished the evening entertainment, which was a unique performance of Julius Cæsar, in the Field theatre, just after the sun had gone down behind the "Forest of Arden," and the stars and moon peeped out to shed a soft light upon the players, far more effective than any light yet provided for a city theatre.

One could easily imagine this a performance of Shakespeare's time, when the costumes and properties were most simple and the settings that of real sky, rocks, trees and bushes.

Some of the actors are professional players and there was a wholesome charm even about those who did not do so well; perhaps because they felt the kindly spirit of the audience.

The evening concluded with a dance at the club house. The delegates spent Sunday morning roaming through woods and fields and in getting acquainted with this interesting place.

The largest meeting of the Conference was held Sunday afternoon in the field theatre. Mr. Shandrew of the colony made the address of welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. Furgeson of Washington, D. C. Then speeches were made by Mr. Du Bois, of Bayonne, N. J. Mrs. Frye of N. Y. City, Mrs. Monroe and Mr. McKenzie of Washington, and Miss Schetter, of Orange, N. J.

In the evening the colony introduced the delegates to the charms of a camp-fire, where a great pile of dry logs cracked and sent its sparks high in the air making fancy pictures in the embers and on the dense foliage surrounding this wood-theatre.

Here in a terraced semi-circle the members of the colony made themselves comfortable on rugs and blankets; told or read stories or poems, and sang songs, accompanied by soft stringed instruments.