

the extremes of great wealth and squalid impoverishment can be observed at the same time. Those who share the enormous wealth are surfeited with luxuries to the point that ennui has supplanted satisfaction. Those who contribute the wealth suffer the evils of congestion, of hunger and privation. Small wonder it is that brutality and depravity are manifest; rather the marvel is that civilization progresses as it does: even that it perseveres amid conditions so unjust, so degrading, so intolerable and anti-social. While the land value created by the community is being appropriated by the few, and diverted from the public treasury where it justly and logically belongs, we place 75,000 children attending the public schools on part time; we provide for many thousands of others but one teacher for each class of approximately forty; we turn patients from our hospitals when barely convalescent; we deny the requests of our health authorities for appropriations wherewith to war on consumption and other diseases of poverty and congestion; we permit our respectable malefactors to defy our child labor, and factory and tenement laws, secure in the knowledge that sufficient funds will not be provided to enforce them. In what a terrible cycle is the community involved. The greater the amount contributed the more necessitous are those who contribute it, and the more necessitous they become, the less means have they of combatting the evils inseparable from the system. The destruction of the poor is their poverty.

---

## SINGLE TAX WOMEN OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

(*For the Review.*)

By **AMY MALI HICKS.**

On evening several years ago the Women's Henry George League, as was then customary, held its monthly social in the home of George and Charlotte Hampton. This special meeting has since been called our "experience meeting," because each of us in turn told how he or she became converted to the Single Tax.

Afterwards I wondered what made up the great charm of that evening, and it seemed to me that as each spoke, a different aspect of the Single Tax was brought out by the distinctly individual manner in which it was presented. I have that same feeling about the work of these Single Tax women with whom I have been associated for a number of years. There is a solidarity and unity of purpose among us while at the same time each contributes something to the cause which is distinctly individual. Each one is using means which specially appeals to her and which corresponds to the measure of her ability. As speakers, writers, organizers, or as someone has called us, "able seamen," we all have our places and parts.

Taken as a group I do not think Single Tax women have great interest

in organization for its own sake. We want only just enough to make possible a certain kind of cooperation. Neither are we fond of red tape or parliamentary law, using it only as a means to an end. But there are certain kinds of organization necessary, indeed there is need even for women's separate organizations. This seems perhaps reactionary in a cause as broad and as humanitarian as the Single Tax, but it is only through Women's Organizations that we can affiliate with other women's clubs, and introduce the study of economic questions into the large federated bodies, state and municipal.

Doctor Mary D. Hussey, our associate from East Orange, New Jersey, is one of the most active workers in women's organizations. I once asked her why she studied both law and medicine, and she answered promptly, "To help women." Certainly there is no one more seriously and devotedly interested in the cause of women than Dr. Hussey.

She was born in Bleecker Street, New York City, 1853, of Quaker descent, her family for generations having been members of the religious Society of Friends. She graduated as a physician in 1877 from the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, and in 1898 from the New York Law School as an L. L. B. She founded the Legal Aid Society in 1900.

She says: I became a Single Taxer before knowing any other Single Taxers and through reading *Progress and Poverty*. This was in 1890. She was associated with Miss Estelle Bachman and Miss Gay of Staten Island, and with them started the Women's National Single Tax Propaganda Association. They were assisted in this work by Mrs. Bolton Hall who designed their badges. Through Miss Gay, Dr. Hussey came to know our Miss Julia A. Kellogg of Orange and Miss Alice Thatcher, now Mrs. Post. It was at the Thatcher-Post wedding that Dr. Hussey first met Henry George. Later with Miss Kellogg she founded the Orange Single Tax Association and the Women's Henry George League in cooperation with Mrs. John Sherwin Crosby, Gertrude Colles, and Margaret Moore.

In 1900 Dr. Hussey with Mrs. Crosby, Miss Colles, Miss Agnes Dwyer founded the Women's National Single Tax League in Washington, D. C. and she is now Corresponding Secretary of the National Single Tax Committee, an outcome of the League.

As President of the Women's Single Tax Club, of Orange, Advisory Member of the Fels Commission, shareholder in Fairhope Colony, Forrester at Free Acres Colony, and a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, she shows her many sided activities. She has spoken and presided at the dinners of the Manhattan Single Tax Club under the Presidency of Mr. John T. McRoy.

Miss Julia A. Kellogg, another Orange Single Taxer, is a native of Elizabeth, N. J. Miss Kellogg says:

"I was converted to the Single Tax through reading *Progress and Poverty*. The book was brought to my notice by my friend Florenc Schetter, father of Charlotte Schetter, who is now well known in the cause. *Progress and Poverty* was not much in vogue at that time but Mr. Schetter was deeply impressed by it. He said: "It is the greatest book I ever read;" and he was much

in earnest to have me read it. Miss Kellogg continues, "The Single Tax at that time called itself the Anti-poverty Society. I joined that and have a certificate dated May 27th, 1887, signed by Edward McGlynn, President. Henry George was Vice-President."

Miss Kellogg has greatly helped our propaganda through her abridgment of Patrick Edward Dove's "The Theory of Human Progression," which presents the Single Tax philosophy from a scientific standpoint. She has also abridged "Progress and Poverty."

Miss Charlotte Schetter, Miss Kellogg's friend and co-worker, was born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. She says:

"My father (Florence Schetter) read Progress and Poverty in 1881 and was then converted. Without going into the study of the question I was almost entirely converted by the idea that the earth should belong to all and that this wonderful prophet had found the only way to secure this end permanently. For years Miss Schetter and her father were not able to make any converts, or to go to any Single Tax meetings. They were living at that time in Germany. After her father's death she returned to Brooklyn, N. Y., becoming more and more interested in the movement. The Single Tax was much out of touch with her surroundings at that time and she could not even talk to her friends, because they were too bored to listen. Many of them have since been converted.

After taking residence in Orange, in 1895, she joined the Women's Henry George Club of Brooklyn and later the Women's National Single Tax League, and ever since she has been increasingly active. While in England in 1903 and 1904 she attended the annual meetings of the League for Taxation of Land Values in London.

About twelve years ago Professor Wilmarth had a reading class in Progress and Poverty. Miss Schetter joined it and became convinced of the usefulness of study classes. She started one at her own house, which two years later became the Women's Single Tax Club of Orange. Miss Schetter says:

"Of late years the social side of Single Tax philosophy has appealed to me as the crown of the whole structure. I believe society will be regenerated and reconstructed on lines of wealth, beauty and usefulness, when opportunity to work is given to all. Then each shall share in the social progress of the race through the intelligent public use of the value attaching to land."

Miss Schetter has done valuable work as President of the Women's National Single Tax League and in the Woman's Single Tax Club of Orange. She participates in the activities of our Metropolitan district through her cooperation with the Manhattan Single Tax Club and the Women's Henry George League, speaking and presiding at dinners and meetings.

Among our other neighbors and one who is also specially interested in organization, is Mrs. Margaret Hughan, President of Brooklyn Woman's Single Tax Club and a faithful worker in the Women's Federated Clubs of New York City and State.

Mrs. Hughan says: "I was born in Brooklyn and began early in life to

have a leaning towards economics. This was emphasized by my marriage with Samuel Hughan, a Scotsman who while in the midst of writing a book on the land and labor problem, entitled "Hereditary Peers and Hereditary Paupers," was given the opportunity to read the proof sheets of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty."

This was in 1879 while the Hughans were in California. Mrs. Hughan was associated with her husband in his literary work and shared his delight in the discovery of Henry George's great book. Since that time Mrs. Hughan has kept up an active interest in Single Tax work. Returning to Brooklyn about twenty years ago she joined the Woman's Single Tax Club of which she has been President at intervals for greater part of that time. She has just recently returned from a trip abroad and is fresh from the humiliation of having her baggage examined, and that by the best government under the sun. She says she is more than ever convinced that this method of taxation is absolutely wrong, that the only dignified way of raising revenue, internal or otherwise, is by the taxation of land values.

Miss Jennie Rogers and Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan are associated with Mrs. Hughan and the group of Brooklyn workers who take an active interest in Metropolitan affairs. Miss Rogers says: "Father was the first in our family to become a Single Taxer through reading the *Standard*, which he had chanced to buy at a newstand. The rest of us argued ourselves into the Single Tax by trying to argue him out of it." Miss Rogers was born in Delhi, Indiana, and was educated there. After becoming a Single Taxer she studied kindergarten teaching because she believed our system of public education was largely to blame for the unawakened state of the people. Later she took up playground work because this field offered a larger opportunity to teach children their relation to the community and their rights as individuals.

Miss Rogers is essentially a teacher, never neglecting any opportunity to present the truth of our cause. She is at present Treasurer of the Woman's National Single Tax Committee, and also a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, faithfully attending all the important meetings held in this vicinity. She contributes in many different ways to Single Tax propaganda and says she has no quarrel with anyone who is trying to do something for the Single Tax, however individual and different their efforts may be from her own. Miss Rogers also writes occasional articles on Single Tax matters.

Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan was born and educated by her sister in Delhi, Indiana. Theirs is a radical family, for the grandfather, Jonathan Rogers, during the repeal of the "Corn Laws" in England went into hiding many times and many times escaped arrest for writing songs which were complimentary to the government.

Mrs. Ryan was a charter member of the Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club which was organized in 1890. She was its Secretary for a number of years and in 1893 was elected President, serving three years. Eight years she was Treasurer of the Brooklyn Single Tax League, and being interested in the organization of Women became one of the Directors of the New York

City Federation of Women's Clubs and a member of the Women's Trade Union League. Mrs. Ryan did splendid work in organizing and as a member of the lecture bureau when she was President of the Women's National Single Tax League. She is also a contributor to Single Tax organs.

In New York City, Mrs. John Sherwin Crosby has also distinguished herself as an organizer. With others she founded the Women's Henry George League, being its President for several terms, and founding the Woman's Democratic Club of New York City, has been its President for eight consecutive times. Mrs. Crosby was the first President of the Woman's Peace Circle after its incorporation, First Vice-President of the Harmony Club, a member of the New Yorkers, the Minerva, the Women's Press Club and Equal Suffrage League. She was one of the organizers, and first Vice-President of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, and through these mediums has done much to push the study of economics. She is a Director of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Rescue Work of the Salvation Army, Chairman of its Executive Board and Chairman of the Woman's Jefferson Monument Fund Committee, and first President of the recently formed Woman's National Democratic League. She is also President of the Rising Sun Woman's Suffrage League.

As the first President of the Women's National Single Tax League, Mrs. Crosby was one of its most active workers, continuing in office for six terms. During this time she assisted in the organization of women's clubs in Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and other cities. She has ably presided at the conventions of the Women's National Single Tax League. In 1911 she was re-elected its President and when the League changed its form and became The Women's National Single Tax Committee, she was elected its first President for a term of two years in 1912.

One of my earliest recollections of Single Tax in New York is associated with Christine Ross Barker. Mrs. Barker impressed me by her charming sense of humor and her original way of putting a thing. She says:

"I wish before all and everything to have it know that my entrance into the Single Tax was through politics." She was born in Nova Scotia of Highland Scotch parents, and was reared in the stern religion of the Presbyterian church, softened by the politics of the Liberal Party. She became a woman suffragist quite naturally as soon as she learned that there was such a thing as votes and government. She read "Social Problems" as a school girl and began then to wonder why the men who did so much law making and held the law cancelling power could not manage things a little better.

Coming to New York City in 1891 she attended a political meeting at Lion Park during the mayoralty campaign in 1897 of Henry George. At that meeting she was much impressed by his saying: "I ask no man to vote for me. You know for what I stand. Vote according to your beliefs." To Miss Ross this was a new note in politics, and a strange speech coming from a man who was running for the office of Mayor. She recognized the prophet and was soon converted to the Henry George philosophy through the reading of *Progress and Poverty* in 1898. She says:

"At the conclusion of the book I was fired by that marvellous call to action and while that fire burns count me as a Single Taxer and a Woman Suffragist both unlimited and militant. When that fire goes out may my ashes be thrown to the winds, for then I shall be dead indeed." Miss Ross was at one time Secretary of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and President of the Women's Henry George League, serving this organization in the capacities of Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Vice-President and Treasurer. At the convention of the New York State Single Tax League organized in Albany, July 4th, 1913, Mrs. Barker was elected one of its Vice-Presidents.

Mrs. Ella M. Murray is associated with my recollections of Mrs. Barker. I met her when the Women's Henry George League held their meeting in the club house of the Manhattan Single Tax Club on East Sixty-first Street. She had just come to New York at that time. She says:

"I first heard of the Single Tax in 1886 and in 1887 became converted through the efforts of Whidden Graham, then of Nova Scotia, now of New York. From the late eighties I was an active worker in Boston and a contributor to the *Standard*. I belonged to a letter-writing corps. I began speaking for the Single Tax in the late nineties and have been doing much of that kind of work ever since."

When Henry George first met Mrs. Murray he said, "I am glad to meet someone who has rendered the Single Tax such yeoman service."

Mrs. Murray joined the Women's Henry George League in 1905, serving as Secretary, Vice-President and President. She served also as Treasurer and as member of the Board of Directors of the Women's National Single Tax League. She became a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club when it reorganized in 1911 and has lectured under the auspices of all these organizations. Mrs. Murray is Chairman of the Standing Committee on Taxation in the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, and also in the State Federation. She was one of the original members of Free Acres Colony, at Berkeley Heights, founded by Bolton Hall in 1909. She says:

"The Single Tax is not merely a fiscal policy to me. It is a philosophy which makes not only each day worth while but each hour worth the living. For this reason although far from the centres of Metropolitan activity I continue my work for it by writing and speaking. I am now a member of the Woman's Council here and also of the Civic Improvement League whose efforts aroused the city of Halifax to take a more active interest in better housing, a problem that can be solved only through the adoption of a just method of taxation."

Mrs. Murray was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, educated in public schools and at Normal College. She taught public school in her native city for five years. After her marriage she moved to Boston, doing newspaper work there.

In 1898 she returned to Halifax and became associate editor of the *Daily Echo*. In 1902 she became editor of the *Yarmouth Times*. She went to New York in 1905 and later associated with Bolton Hall in newspaper, magazine and book work as well as doing writing on her own account. She returned to Halifax again in the spring of 1913.

(To be continued).