

Nor is there need for quarrels with individualists who are not impossible sectarians or greedy plutocrats. The single tax principle is a vital force which, in so far as it is true, will promote democratic individualism, and if completely true will bring it to complete fruition. The first necessity for democratic individualism, as for democratic socialism, and for democracy itself, is common rights to land.

For such a cause as this there is no need for quarrels with any economic or religious sect or political party with a democratic disposition. Neither is there need for severing association with bodies as yet unaroused to the necessity for putting an end to social injustice. On the contrary, that policy will best serve the single tax cause which encourages its converts to continue and to establish congenial affiliations in politics, in church, in progressive societies, in social bodies. It is in this way that the leaven of the single tax principle can be made to work most effectively.

As to separate single tax organizations, there is no need for them at all, except for incidental purposes among folk of like mind, or in committee forms for the promotion of such single tax work as gives evidence of value and vitality.

What is necessary—or, at all events, highly desirable—is a thorough appreciation of the virtues of the single tax principle. Not as the god of a segregated cult, or the offensive slogan of enthusiasts “in season and out of season;” but as part of that complex democratic movement of the world, in which its own special function is to stimulate general progress and supply the method for so promoting general progress as to secure advances as they are made.

To this end it should be the part of single tax advocates, as it seems to us, to establish such intelligent, sympathetic, and influential relations as they can with the world movement as a whole. Timid and dainty as in some of its manifestations that movement may often appear, or grotesquely boisterous as in others, it is nevertheless a movement within which the single tax movement must do its work. It is a movement upon which the single tax movement must exert a favorable influence. Unless this is done, complete reaction will come. “A great wrong always dies hard, and the great wrong which in every civilized country condemns the masses of men to poverty and want, will not die without a bitter struggle.”* Into that struggle, then, every element of progressive force must be enlisted and all be fused.

Let us reserve hostile energy for the movements

and tendencies that make against democracy. Let us recognize and utilize the current of the great democratic movement of the world, in all its phases, even in its disheartening windings and convolutions. As Henry George said in another connection, but not more appropriately, “With the current we may glide fast and far; against it, it is hard pulling and slow progress.”*

*“Progress and Poverty,” book viii, ch. ii, page 403.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR HENRY GEORGE, JR.

New York, Nov. 12.

Henry George, Jr., won his fight for a seat in Congress from the 17th Congressional District of New York after a spirited campaign in which he gained the good will of the voters of his district. In a district normally 6,000 to 8,000 Republican he won by a majority of 1,721 over William S. Bennet. Mr. Bennet has represented the district for three terms. He is popular as a handshaker and vote-getter; he is a “stand-patter” and voted for every increase of duties in the Payne-Aldrich tariff. He stood upon his record as a high tariff man and belittled the arguments of his opponent that the high cost of living was due chiefly to the tariff.

It was one of the few Congressional districts in which the tariff was directly and persistently assailed. It was the only one in which free trade was openly and boldly preached without equivocation. The candidate frankly announced himself as a free trader, and went even further than his enthusiastic speakers in the clear cut radicalism of his utterances.

An analysis of the vote shows that he was cut by Democrats here and there. But this was counterbalanced by many voters who cast their ballots for Stimson and George. Many of these, it is safe to say, were cast by Republican free traders, of whom there are many in this district where the Single Tax and abolition of all tariffs have been preached by the adherents of Henry George for many years at the corner of Seventh avenue and 125th street. This was one of the causes which helped.

Another was the endorsement of the Independence League and the support of John J. Hopper, the League's candidate for governor. Mr. Hopper is very popular in this district, where he lives, and though he could not, in view of the hopelessness of his candidacy and the rapidly receding wave of Hearstism, receive the full vote of his personal and political admirers, he nevertheless contributed the weight of a support that may have turned the scale.

And it is but just to say that Mr. George received the hearty, full and unquestioning support of Tammany. The leaders of the organization and the speakers from the Tammany trucks and the more pretentious hall meetings, struck telling blows for the candidate. One man should be singled out for special mention in this connection—the man who

*“Progress and Poverty,” book viii, ch. ii, page 405.

would have been the Democratic candidate if Henry George, Jr., had failed of the nomination. That man is John Jerome Rooney, whose writings on the tariff have done so much to open the eyes of the voters. He was scarcely less effective on the platform in his bold, lucid and witty exposures of tariff iniquities.

In a short speech to his supporters on the night of election, when the returns from a majority of the districts showed that he was elected, Mr. George took occasion to thank Tammany for its loyal support, pointing out that the men of the organization had much more to lose than he, for whatever it was possible to lose by radicalism he had lost long ago. In the same speech Mr. George expressed his indebtedness to Mr. Hopper and the independent Republicans who had supported him.

In the campaign that had been carried on from 101st street to Spuyten Duyvil and from Hudson River to Fifth avenue the truck speakers—and there was never any lack of them—preached free trade and administered telling blows to the protection fetish. Among the speakers were Hon. Lawson Purdy, Hon. Robert Baker, Dr. Marion Mills Miller, Joseph Fink, Fred C. Leubuscher, James Macgregor, Geo. Von Auer, Leonard Tuttle, Augustus Weymann, and many others.

Mr. Bennet's failure to accept Mr. George's challenge to debate the causes of the high cost of living was made much of by the George speakers, and undoubtedly influenced many voters. Had Mr. Bennet accepted, the result would have been all the more disastrous, and Mr. Bennet probably knew this. He is not a poor speaker, but he is not entirely devoid of discernment, so the challenge was not accepted.

An interesting feature of this unique campaign were the articles from the pen of Charles O'Connor Hennessey, which appeared in the papers morning and evening in prominent type, paid for at advertising rates, and written in popular style as only such an old and experienced newspaper man could write.

But one of the chief causes of success was the candidate himself. His speeches were strong appeals, manly, dignified and free from the arts of the politician. Something of the loving simplicity of heart and mind that come to him from his great father were manifest to the voters of his district and drew to him the support of independents. In the high minded and honorable treatment he accorded to his opponent, refusing to take advantage of certain openings which a less punctilious swordsman might have eagerly availed himself of, he took to himself the high knightly counsel:

'Tis not in mortals to command success,

But we'll do more, Sempronius; we'll deserve it.

Mr. George goes to Congress with the prestige of a great name, a world-wide reputation as a student of public questions, and a personal acquaintance with many of the leaders in both parties. He can do much, because of the unique position he occupies, to advance the principles which his father formulated and which in his own best known and admirable work, "The Menace of Privilege,"* he has

sought to popularize in terms of the latest economic development. It is certain that others of like convictions will follow him into Congress in the elections that are soon to come among a people fast awaking to the need of fundamental revision of prevailing social and economic creeds.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

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LABOR IN LOS ANGELES.*

Los Angeles, Cal., November 10.

The terrible disaster here, which destroyed half a million of property and more than twenty human lives, and was heralded as a labor union outrage, occurred while the Federation of Labor was in annual session here, and preparations were under way for the biggest labor demonstration in this part of the world. The terror, the hysteria, the vicious and unfounded charges against organized labor were paralyzing. These charges were made before any investigation and without any evidence except the hysterical statements of prejudiced partisans. The City Council, the police, most of the press, were alike swept into insane antagonism by sheer force of the accusations. But organized labor behaved with fairness and dignity in the face of the fact that scores of its members were in jail or on bail upon charges under the drastic anti-picketing ordinance passed by the City Council a short time before, and of the unwarranted and insulting conduct of the police department in surrounding the Labor Temple with policemen, thereby subjecting national guests to indignities as if they were dangerous criminals.

More than a month has now passed. The hysteria has given place to returning sanity. The terror is gone. But the Friar Tucks of the Plunderbund still fulminate from their pulpits against "anarchy",—though there are notable exceptions among the churches. The City Council has passed an ordinance permitting any one to run steam boilers and engines without a license or any evidence of fitness, in order to forestall a possible strike of stationary engineers in sympathy with the brewery men and the structural steel workers and metal workers, who are still on strike. The Mayor vetoed this ordinance. But he appointed a partisan committee to investigate the disaster, refusing the labor people any representation; and the District Attorney appointed the most notorious criminal lawyer of southern California to represent the county before the grand jury.

They have found "bombs" dramatically set to clocks that stopped at a safe time, and dynamite that didn't go off. They have chased to the north of the State and threatened the South Seas, and for thirty days have had "arrests a few hours off," but none ever on. All this under the patronage of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association,—labor's chief enemy. It is composed of small business men dominated by "Big Business," big estates, the Southern Pacific, the Harriman and Huntington interests and high class land gamblers, whose prime purpose is to bend every civic movement to enhancing the values of their speculative holdings. Its

*Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

*See The Public of November 11, page 1058.