

ing the very latest first-hand news with regard to the more important developments in the international field.

The Greater William Penn Hotel, which is described as the largest hotel in the world outside of New York and Chicago, was thrown open to the public on May 8th. Needless to say it will afford admirable facilities for the Conference, and the rates quoted for Convention guests are fortunately quite reasonable. At this date the Convention program is in a very tentative form, but detailed information will soon be available and the regular Congress invitations will be issued from the Pittsburgh headquarters of the Henry George Foundation during the month of June.

James F. Morton at Schuylerville, N. Y.

A LOT was learned by those who knew something about Single Tax on land values at the Single Tax dinner meeting in the Masonic Temple last evening; something was learned by those who knew nothing about it; and the memories of those who both knew something and knew nothing of the subject, were refreshed when James F. Morton, curator of the Paterson, N. J., museum and strong advocate for the universal trial of the tax theory, and a few local and out-of-town questioners presented the Henry George proposition to a gathering numbering upwards of seventy, including men and women.

Mr. Morton is a convincing speaker and his listeners were well entertained and instructed in the session that started just before 8 o'clock and continued until well after 10.

Dr. T. E. Bullard had brought the speaker to the community and had made arrangements with the committee, comprising J. B. Deyoe, J. H. Fake and T. Kenneth Bullard, for the excellent dinner served by Mrs. John T. Campbell, proprietress of the Campbell Tea Room.

Dr. Bullard sat at the speaker's table with the guest of the evening. The doctor is a well-known local adherent of Single Tax.

Curator Morton presented in rapid order many items of interest in regard to Single Tax, touching upon its misunderstanding, the taking off of taxes by its adoption, calling it the only method of collecting social revenue, and dwelling upon the union of activities making for strength in relation to united efforts along Single Tax lines.

Further, he spoke of the steps in the progress of life, depicting various stages of development, the justification for the state, the imperfections in the development of society through the ages, the different forms of government, proving that representative government is the highest type, and then going into the matter of religious freedom in the state, the cramping of the individual in his development, taxation and rights of society, raising taxes because of industry, and other analogous subjects bearing on the justification for Single Tax.

A Preposterous Canard

PROGRESS of the Single Tax idea will be reviewed at a meeting at Edinburg this summer of an international body formed to advocate the principle.

That it is holding its own in territory where it was adopted long ago, but that not much new territory has been invaded for some years, will probably be indicated by the representation at the gathering in which twenty-six countries are invited to take part. More than a quarter of a century ago the favor with which it had been received in New Zealand and Australia was repeatedly cited for the encouragement of its champions. It still has a vogue there and, as was, perhaps, to be expected, the new capital of the Australian Federation, Canberra, obtains its revenue from this form of taxation. Introduced in South America, it has made some progress in Uruguay and Brazil, forms a plank in the platform of one political party in Argentina and has some prevalence in the Transvaal in Africa.

For the most part, it seems to be utilized under optional sanction in local taxation, and Denmark is said to be the first country resorting to it in national taxation, though recognition for taxing the "unearned increment" seems to be given in a clause of the German Republic's Constitution, declaring that "increase in land values not due to expenditure of capital and labor must be used for community benefit."

Compared, however, with the advance predicted for it a quarter of a century ago, the principle remains virtually static. There was a time in the United States when an academic belief in the Single Tax was included among the articles of faith of everybody with the slightest claim to progressive and liberal thought in public affairs. In the case of some men it was the only point on which such a claim could ever be based and a vague confidence that it was the "coming thing" permeated to all classes of society.

A magnate of large wealth, who included it among his publicly catalogued convictions, once had occasion to buy up a two-thirds majority in both houses of a central western state's legislature, in insuring the defeat of a measure opposed by big business. The happy thought came to him that before releasing his hold he might do something for his pet reform fad and the ultimate regeneration of society by instructing his lobbyists to jam a sweeping Single Tax measure through his purchased legislative bodies as soon as his major bill was out of the way.

The Single Tax got through one house with an immediate effect clause and through the Committee of the Whole in the other, with an overwhelming vote, when the realty interests of important cities heard about it and swooped down on the capital in swift special trains, the triumphant forward movement in uplift being permanently arrested. This was the farthest point ever reached in any state of the Union by a Single Tax proposal of state-wide effect.