

papers the following morning. All this was accomplished through the efforts of a handful of earnest men.

If the Single Taxers of Chicago had gone, heart and soul, into this movement, we would have had the men and the money, and its success would have been gained. By this time the Single Tax party would have been a power in this City. They could now demand almost anything of the Democrats for their support. As it was, the nomination and election of Edward O. Brown, a Single Taxer, as judge of the Circuit Court by the Democrats in the last election, was the direct result of our political movement here.

But the old leaders of the movement in Chicago took no interest in the Single Tax Party except to advise everybody to keep out of it. They wrote against it, made speeches against it, and schemed against it. They would either rule the movement here, or ruin it. One of them told me that he would rather never get the Single Tax than to get it through the Single Tax Party.

Now when you think of starting a Single Tax political movement, you must consider all of these things. The starting of such a movement is the beginning of a War. All of the interests are against it. Wealth is against it; culture is against it; society is against it. For this movement means more to humanity than any war that was ever fought.

Those who will be opposed will be bitterly opposed and bitter personalities will be entered into and wrong motives ascribed. The movement will be laughed at and they will accuse you of being paid by some one of the other political parties.

And then you must remember that a Single Tax Party movement upon a large scale might really make the Single Tax become at once "the burning issue of our times" and that would be bad for very many of us who are getting along pretty well under present conditions. It would not be very pleasant to have our rent income cut down or our land values shrunk up. Many good Christians don't want to be called to Heaven too quickly and there are many theoretical Single Taxers who don't want the Single Tax right away. And then there are those who are honestly against such a movement.

So there will be many who will oppose. Your ranks will be divided. But no great movement was ever unanimous and our experience shows that it takes but few workers and but little money and the harvest will be satisfactory and greater than is possible in any other way.

If there are any who favor such a movement let them start it in their own town and country. As they succeed, the more timid elsewhere will follow. After there are several local organizations in a State, the movement can then very properly broaden until finally it becomes a State and then a National movement.

No one knows the possibilities of the political campaign for spreading the Single Tax until he has tried it.

More Single Taxers can be made in one good political campaign than by years of other kind of work or, more properly speaking, idleness. The political movement is the only thing that will ever give you the Single Tax. Let us look at the logic of it. Is it not the business of the Party Managers to win? And to win don't they need the votes? And is not their every move made with the object to get more votes? Suppose now you ask such a Party Manager to put the Single Tax into the party platform upon the plea that one third of the voters are in favor of the Single Tax. What will he say? "Will it get us any votes?" will be his query. You will have to admit that the party has all the Single Tax voters with it already, and that if the party should come out for the Single Tax, that very act would probably drive away from the party a good many other people who are opposed to the Single Tax. No, it will not get him any votes, it will not help him to win; but it might cause his defeat. So he won't stand for it; but, as a compromise he will give a few of the Single Tax leaders a job here and there, provided they will quit talking Single Tax and not think of a Single Tax Party.

But suppose, on the other hand, that those Single Taxers have formed an independent movement which has grown to be one third the size of his party, and suppose that he knows he cannot win without that Single Tax vote, but he could win if he had it; that same manager would then be willing and anxious to put the Single Tax plank into the party platform and, to your surprise, you would learn that he was one of the old original Single Taxers but that the time had not been ripe until now for him to come out for it.

In such a way as this the Populists forced the Democratic National Party, and in the same way the local Democrats were forced this Spring in Chicago by the Public Ownership and Referendum people. The Single Taxers can do the same almost everywhere, in a very few determined campaigns.

In politics two things are necessary; principle and organization. We are strong in principle, but we lack organization. Our leaders in the past have been those who have been able to expound the principle; the speakers, the writers and the editors. We need them still, but the future belongs to the organizer. Such a man we have in Ohio. Properly organized for political action our principles can not fail to win. Let us organize and vote as we think.

THOMAS RHODUS.

New Orleans, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Replying to Mr. Weeks' request for the opinion of Single Taxers for independent political action, will say that I am heartily

in favor of Single Taxers forming an independent Single Tax party; go before the country and enunciate the doctrines of Single Tax as outlined by Henry George; make a clean-cut fight in the open, and quit prostituting their ideas of justice and right by voting with parties that stand for Land Monopoly, and for almost everything else that is contrary to the fundamental principles of Single Tax.

This has been our policy in the past, and if continued, we can only expect to be classed as a small body of "Visionary Cranks" that carry no weight and count for nothing. Though we will be defeated time and time again, we will gather more and more strength with each defeat, and even should we never succeed, (which I do not believe) defeat in such a cause is far better, far nobler than any compromise with wrong. History points to the fact that small bodies of resolute thinkers and workers with justice and right on their side, have changed the conditions of nations from the gloom of injustice and suffering, and left humanity freer and better for their unbending, uncompromising stand for right.

ROBT. H. CAGE.

Denver, Col.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

In reply to Mr. Weeks' request for opinions regarding a National Single Tax party, we the undersigned, are in favor of such political action, not that Single Taxers will win at the polls this time, but because we have always been opportunists and now is the opportunity to contrast pure Democracy with Republican spoils-ism. There is no call for two Republican parties, and if the reorganizers win out in the next National Democratic Convention that is what we will have. The radical element of the Democratic party must find a name somewhere and the Single Taxers should be the nucleus of the Radical Democratic Party.

We will win radicals to our cause from all parties, and find many 38d degree men of whom we know nothing at this time, as they know nothing of us, and many who are skeptical will view the Single Tax through clearer glasses when they are looking for a political name and have to defend their affiliation with the Single Tax party. By all means, let us have it for propaganda, if for no other reason and that we may be well along the road in 1908 for political and presidential preferment. We travel fast in these days, and are not too early in the field.

L. C. LAW,  
JOHN HILLS,  
SIDNEY HOLMES,  
GEO. K. OSBORN,  
T. P. LYON,  
R. T. WALSH,  
J. B. SPUHR.

Denver, Colorado.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

A letter from each of the Single Taxers of the country expressing their views upon the future policy of our cause, at this time would be very opportune, for, it seems to me we are in a "precarious moment" and we could form some idea of the numbers and perhaps cull a program for the future action.

It seems to me that the day for the academic propagandist is past, so far as our cause is concerned, and political action is our only course; as a school we are avowed individualists, we believe, free and equal, and primarily our political tendencies are toward those enunciated by the author of the Declaration of Independence—we believe, almost religiously, that equal rights for all and special privileges for none, would be most likely to effect the happiness and prosperity of all; we have followed the radiant will-o'-the-wisp of a political party, Democratic in name only, dazily dreaming that it would in some way lead us to terra firma, until we are now almost hopelessly foundered in a mire of boggy, soggy, indigent political clap-trap. Like Asiatic devotees, we have annually visited the shrine of the jaggernaut though it continued to crush and squeeze us, and now that our political eyes are opened, we in wonderment are looking about us preparing for the coming lightning stroke which will rend asunder the rotten old shell we so long revered.

In the early commencement of the year 1901 a Democratic Legislature of Colorado passed with a two-thirds majority a bill providing for local option in matters of taxation. This measure was indorsed by the outgoing Democratic Governor, and the incoming Democratic Governor in their messages and everything seemed serene and pleasant. The Democratic Senator elected by this same Legislature also endorsed the measure in his paper—the leading Democratic daily West of the Missouri river. In less than a year shuddering convulsions attack some of the owners of special privilege and when a call was issued for an extra session, the way was left open for repealing this measure before action might be had upon it by the people, and by hard and incessant work we were able to defeat this design.

When the conventions were held for nominations for office in the following summer, the Republicans denounced us in scathing terms, and the Democrats never even mentioned our amendment. Each of them declared for the Initiative and Referendum—we know only to catch the votes of the spineless flies.

The State Federation of Labor, and all of the National Labor conventions which meet in this city during the summer passed resolutions in favor of the measure and each of the local bodies of labor in the State