

Although the appeal is to New York people, perhaps I may express my views on the proposition.

The many reasons specified in favor of the movement are in the abstract strong and convincing, but there are conditions to be considered that make me doubt the wisdom of the movement at the present time.

Considering the relations of the Single Tax to the other political parties in the field, and how we would affect them, I am not in favor of the movement.

Our principles were championed in England by the strong liberal party, but here we would oppose the two great parties which makes an immense difference in our case.

If candidates were run without a good prospect to win, they would help the reactionary party and prevent progressive policies in our favor.

If there were proportional representation the Single Tax party would be good, but with the plurality plan it is different.

I would suggest "The Equity Party" as a suitable name for the party which stands for the Single Tax.

Yours very truly,
JAMES D. McDADE,

Pittsburg, Pa.

ONCE OPPOSED TO IT, BUT NOW THINKS
THE TIME RIPE.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

In the March-April number of the REVIEW I read with interest the proposal to organize a local Single Tax party in New York City. Hitherto, I have not favored such a step, but lapse of time, the march of events, and a long period of inactivity in Single Tax work, have served to modify my point of view.

There must be a multitude of men throughout the country who are utterly weary of the halting, time serving tactics of the democratic party and to whom the socialist party is unthinkable. The time has come for a radical political movement conducted on rational lines which should in time attract many independents from other parties who see no hope of progress within their own organizations.

The British liberals were unquestionably saved from a disastrous defeat only by going before the people with the land question and the voters responded with especially large majorities for those who placed themselves squarely on the Single Tax. Allowing for differences in the modes of thought and environment of the voters of the two countries, I cannot avoid the conclusion that the progressive American voter may be induced to make a like response. George's campaigns for the mayoralty can hardly have been wasted efforts, and it is probable that today a large number of men are ready to be influenced by the appeals then made to their intelligence and conscience. I believe that the remarkable majority which Gaynor received is largely due to the educational work then done.

In New York City the land situation is more nearly analogous to that of Great Britain than in any other American community. Because of my recognition of that similarity, I have, during the past fifteen years repeatedly declared that New York City should become the leading battle ground for our cause and would be among the first cities to endorse it. Hence, that locality seems to me to be the most suitable in which to inaugurate a straight out uncompromising fight.

Propaganda methods pursued in former years did their work as a preliminary, but the time seems to have arrived when we must furnish a practical answer to the query "What are you going to do about it?" Single Taxers must be aroused from the apparent apathy and indifference indicated by their inadequate response to the appeal for support of the *Public* and the *Fel's Funds*. There is nothing that will awake the dormant enthusiasm of former days like participation in active work and the field that lies before us is that of politics. There is no other route to our goal. The opportunity for which we have waited these many years now seems to lie in New York City. Not only are local economic conditions favorable, but with the disintegrating influences now operating in the Republican party, with Tammany shorn of its patronage and a Mayor who is in sympathy with the spirit

of Single Taxers, if not indeed one of their number, now is the time, if ever, to make a move like the one contemplated.

With competent leaders who are confident, brave and resourceful, repeated disappointments and even hopelessness of immediate triumph are of themselves not necessarily disheartening. Mistakes in tactics are to be expected, differences as to policies are possible and even some of the objections which have been urged against independent political action may appear to have been justified. Yet, if advantage is promptly taken of the unusual awakening now manifest throughout the country, and of the striking object lessons presented in New York City and State, active campaigning cannot fail to wield an important influence which may lead to eventual success. If the leadership is wise, and the movement is not permitted to degenerate into a scramble for office, I feel assured that we shall receive sufficient encouragement to maintain the struggle until we get a permanent footing. In any event, the effort is worth making.

It is true that we are numerically weak, but I remember Altgeld's remark in Brooklyn that, "while there are not many avowed Single Taxers, each one is a host." If we do not propose too ambitious a programme at the outset, I feel confident that we will attract to our standard many radicals who have no faith in the Democratic party, many who vaguely deem themselves socialists, and that a considerable number of honest men in the Republican party would be glad of an opportunity to break away.

If we remain content to sit still, urge objections to political action and point out anticipated danger, we shall certainly never arrive anywhere within the lifetime of the veterans of 1886. There is assuredly more to be gained than we can possibly lose by such an effort. I am therefore, disposed to lay aside the various reasons that have been urged against independent political action, and, were I to live again in New York City, I would be glad of the opportunity to lend the movement my active support.—ALFRED J. WOLF, Fairhope, Ala.

IS ENTHUSIASTIC.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I assure you I am heart and soul in favor of a Single Tax organization for political purposes. You can count on me and my personal friends to aid this movement. I feel sure that we are in need of an out and out Single Tax organization for political purposes and I feel confident that the men who are behind this movement are bound to win out.—MARK M. DINTENFASS, Philadelphia, Pa.

CRITICISES THE FELS FUND.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Your statement in your last issue that the members of the Fels Fund Commission are disappointed at the fact that they have received but few contributions, is rather amusing to one who has watched the methods of organization of the Fels Fund Commission and the work it has been doing from its very inception.

That it has received but few contributions and has not the confidence of the Single Taxers in the East, is not very surprising. To begin with, we of New York feel that it is the most autocratic and undemocratic body that ever attempted to carry on a campaign of this kind.

The American Single Tax League is representative of the men and women who were present at the conference held in New York City some three years ago, its object being to keep in touch with the various local bodies throughout the Union and to stimulate their work along their own lines and to outline a general policy to be pursued throughout the United States, if that be possible. The Fels Fund Commission, however, is a self-appointed, autocratic body; instead of stimulating the work of the various local organizations, it has attempted to supersede them; Single Tax work has been discouraged all along the line since the formation of the Fels Fund Commission.

The Commission needs a new start, and to my mind, the way to begin would be to call a conference of Single Taxers of the United States under the auspices of the