

church societies, very sincere and God-fearing; but these women interfere with their neighbors, with other people's business, gossip and waste time, and accomplish nothing. If I and my wife (for instance) have strife, why should "Mr. Jones'" family be disturbed? Single Tax clubs preach and pray very little for Single Tax. They are bothered about clothes line fights. They worry because a nigger steals a chicken from the barn yard of a Southern Yankee, and the Yankee shoots the nigger in the heel while he is going over the fence. And again, a barbarian assaults a Southern lady, and they put him where he will do no more harm. And up here, if a Single Taxer insulted another Single Taxer's wife or daughter there would be lead in use. Then a Jew cheats a Russian, and the Russian gets his big brother and they club the Jew so hard he dies; and the Single Taxers worry.

I came from a land which was cursed by British Landlordism; and following the example of Single Taxers who helped Cleveland, the Irish join the British army, and thus help to crush themselves.

Let us leave human society to take care of all obnoxious animals which are being run to death. Let us leave game keeper Cleveland alone; let us avoid stage manager Hearst, and keep away from his graduated income tax show, and if Willie Bryan will not be counselled by us let him alone. He is a good boy and he will be all right when he grows older. All we want is the Single Tax.*

New Orleans, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I am in receipt of Mr. Weeks' article under caption of "Independent Political Action, Our Duty," together with circular requesting replies, especially to the questions.

"1st.—When Single Taxers are free to organize politically, can they vote with parties which favor the (private) ownership of land, without themselves incurring moral guilt?"

"2nd.—Should our political work be governed by moral principles, or by mere seeming expediency?"

These questions are particularly addressed to Mr. Weeks' critics, and I am not of that number except as the word "critic" may be applied to one who finds reasons for agreement. For I am fully convinced that I should commit moral wrong were I to do either of two things, viz., first, vote for an honest candidate on a platform favoring the present system of taxation of industry and land monopoly as against an honest candidate on a Single Tax platform, or sec-

ond, withhold my name and influence from any proper effort to get the Single Tax contention before the people in the tangible form of an appeal for votes.

In other words, I should answer the first question with an emphatic no.

As to the second question, I can conceive of no excuse in morals, self-respect or decency for shaping any political action by a consideration of expediency unless the expedient itself is fully believed to be the proven moral right. Anything less than that which is entirely right is by so much less than statesmanship and tainted with moral wrong. In politics we are not striving so much for ourselves and our own time as for the generations that are to come after us, and surely no motive of present gain to ourselves or our personal friends, or of temporary alleviations of condition, should for a moment deter us from putting our whole strength into the effort to create for our children and our children's children the transcendent heritage of equal opportunity.

I will add that, as a matter of expediency, I think the time has fully arrived for active labor for the accomplishment of the object of our faith. We have about done all that can be done along academic lines. Our contention has been a school of thought until all political parties are full of men holding our ideas in a sort of unrecognized way. If the matter is put plainly in the form of a platform candidate, and an opportunity to vote, I believe Single Taxers will recognize their place and come to us. In the second or third campaign I believe a President and Congress can be elected if we are only brave according to our faith.

E. H. ADDINGTON.

Chicago, Ill.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

In the four campaigns of the Single Tax Party, carried on in the City of Chicago during the past two years, a vast amount of effective propaganda work was done and great publicity given to the Single Tax. Formerly the members of the Club were doing practically nothing for the Single Tax, but during these campaigns thousands were asked to sign the Single Tax nominating petitions and if they said that they were against it or did not know what it was they were given an argument or a copy of the Chicago Single Taxer, which is our campaign paper. More than 20,000 men have signed our petitions during a single campaign and, altogether, more than 500,000 copies of the Chicago Single Taxer were distributed and the "conspiracy of silence" which was said to exist among the great newspapers was broken. For the first time in twenty years, the weekly meetings of the Chicago Single Tax Club were deemed of sufficient public importance to merit from five to six inches of space in our daily

* The name of the writer of this unique communication is withheld, because the writer is an office holder, and to publish his name might cost him his position. [THE EDITOR.]

papers the following morning. All this was accomplished through the efforts of a handful of earnest men.

If the Single Taxers of Chicago had gone, heart and soul, into this movement, we would have had the men and the money, and its success would have been gained. By this time the Single Tax party would have been a power in this City. They could now demand almost anything of the Democrats for their support. As it was, the nomination and election of Edward O. Brown, a Single Taxer, as judge of the Circuit Court by the Democrats in the last election, was the direct result of our political movement here.

But the old leaders of the movement in Chicago took no interest in the Single Tax Party except to advise everybody to keep out of it. They wrote against it, made speeches against it, and schemed against it. They would either rule the movement here, or ruin it. One of them told me that he would rather never get the Single Tax than to get it through the Single Tax Party.

Now when you think of starting a Single Tax political movement, you must consider all of these things. The starting of such a movement is the beginning of a War. All of the interests are against it. Wealth is against it; culture is against it; society is against it. For this movement means more to humanity than any war that was ever fought.

Those who will be opposed will be bitterly opposed and bitter personalities will be entered into and wrong motives ascribed. The movement will be laughed at and they will accuse you of being paid by some one of the other political parties.

And then you must remember that a Single Tax Party movement upon a large scale might really make the Single Tax become at once "the burning issue of our times" and that would be bad for very many of us who are getting along pretty well under present conditions. It would not be very pleasant to have our rent income cut down or our land values shrunk up. Many good Christians don't want to be called to Heaven too quickly and there are many theoretical Single Taxers who don't want the Single Tax right away. And then there are those who are honestly against such a movement.

So there will be many who will oppose. Your ranks will be divided. But no great movement was ever unanimous and our experience shows that it takes but few workers and but little money and the harvest will be satisfactory and greater than is possible in any other way.

If there are any who favor such a movement let them start it in their own town and country. As they succeed, the more timid elsewhere will follow. After there are several local organizations in a State, the movement can then very properly broaden until finally it becomes a State and then a National movement.

No one knows the possibilities of the political campaign for spreading the Single Tax until he has tried it.

More Single Taxers can be made in one good political campaign than by years of other kind of work or, more properly speaking, idleness. The political movement is the only thing that will ever give you the Single Tax. Let us look at the logic of it. Is it not the business of the Party Managers to win? And to win don't they need the votes? And is not their every move made with the object to get more votes? Suppose now you ask such a Party Manager to put the Single Tax into the party platform upon the plea that one third of the voters are in favor of the Single Tax. What will he say? "Will it get us any votes?" will be his query. You will have to admit that the party has all the Single Tax voters with it already, and that if the party should come out for the Single Tax, that very act would probably drive away from the party a good many other people who are opposed to the Single Tax. No, it will not get him any votes, it will not help him to win; but it might cause his defeat. So he won't stand for it; but, as a compromise he will give a few of the Single Tax leaders a job here and there, provided they will quit talking Single Tax and not think of a Single Tax Party.

But suppose, on the other hand, that those Single Taxers have formed an independent movement which has grown to be one third the size of his party, and suppose that he knows he cannot win without that Single Tax vote, but he could win if he had it; that same manager would then be willing and anxious to put the Single Tax plank into the party platform and, to your surprise, you would learn that he was one of the old original Single Taxers but that the time had not been ripe until now for him to come out for it.

In such a way as this the Populists forced the Democratic National Party, and in the same way the local Democrats were forced this Spring in Chicago by the Public Ownership and Referendum people. The Single Taxers can do the same almost everywhere, in a very few determined campaigns.

In politics two things are necessary; principle and organization. We are strong in principle, but we lack organization. Our leaders in the past have been those who have been able to expound the principle; the speakers, the writers and the editors. We need them still, but the future belongs to the organizer. Such a man we have in Ohio. Properly organized for political action our principles can not fail to win. Let us organize and vote as we think.

THOMAS RHODUS.

New Orleans, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Replying to Mr. Weeks' request for the opinion of Single Taxers for independent political action, will say that I am heartily