

The Ohio Single Tax Association Reborn

A GATHERING of Single Taxers to effect an organization in the state of Ohio met at Columbus, at the Neil House on October 13. The meeting was small but very active. For the first time in my experience there was no hair splitting. Nor was there any hair-pulling.

An election resulted in myself as president, Mr. W. A. Ruprecht, of Columbus, vice-president, and Mr. J. H. Kauffman, of Columbus, as secretary and treasurer.

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Ohio Single Tax Association concentrate on home rule in taxation, including the right of cities to adopt the so-called "Pittsburgh Plan."

This was adopted without a dissenting vote.

Rev. Bigelow now introduced a resolution based on his remarks at the recent Henry George Memorial Congress at Chicago. The resolution was as follows:

"RESOLVED that it is the sense of this meeting that those who favor the taxation of land values, the public ownership of public utilities, old age pensions, and concerted action for world disarmament, should make common cause by the formation of an organization to carry on educational work for the four proposals; and also to investigate the views of all legislative candidates at primaries and general elections, and to urge voters to discriminate in favor of candidates sincerely committed to these proposals."

In the discussion, which was very short, one man asked if the author of the resolution did not think that under a Single Tax regime old age pensions would be unnecessary. They probably will be, but as the Single Tax is not just round the corner and coming like a movie villain, there will be much ameliorative work to do in mitigating the pangs of poverty. It might be emphasized that elderly victims of a bad social system should be compensated by a tax laid on land value. It is to be hoped that such a scheme will please the members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, who are behind the old age pension proposition.

Long ago Prof. Richard T. Ely advocated the socialization of natural monopolies. Single Taxers should readily take up with the idea of public ownership of public utilities. Municipal Ownership Leagues have among them many who might be brought to see that the greatest of all the natural monopolies is land.

To urge that land grabbing and tariffs are the main causes of war is heterodoxy to the average legislator. He therefore draws on the passion and patriotism of youth. The young men of the land should be especially keen to submit a questionnaire to candidates for legislatures. We are prone to ask what the legislator is going to do or what he thinks about a certain thing *after* election; seldom do we ask *before*.

It seems to me that this programme of the Ohio Single Tax Association, namely, to cooperate with libertarian groups, will redound to the cause of freedom.

We are apt to blame the "Ruralites," or as they have been designated in Ohio, "The Cornstalk League," with much conservatism in taxation matters. But what shall we say when cities in a state bordering on Pennsylvania know little or nothing of Pittsburgh's plan?

It is one of my pet theories that a committee of Single Taxers appearing in person before legislative bodies, whether city councils, state representatives or directors of a business, can make an impression. Such crusaders will come with no personal requests. They will spend their own money in seeking an audience. Their sincerity and intellectuality should carry weight. With this idea I appointed a large group to be known as the "Legislative Committee." It may be that such a committee will cooperate with the proponents of plans mentioned in the Bigelow resolution. At any rate, such a committee will be ready to confer with legislative committees when subjects pertaining to taxation are to be discussed.

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The Economics of Moses

ADDRESS OF CLAYTON J. EWING,
HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPT. 11

IN the life, character and writings of Moses we perceive a God of Justice and Truth—of infinite power and wisdom—a God who desired the inhabitants of the earth to learn His ways and His laws and follow His guidance, and thus bring the Kingdom of God on earth. This condition was to be brought about by working in harmony with natural law, not by violating it, and so individually proceed in an endless evolution or development to higher faculties, enlarged powers, greater opportunities and responsibilities. When duly and truly prepared other fields and duties would open to us.

To the Jews for many centuries, and to the Christian world, whether Catholic or Protestant, Moses has been regarded as a hero. To the reasoning mind Moses makes a stirring appeal. He is known as the great Law Giver. Law is the perfection of logic. The natural universe is one of Law and Order.

Moses is the great Law Giver, not alone because he gave us the Ten Commandments. Other laws not so prominently taught, which the world does not yet understand or practise, the world must some day learn to obey. The points to which I desire to call attention are very, very old and have been long overlooked—buried in oblivion in the rubbish of the temple.

The Promised Land—the land in which to carry out the new idea of social righteousness! The Covenant, reiterated and confirmed to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob! How often the phrase occurs—"Unto the and