

SINGLE TAX PLATFORM.

Platform as adopted at the Dover Convention September, 1896.

We, the Single Taxers of Delaware, in State convention assembled, proclaim as our fundamental doctrine the equal right of all men to the use of the earth, and as the single tax is the simplest plan proposed to establish this right we demand that all taxes in the State of Delaware, except a tax upon the rental value of land, be at once and forever abolished.

We would thus do away with the corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present tax system, and relieve the farmer, the workman, and the manufacturer from those taxes by which they are now unjustly burdened. Such a system of taxation would make it impossible for speculators to hold land idle, and would thus open unlimited opportunities for the employment of labor and capital.

We extend our sympathy to the Reform Democracy of the nation, and hail with pleasure the nomination of William Jennings Bryan as the representative of the common people in the battle against plutocracy. We agree with him that "He who aids in increasing landlordism in this country, hastens the overthrow of the Republic," and we pledge him our support. We, however, do not believe that any mere change of a monetary system can have any permanent beneficial effect on the condition of the masses of the people, while land monopoly exists.

We denounce both the Republican and the Democratic parties of this State for bribery and corruption at the polls. This evil is so widespread that it is evidently largely caused by unjust social conditions, and the present system of taxation by concentrating wealth in the hands of the few and pauperizing the many, is, we hold, the main cause of such corruption. The poll tax system with its manipulation by the dominant party is an efficient instrument of political trickery, and we demand its reduction to the lowest possible point, and its repeal by the constitutional convention.

We denounce the agents of landlordism who control the Democratic machine in Delaware, and who have used their political power for the suppression of free speech, and to defeat the will of the majority at the primary elections. They are not really in sympathy with the Democratic candidate for President, do not believe in Jeffersonian principles, and, as in the past, are simply using their power to aid the landed aristocracy of Delaware to impoverish the working people.