

the Winter months. New Year's at Fairhope was like a balmy Spring day.

The Executive Council of the Association made its appraisal of rental values for 1904, during December. A printed copy of the entire appraisal was furnished every lease-holder and complaints against the same heard on the evening of the sixteenth. The answers to complaints by the members of the Council and other Association members, made it a first-class Single Tax meeting, and were so satisfactory that after all had been said *pro* and *con*, the Council's judgment was sustained in general by an almost unanimous vote. The new appraisal will, on the basis of present holdings, bring a little over \$1,500 into the Association's treasury.

An interesting point in Professor Belangee's address at the anniversary was that he had found on his trip men of large affairs particularly interested in Fairhope, and most keenly appreciative of the possibilities of our community with the people in control of the land and the public utilities.

The prospects of the Colony for the year 1904 are of the brightest, and its members extend a hearty New Year's greeting to their fellow Single Taxers throughout the world. If arrangements are made for a Single Tax headquarters at Saint Louis during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, we want to co operate and have a representative there continuously. E. B. GASTON.

THE SINGLE TAX IN PARTIAL OPERATION.

Guam, America's new possession in the Pacific, is not the only place in the world where the theories of Henry George are being applied. On the east coast of Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, the flourishing town of Nanaimo, with its 6,000 inhabitants, has no tax for municipal purposes save one on land values, levied alike on occupied and unoccupied land, according to the orthodox interpretation of the Single Tax theory. The town is a miners' town, where the doctrine of "three acres and a cow" is almost universally realized as well as that of "every man his own house owner." For this happy result the easy terms of the London syndicate which owns the coal and land in the neighborhood are largely responsible.—*The London Chronicle*.

A Plea for the Children, by Mina Price, published by Frank Vierth, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is No. 13 of *Junior Why*, and is a little vest pocket pamphlet that has been widely circulated by Single Tax and labor associations. It cannot be too generally circulated. It is an effective presentation of the evils of child labor, and is told with a woman's sympathetic pen.

SPEECH OF WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

(INTRODUCING GOVERNOR GARVIN AT Y. M. C. A. HALL IN BOSTON, MONDAY, DEC. 21ST.)

There is a popular belief that our democratic form of government is independent and self-working. However much its administrators may depart from fundamental principles the delusion that a special Providence is guiding the nation along its chosen path is all abounding. Therefore only fools and pessimists need worry. It is a cheap and easy philosophy hoary with age. National conceit and assurance of Divine favor have marked every previous republic or empire which has gone down in blood and shame.

We boast our seats of learning and the land is full of scholars; some, alas, in politics who have not only read but written history. But what has it taught them? As for the lessons it conveys, a blank page might represent the story of the years that are behind us. Although disaster and eclipse have overtaken the elder nations who tried to circumvent the moral law, undaunted our new fledgling sounds the same atheistic defiance and cherishes the same insane confidence that presages downfall.

On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, September 17, 1789, Benjamin Franklin with forecast and wisdom uttered these impressive words:

"I believe that this government is likely to be well administered; and believe further, that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years, and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall be so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other."

No faith in government as a machine of perpetual motion deluded that clear brain. When people grow careless of freedom the despot comes. The gravity of the situation confronting democracy may serve for mirth to witless writers for the press or bring expressions of incredulity from cheerful optimists. But to serious historical students and lovers of freedom the present chapter of the country's record is full of anxious import. Is the point reached where the American people are so corrupted that they are only fitted for despotic rule?

There is a reason why nations in which civilization has reached its highest development should be brought to such a pass. We welcome, therefore, with eagerness whoever can throw intelligent light upon the problem, if problem be the proper name for self-made social tangles. If our heritage of freedom is to be preserved we cannot too soon understand its attacking forces of decay. Skilled machinery of administration, personal purity of officials are not enough when skill is exerted for wealth and power and personally pure men support organized

and dominant systems of plunder. If moral sense is lost and greed has dulled the popular conscience, a government of angels could work no redemption. Nations are as individuals.

"When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead."

We have seen sad times before and lived through adversities that threatened wreck. Strengthened by the memory of the nation's previous awakening and recovery we look with courage for signs of morning amidst the present "encircling gloom." We must not doubt that cheering omens exist. To point out and emphasize them is the duty of the hour. We cannot question that privilege will fall when democracy grapples with it in deadly earnest.

But there are various brands of democracy. The dominant and vociferous one is that of party. Ex-Gov. Hill represented it in his declaration, "I am a Democrat." Except as a badge of organization the words were without meaning. From them no one could predict how the Governor would act in a given case involving democratic principles, unless indeed one counted him on the hostile side although in party harmony.

Genuine democracy, based on the ideals expressed by Thomas Jefferson, has many professed admirers and few adherents. Politicians of sinister purpose parade Jeffersonian sentiments as a shelter from which to strike at the roots of self-government. For idealists who accept the gospel as a living one there is only a tolerant contempt. Success and not ideals is the quest of parties. Of what use is organization if not to control offices and patronage? Otherwise, as the ingenuous Flanagan, of Texas, asked, "What are we here for?"

In conspicuous politics I should be puzzled to name more than two men who stand solely for democratic ideals. One of them is Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio. Although emphatically defeated at the recent election he will surely reappear upon the field if life and health are left him. Well did he say: "Truth loses many battles but no war," and politicians cannot yet reckon without him in their cunning schemes.

The other Jeffersonian I shall name was not submerged by the political flood of last November although his party was overwhelmed. For the second time he was landed safe and sound in the Governor's chair of Rhode Island, a miracle full of cheer. Speaking unwelcome truth in a corrupt and machine-ridden state, regardless of personal fortune, his simple courage and fidelity touched the hearts of his Republican opponents and commanded their respect. To their aid he owes his re-election.

This Democrat of the pure brand is with us to-night for no partisan purpose. From his lips you will hear no platitudes or empty rhetoric. For many years it has been my privilege to know and honor this modest, thoughtful, clear-sighted, determined and

undiscouraged reformer. Wherever in his own state a suffering cause needed a champion, an abuse demanded exposure, a beneficent law called for enactment, one man at least could be counted on to respond "Here am I." That man is the speaker of this evening whom I am honored in introducing, Hon. Lucius F. C. Garvin, Governor of Rhode Island.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TWO WRITERS IN AGREEMENT.

Editor Single Tax Review:

There are, to my mind, strong arguments that may be urged on both sides of this question. Among the arguments in opposition to independent action are: (a) The moral certainty of no immediate success at the polls; (b) only a small portion of those who believe in the justice of Single Tax are willing to give up their old parties and vote for it, and hence a ballot will make the cause seem weaker than it really is; (c) the division of the reform forces of the country caused thereby; (d) the antagonism which it thus invites from the adherents and especially the leaders of the old parties; and (e) the belief that Single Taxers can work best for their reform by teaching its principles within their old parties.

Among the arguments in favor of independent action are: (a) The interest which is thereby aroused among many of the believers in the reform who love the concrete rather than the abstract, and who thus become active and efficient propagandists of its principles; (b) the great advertising which results therefrom during a campaign.

The amount of Single Tax literature that was issued here in Chicago during the last two or three campaigns was very great indeed, and the pieces numbered up in the millions. The amount of money expended reflected great credit upon the members of the club, and bore witness to their activity and loyalty.

If our American cities had a form of cumulative voting something after the style prevailing in Brussels there would be still more encouragement than now exists for independent political action.

Whatever may be our decision regarding independent action under prevailing conditions, it seems certain to me that we cannot expect that any legislation favorable to Single Tax will be enacted until we first secure the initiative and referendum. Direct legislation by the people through the optional initiative and referendum, such as has existed for many years in Switzerland, with such excellent results and for a less period in South Dakota will have to be secured in any state that desires to try to experiment with the theory of Henry George. Nothing else will dethrone the political boss.

Single Taxers should bear this in mind,