

This Sunday night meeting at the City Hall Square was a large one. Between three and four hundred persons gathered. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Chas. Ryan were the only speakers, the latter having greatly improved since we heard him at the Single Tax conference in the Fall of 1907. Forty copies of *The Only Way*, a bright little monthly paper, with short, crisp editorials and contributed articles were sold at this meeting. Thomas Kavanagh is the editor and Peter Winslow the business manager. Its spirit is that of Brother Robinson. In its salutatory it says that the Single Tax movement has "several capable publications which fill the field of propaganda and keep the believers in touch with one another. Our reason for existence is more than that. The time has come when some voice must be raised to tell the public what the institution is that is strangling progress and holding back local industry, and WHO THE MEN AND WOMEN ARE who profit by it."

This group will not permit the excuse to be offered by those who profit by the crimes of the present system that these wrongs are "institutional." To them they are individual in whoever helps to sustain them, in whoever blinks at their existence. They use strong terms and speak boldly. And they are winning converts.

Elsewhere the Single Taxers of Philadelphia are not idle. In a different way the Tax Reform Association is at work, and we heard some significant stories of a growth in public sentiment in our direction in quarters where one would hardly look for it. Messrs Albright and Milliken are helping along this work. James W. Dix is pushing the work of Vacant Lot Cultivation and doing it in the spirit of a Single Taxer. And so in a variety of ways the great truth makes progress.

J. D. M.

A pamphlet on Direct Nominations, with special reference to the Governor's Bill now defunct, written by John J. Hopper, was the occasion of editorial comment by the *N. Y. Times* of recent date. Mr. Hopper took the position that the bill was neither flesh, fowl, nor good red herring.

MASSACHUSETTS.

THE LOCAL OPTION BILL—THE CONSTITUTION A BAR TO TAX REFORM—W. S. U'REN AND JOHN Z. WHITE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Last January the following bill was introduced in the State Legislature and referred to the committee on taxation:

"Every city by ordinance, and every town by by-law, may from time to time determine and provide that all taxes required to be levied or assessed by the board of assessors other than for State taxes and county taxes shall be assessed upon the value of land only, excluding buildings and other improvements, or upon real estate only, or in addition to either such value of land or real estate, upon any one or more class or classes of personal property, instead of by the method required by law at the time of assessment."

Some weeks later a hearing was given by the committee. James R. Carret, President of the Massachusetts Single Tax League, conducted the hearing, and after the opening speech by himself, introduced the following Single Taxers: Prof. Lewis J. Johnson, Rev. John Gregson, S. H. Howes, Walter J. Isidor, M. C. O'Neill, and W. L. Crosman.

Instead of a discussion of local option in taxation the hearing developed into a discussion of Single Tax principles, which so much interested the committee that the members listened to our arguments for some minutes after the usual time for closing the committee session, and that necessitated a postponed hearing on two other taxation bills. The chairman of the committee on taxation informed the Single Taxers that the State constitution declared for taxation of all property, and the Supreme Court had so ruled. While progress has been made in all professions and industries, progress in taxation is prohibited so long as an antiquated constitution interferes.

Hon. W. S. U'Ren, of Oregon, was tendered a reception and luncheon by the Single Tax and Direct Legislation League at the Twentieth Century Club on April 19. About 150 persons were present. Mr. U'Ren delivered an interesting speech.

The Sunday afternoon meetings of the Boston Single Tax Society were commenced for 1909 on Boston Common on the afternoon of April 18. The time is from 2 to 4 o'clock and the place is near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. The assistance of Single Tax speakers from other cities who happen to be in Boston on Sunday will be welcome at all times. Edward Doherty is Chairman.

John Z. White was kept busy during the nearly two weeks he spent in Massachusetts in March. He addressed many large audiences and on some days spoke four times, always acceptably.

W. L. CROSMAN.

BOSTON, Mass.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE POLITICAL POLICY OF SINGLE TAXERS
JUSTIFIED BY EVENTS—WORK OF THE
PRESS BUREAU FOUNDED BY JOS. FELS—
ENGLISH PAPERS THAT SUPPORT THE
MOVEMENT—THE BUDGET.

Among the different schools of social reformers on this side of the Atlantic Single Taxers seem to have most reason to congratulate themselves. We are truly optimistic, our optimism being based upon the sure foundation of solid progress actually made, evidence of which is to hand from every side. Both in and out of parliament our friends are working with enthusiasm, devotion, and good judgment quite beyond praise, with the result that "Land Values" is one of the main topics of discussion wherever politicians come together. Yet we are today what we have always been—Single Tax propagandists—ready at all times to avail ourselves of every chance of educating public opinion on the subject.

Had we cut ourselves adrift from all political organizations and stood entirely alone, we should not have achieved nearly so much success as now stands to our credit. Opinions have differed as to the best course to be adopted for the advancement of the cause, but in deciding to follow that of least resistance the League would appear

to have done the right thing. By it we have been able to insinuate ourselves into quarters quite out of reach of a Single Tax frontal attack and have thus made our question more widely understood and its virtues recognized by politicians and others who are greatly at variance on other subjects.

In posing as Single Taxers pure and simple, showing utter disregard for the opinions of those we desire to win over, we should have made our missionary work unnecessarily difficult and perhaps have caused ourselves to be looked upon as a body of well meaning fadists. As things are now the forward movement cannot be stopped. It is growing in strength daily and if this Government or the next won't touch it, the time will shortly arrive when an irresistible demand for its immediate adoption will come from the people as a whole.

We have entered into no alliances, but have accepted recruits and support wherever they may have come and where active aid has not been forthcoming we have created a strong under-current of sympathy with our aims which will sooner or later come to the surface.

Many of our best and most powerful supporters are members of the Liberal party, and such is their influence that Lord Rosebery was constrained to remark some time ago that he thought the Single Taxers had captured that historic association. The Labor or Socialist party has hitherto been amongst our most bitter opponents, but its leaders are coming one by one to see the way in which the first stride towards effective social reform must be taken. After the leaders the rank and file are slowly following, and whatever their ideal goal may be, if they are willing to co-operate with us to secure the taxation of land values we shall be glad of it, and give them in return such help as we may for the attainment of objects which will not clash with the principles for which we stand. Should they make the Taxation of Land Values one of the main planks in their platform we and they will doubtless be found supporting the same candidate, using our joint influence to avoid three cornered contests. Such co-operation may be safely undertaken, for as Mr. Bagot once tersely put it in a letter printed in the REVIEW, a