

error to select his own cabinet, another expression of the same fear of the people. The constitutions of many of our states limit the biennial session of the legislature to 40, 60 or 90 days, though the work of organizing and getting bills introduced and considered takes usually 30 days at least. Most of the men who are going to form the new constitution are animated by the same distrust of the people.

Foolish conservatism or reaction and privilege have but to control only one of the five or six agencies of government to control the entire government. Is it fair to ascribe to democracy the failure of many of our institutions under conditions by which the people's action is everywhere blocked? Is it any wonder that democracy so paralyzed has failed?

Mr. Howe urged the adoption of the Initiative and Referendum and told of a recent debate in the House of Representatives, when Congressman Kent was told by an opponent of the measure that "under the system of Direct Legislation the people would go straight to hell." "Maybe they would," replied the Congressman, "but in that event they would have a return trip ticket."

The speaker declared his belief that a constitution should describe and provide only for the machinery of government. He said he was in favor of abolishing the bi-cameral system and vesting power in one chamber. He declared for home rule in cities, and said the cities were in bondage to men living one hundred miles away, who meet for a few months once a year, and he closed with a plea for a form of government that shall recognize not property but people, and in which the collective will may organize and make its purposes effective.

Gilbert E. Roe told something of what had been accomplished for democracy in Wisconsin and kept the audience in good humor by his sallies.

General Gorgas, whose subject was "The Economical Cause of Disease," began by a review of the work of the United States for the suppression of yellow fever and other diseases of an epidemic character; told of the disappearance of fevers in Panama as a result of the transfer of the workers to free land where, at a slight cost they were able to erect habitations. He said, "What we did there on a small scale you are trying to do here on a greater. The principle is the same."

Gen. Gorgas said the cause of pneumonia was well known. It is of a vegetable parasitic character. But its exact form of transference is not so well known, though it is probably much the same as in typhoid forms. But we know that as men are moved further apart the ratio of transference is smaller, and when maintaining healthful relations of distance from each other the ratio of transference is nil. The general effect of lower rents would be to maintain this healthful relation of distance—in other words, to do away largely with unhealthful congestion.

Gen. Gorgas said that his remarks might properly end here, but he was tempted to go further. He then devoted his time to the relation of higher wages to disease and boldly avowed his belief that a higher rate of wages tended to the decrease of all forms of disease. He said this conclusion was the result of observation and experience, and he instanced illustrations drawn from "what he had seen and part of what he had been."

The speaker said he had been where he had the

power to say go, and men went, come, and they came. It was in his power to adopt any regulation of a purely sanitary nature. But though he hoped to see this reform adopted by the people he would not impose it upon them, even though he possessed the power. (Cries of "You're a democrat.") The people must be educated to want it. "But I have to recommend to my friend, the toastmaster, Hon. S. S. Goldwater, the Single Tax as the most important sanitary measure that could be adopted by the department of the city government over which he presides."

An address by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the most eloquent of women orators, concluded the speechmaking.

The social attractions of this most successful dinner of the Society to Lower Rents and Reduce Taxes on Homes were notably increased by the presence of Mrs. Mary Fels, Tenement House Commissioner Murphy, Hamlin Garland, Registers Hopper and Polak, Dr. A. Jacobi, Chas. H. Ingersoll, Dr. Mary D. Hussey, Benjamin Doblin and others whose work for economic and civic betterment have made them distinguished figures in the life of the city.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.



## OHIO SINGLETAXERS ORGANIZE.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 3, 1915.

Ohio Singletaxers celebrated Groundhog Day, February 2, at the Hotel Hartman, Columbus, by the first state gathering held in fifteen years, and plans were made for the organization of a state league which will endeavor to plant at least one club or committee in every county in the state.

The name chosen was The Ohio Site Value Taxation League. Henry P. Boynton of Cleveland was made president; Carl P. Brannin of Cincinnati, vice-president, and George T. Spahr of Columbus, treasurer. Discussion of a political program brought out conflicting views as to the expediency of home rule, specific exemptions of classes of property from taxation and the repeal of all constitutional checks on taxation. Decision was deferred for one month.

Among those who took part in the general program of the day were Carl Nau, Peter Witt, Mayor Newton D. Baker, John D. Fackler, A. B. duPont, Edward W. Doty and J. P. Vining of Cleveland; Herbert Bigelow, Daniel Kiefer and W. P. Halenkamp of Cincinnati, William Holloway of Akron, George Edwards of Youngstown, H. P. Skinner of Middleport, and Elizabeth Hauser of Girard.

During the noon hour, David Gibson picketed the so-called Chittenden corner in the business center, carrying a box sign which set forth the rise of values on that site from \$3,500 in 1837, to \$280,000 at the present time and asking, "Who made this increase in value?" Speculative land prices were coupled with hard times in the argument on the sign, which attracted much attention from passing crowds.

H. P. BOYNTON.



## LEVI H. TURNER.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 5, 1915.

The death of Levi H. Turner on January 16 at his home in Quincy, Mass., calls for a review of his life

work. Mr. Turner was one of the pioneer Singletaxers in Boston, and one of the able group that first commenced Sunday meetings on Boston Common in advocacy of Henry George principles. At that time no limit was placed on time, and the meetings used to be kept going all the afternoon. Now each holder of a permit is limited to two hours, and the hours and location are set by the superintendent of the Common.

A number of years ago the then mayor of Boston gave orders to have all meetings on the Common stopped. Singletaxers circulated petitions protesting against such denial of the right of free speech. Mr. Turner, who then lived in Boston, was selected to present the numerously signed document and he performed his duty bravely and successfully, for Mayor Matthews at once rescinded his order. Since then no attempt has been made to prohibit the Sunday afternoon meetings on Boston Common.

Mr. Turner was an able, earnest, clever speaker and writer, and was widely and favorably known. A few years ago he became a Socialist and was a nominee for various offices in Quincy on the party ticket. But he only remained in the Socialist Party a short time, for he realized that the land question was at the bottom of our economic ills, and that it must be settled first by the taxation of land values before public ownership is adopted. He resumed being an enthusiastic propagandist for the Singletax and allied reforms, and spoke on Boston Common many Sunday afternoons the last three summers.

Mrs. Emily T. Turner, who survives her husband, is an earnest advocate of all principles based on justice and freedom, and shared with Mr. Turner in his enthusiasm for the ideas that will make this old earth a better place on which "to live, move and have our being." We all sympathize with Mrs. Turner and lament the death of her husband.

W. L. CROSMAN.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### A RELIGIOUS LESSON FOR BILLY SUNDAY.

Philadelphia, February 1, 1915.

The following letter was sent to Mr. Sunday, now holding revival services in Philadelphia:

Rev. William A. Sunday,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

During the past four weeks I have heard and read a number of your sermons. You are endeavoring to preach the religion which Jesus Christ summed up in the two commandments, "Love thy God with all thy heart," and "love thy neighbor as thyself." People are flocking to hear you. They weigh your words and believe them. Would you inspire them with the true spirit of Christ? Let me suggest one aspect of the neighbor problem in Philadelphia, which offers you an unusual opportunity for service.

You are preaching in a winter almost without parallel for the frightful amount of distress and suffering among the poor, yet you have directed your invective against the churches mainly. Why? Are the churches the chief culprits? Is not the world beginning to realize that today the most sinister crimes against the ideals of Christ's religion are committed by the system of industry for profit—a system which pays wages so hideously low that

if the poor were made spiritually and morally perfect, they would still be abjectly poor. Interpret your doctrine of salvation in terms of modern life! Would not Jesus, if he were face to face with a multitude of ten dollar a week men feed their bodies before he attempted to save their souls?

You have declared your interest in the salvation of Philadelphia. Look around you and ask yourself what salvation means here. The city is filled with unemployment and poverty; multitudes are literally starving; thousands of little children toil in the city's factories and stores; its workers, a third of a million strong, have no workmen's compensation law for their protection; meanwhile the railroad interests which control the hard coal fields are reaping exorbitant profits; the traction company exacts the highest fares paid by the people of any American city; the manufacturers, entrenched at Harrisburg, are fighting, tooth and claw, to prevent the passage of up-to-date labor laws; and the vested interests are placing property rights above men's souls. These monstrous offenses against humanity—this defiance of the spirit of Christ's gospel—exist today in the city which hears your message.

And further! The well-fed people, whose ease and luxury are built upon this poverty, child labor and exploitation, sit in your congregation, contribute to your campaign funds, entertain you socially, and invite you to hold prayer meetings in their homes. These are they that bind grievous burdens on men's shoulders, that make clean the outside of the cup and the platter—the devourers of widows' houses against whom Christ hurled his curses. Here is Dives, yonder is Lazarus, and it is Dives who has made your campaign financially possible.

Make no mistake. The chief priests, scribes and pharisees of Philadelphia will never crucify you while you deal in theological pleasantries. Has it occurred to you that their kindness is a return for your services in helping them to rivet the shackles of economic servitude upon the bodies of those who do their bidding? The employers of labor have always welcomed anyone who could divert men's minds from worldly injustice to heavenly bias. Turn your oratorical brilliancy for a moment against low wages, overwork, unemployment, monopoly, special privilege, and the other forces which "grind the faces of the poor," and watch them show their fangs.

Before you leave Philadelphia will you speak these truths? Dare you preach them from your pulpit? Will you champion the cause of the poverty stricken, the underpaid, and the exploited? Dare you tell the masters of industry and the takers of profit that they have no right to enjoy ease and luxury while their fellow men suffer the pangs of hell on earth?

We pray "Thy Kingdom come on Earth." While men are underpaid, while women are overworked, while children grow up in squalor, while exploitation and social injustice remain, the Kingdom of God never can come on earth and never will.

Yours truly,

SCOTT NEARING.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, February 9, 1915.

### Commission on Industrial Relations.

John Mitchell and J. P. Morgan were the principal witnesses before the Commission on Industrial Relations on February 1. Mr. Mitchell criti-