

News—Domestic.

MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT MAKES
SUGGESTIONS FOR LINES OF WORK
FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Mr. Frederick C. Lebuscher, just elected president of the M. S. T. C., in answer to an inquiry as to what line of work ought to be pursued by the club during the coming year, replied as follows:

"I have not yet called a meeting of the new board of directors, and so am not authorized to officially outline the plans for the coming year. In general, my own views would be to identify the club and the Single Tax movement with great public questions, such as free trade in contradistinction to mere tariff reform and tariff for revenue only; the construction, ownership and operation of the proposed new subway: the bill permitting municipalities to exempt real estate improvements from taxation; bills that will be passed on the report of the State Tax Commission; direct nominations of candidates for public offices; ballot reform, etc. Specifically, I would favor a series of public dinners at which the invited guests will be prominent advocates of the above and other reforms.

"I think the club should co-operate with the Reform Club and similar organizations teaching the people the principles of free trade and not palter with mere tariff reform and tariff for revenue only.

"It seems to me that the sentiment of the whole country, and especially of the State of New York, has undergone a great change. The pendulum has swung from the imperialistic conservatism that seemed to have such a hold on the country during the past nine years to rational radicalism. The great vote polled by Hearst in 1905 and 1906 is a sign of the times. In my judgment, had Hearst "gone it alone" in 1906, without entangling alliances, he would have more than duplicated his great run in 1905, and would possibly have been elected governor. Even had he been defeated as an independent candidate this year, the enormous vote that he would have polled would either have split the old parties or would have driven both to the adoption of radical programmes. Even as it is, the Hearst movement has taught the Democratic party, at least, that a repetition of the Parker campaign would be worse than folly. As never before, the people of the United States are discussing economic questions. Now is the golden opportunity for the Single Tax movement. The wide-spreading speculation in land values and the practical gift to monopolies of traction and other public service franchises has made the common people eager to accept the teachings of Single Taxers.

"I think that the line of action I have

suggested for the Manhattan Single Tax Club will not only benefit the people generally, but also add to the prestige and influence of the Single Tax movement generally and of the club in particular."

"It is about time for the Manhattan Single Tax Club to assume that position in the public estimation which the great cause that it advocates demands. The club has been in existence for almost twenty years, and while it has done good work not only in the propagation of the Single Tax, but also in the advocacy of other reforms, it does not loom very large in the public eye. This has been largely due to the fact that the club has been content to aid rather than to lead. Thus others have reaped the credit for our work.

"I think it will redound to the benefit of the cause in general and of our club in particular if we can succeed in identifying ourselves with great public movements without at the same time losing our individuality. I shall attempt to make a start in this direction while I am president. I can do little, however, without the assistance of those prominent Single Taxers who have not been personally active in the management of the club for the past few years. *I want your help particularly.* In order to set the ball a-rolling, I have called a meeting at the Manhattan Single Tax Club, 8 West 125th Street, to meet the officers and directors and a few others to devise ways and means of energizing the movement."

SINGLE TAXERS AT WORK IN JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

This little town of 27,000 inhabitants has the distinction of being the home of two men who have exerted and do now exert a very great influence in matters of taxation in this state. I refer to Arthur C. Wade, our ex-Assemblyman, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment, and also a prominent member of the special tax investigating committee appointed by authority and direction of the Legislature last Spring. He is chairman of the sub-committee of this commission for the taxation of personal property.

The second man I refer to is an ex-Assemblyman, ex-Master of the New York State Grange, Hon. Walter C. Gifford. Mr. Gifford is also Master of the local Grange here, and is a prominent and wealthy farmer, wielding power and influence among the farming element of the community.

Both of these gentlemen are antagonistic to the Single Tax, and are great sticklers for the taxation of personal property, and especially for the taxation of mortgages.

We have two daily papers, in one of which Mr. Wade is a large stockholder—the *Morning Post*—and this has been practically closed to us, though it must have re-

ceived scores of Single Tax and tax reform letters. The other daily, the *Evening Journal*, has been more hospitable, and has printed a number of letters on tax reform. Another paper, the *Union Advocate*, is a labor paper, and has published quite a few letters favorable to a more advanced position. The Swedish-American paper—*Vort Land* ("Our Country") has allowed the tax reformers some use of its columns.

Taken altogether, we have not done so badly. Letters from the following Single Taxers have been published in Jamestown papers: W. W. Noren, Andrew Hutton, A. Wangeman, Rev. August Dellgren, Warren T. Lowe, J. D. McDade, Chas. D. Ryan, A. Freeland, C. P. Hickman, Frederick C. Leubuscher. Other letters have appeared which I have not had the pleasure of seeing.

F. G. ANDERSON.

Jamestown, N. Y.

LECTURE TOUR OF BOLTON HALL.

Bolton Hall made a three weeks' tour for Monroe's Lecture Bureau during December mostly among the smaller towns about Chicago. He lectured on "The Correction of Children," "The Disease of Charity," "How to Get Rich Without Working," "Cultivation of Vacant Lots," and "Civic Righteousness." The audiences were mostly small but Mr. Hall thinks the work well worth doing, as it reaches the thinking heathen as hardly anything else can do. The interest in the lectures was shown everywhere, by numerous questions at the close, except at Waukegan, Michigan. Mr. Hall thinks these the most profitable, as well as the most interesting part of a lecture.

The towns visited were:

Monday, Dec. 3rd—Aurora, Ill.

Dec. 4th—Wilmette, Ill.

Dec. 6th—Michigan City, Indiana.

On Friday evening he addressed a Russian Revolution meeting at Hull House, with Clarence Darrow and others.

Sunday—People's Church, Chicago.

Dec. 10th—Highland Park, Ill.

Dec. 11th—Waukegan, Ill.

Dec. 12th—Elmhurst, Ill.

Dec. 18th—Blue Island, Ill.

Dec. 14th—Mendota, Ill.

Sunday, Dec. 16th, Rockford, Ill., addressed Rev. Robt. C. Bryant's Church.

Dec. 17th—Elmwood, Ill.

Dec. 18th—Streator, Ill.

Dec. 19th—Peoria, Ill.

Dec. 20th—Hammond, Ind., where he met Lawrence Becker, the Mayor of the town, who is a good Single Taxer.

Dec. 21st—Public Policy Club, cor. Wabash and Adams streets (6.00 P. M.).

Dec. 22nd—East Chicago, Ind.

Sunday, Dec. 23rd—Buffalo, N. Y.

Many Single Taxers greeted Mr. Hall, though they are not as plenty round Chicago as they are in the East.

CANADA.

METHODIST CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THE SINGLE TAX—THE TORONTO GLOBE FOLLOWS SUIT—800 VOTES FOR SOCIALIST MAYOR IN TORONTO—J. W. BENGOUGH ELECTED ALDERMAN.

The good work goes on throughout Canada.

At the last meeting of the General Conference of the Methodist Denomination in the Dominion, the Sociological Committee in a very remarkable report drew attention to present social evils and recommended legislation which would prevent any individual or corporation from profiting hereafter from the unearned increment in the value of the land.

The most prominent organ of the Dominion Government; *The Toronto Globe*, in discussing the housing problem recently advised the adoption of the taxation of land values.

The local Provincial Government is progressing favorably along the lines of public ownership. They have also sold the rights to mine Cobalt Lake to a private corporation for \$1,085,000; and have been offered \$15,000,000 for their mineral lands known as the Gillies Limits. A few months ago the town of Harleyburg, on the Government T. & N. O. Railroad, suffered serious loss by fire. Lumber and building materials were permitted to be carried on the road at a very small rate, to facilitate the rebuilding of the town.

In the City of Toronto, on the 1st of January, '07, a by-law was submitted to the ratepayers asking them if the city should bring in electric power from Niagara, rather than allow a private corporation do it. The by-law was carried overwhelmingly. The newspapers in this fight nearly all supported municipal ownership and were honest enough to mark the advertisements of the private interests as advertisements.

On Dec. 10th a petition from about 2,400 ratepayers asking that the \$700 exemption measure be again submitted to the electors was turned down by the City Council of Toronto, although they debated the question for nearly two hours.

At the municipal elections on Jan. 1st a Socialist, a foreigner by birth and practically unknown, polled 8,000 votes for the Mayoralty of Toronto. This was largely a note of protest against a "jelly-fish" mayor who otherwise would easily have been re-elected.

By far the most important event to Toronto Single Taxers is the election of J. W. Bengough as an Alderman. Mr. Bengough ran last year and came within a couple of hundred votes of being elected; but through a better organization, and an old representative in the Council retiring, we are glad to say he received the second largest vote, there being three representatives for his ward.

FRED. B. LAKE.