

THE WOMEN'S WORK IN WASHINGTON.

The officers of the Women's Single Tax Club, of the District of Columbia, are Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, president; Miss Flora Raymond, Vice-President; Miss Gertrude Metcalf, Secretary and Mrs. M. Lora Coope, Treasurer.

Meetings are held the first Monday in each month from October to and including May.

The first meeting held in October, 1908. Officers were elected and reports were made of the National League Conference held June, 1908, at New Haven, Conn. In November, Miss Lizzie Magee's Single Tax game was played. This game shows how the landlord always come out ahead, with such special privileged enterprises, such as railroads a good second. It is a game that should be in the hands of every child in the country.

In December a paper was read by Mrs. M. Lora Coope entitled "What's in a Name," followed by a discussion on the Single Tax.

In January the club was addressed by Mr. Bolton Hall, of New York City. This was one of the largest meetings of the season. Among those present were a number of young men, members of the United States Geological Survey who were deeply interested in Mr. Hall's explanation of the Single Tax theory. Many present expressed great satisfaction with the way the subject was presented, everything being made so clear that all could understand.

February, Mr. Robert Baker, member of Congress from Brooklyn, N. Y., was the principal speaker, and he was attentively listened to by the members and their friends present. Mr. Baker is very much liked by all the Single Taxers in Washington.

THE WOMEN'S WORK IN NEW YORK.

Miss Margaret Haley, of Chicago, is to speak for the Women's Henry George League of Manhattan in April; the date will be announced later. The League's idea in securing Miss Haley's services was to reach the large body of teachers in the schools who have not been aroused to the importance of the questions concerning taxation or the injustice of our present method of raising revenues. Miss Haley's account of her successful fight to make the big corporations pay their taxes, and the stand which the teachers of Chicago have taken in regard to the tax laws of Illinois we hope will start the teachers of Greater New York thinking along these lines.

Besides the League meeting, a meeting will be held at Cooper Union in the People's Institute Course on April 22d. Miss Haley will speak on the "The Teacher's Tax Victory."

The League invites all Single Taxers to attend both these meetings.

MAUD MALONE, Sec'y.

News—Foreign.

TORONTO.

Each quarter has its events to chronicle and this one has not been without its happenings. Our annual series of Sunday afternoon meetings were held this year in the Grand Opera House, and consisted of eight lectures. They were probably the most successful in the history of the Association, the average attendance being greater and the programmes better arranged. The speakers were: Rev. Harris Cooley, of Cleveland; John Z. White, lecturer for the Henry George Association of Chicago; Dan Beard, of New York, in a chalk talk; Louis A. Kerwin, Chas. Kerr, Alan C. Thompson and Walter H. Roebuck, of Toronto; Louis F. Post, of Chicago; J. W. Bengough, of Toronto, in an illustrated lecture; Arthur W. Roebuck and W. A. Douglass, of Toronto. The series was closed by Prof. Lee F. Lybarger, of Philadelphia, on February 21st.

The first lecture tour held in Ontario within the last five years was successfully carried through this season. Prof. Lybarger spoke in Guelph, Cobourg and Peterboro on February 22nd, 23rd and 24th.

Our annual "At-Home" took place on February 22nd, between two and three hundred people being present. Refreshments were served and a short programme provided. Dancing was begun at about half-past nine and did not stop till nearly two o'clock.

On March 12th a debate took place between the Young Democrats Club and the Ontario Social Party, on the resolution that "it is to the interests of the masses to take up the propaganda of Socialism rather than that of Single Tax."

The Young Democrats' Club is an organization of the young men of the Association, and has been characterized by one of our dailies as the "fighting wing of the Single Tax Association."

The Canadian *Single Taxer* has been growing steadily, and already the beneficial effects may be seen in the awakening of dormant and discouraged members, and the knitting closer of the bonds of association in the fraternity here.

The Provincial Government for the Province of Ontario has undertaken the construction and operation of a railway through an unsettled portion of the Province known as New Ontario. In addition to this the government is retaining the land on either side of the road, and is laying out all the town sites, the land to be sold or leased to actual settlers only. In this way they propose to forestall the speculator and to retain for governmental purposes the increased land value due to the construction of the road.

On April 11th Prof. Lybarger is coming back to give us his lecture on the French Revolution in Massey Music Hall, one of the largest auditoriums on the continent. We

are spending \$150 on advertising alone, and are carefully keeping the name of the Association out of the affair, for there are a great number of "good" people in this city that would stay away if they ever got "wise" to the fact that we are doing it. It takes an audience of 2,000 to cover our expenses, and we want four or five thousand to really make money on it.

WALTER H. ROEBUCK, Sec'y.

GERMANY.

The most important recent item of news from Germany is the change in its tax methods adopted by the city of Frankfurt-on-Main. For several weeks the debate on the new system has been going on, and was finally brought to a close on the 19th of February with an acceptance of the new bill by a vote of 29 to 20.

The main novelty of the bill is the taxing by the city of the increase in value shown in every sale of land. At present the new tax is still very low, the figures being about a 4 per cent. tax on an increase of from 30 to 35 per cent; then a raise of 1 per cent. for every 5 per cent. value increase, with a maximum of 20 per cent. tax on a value increase of 115 per cent. and over.

Strange to say, this small but important beginning, this entering of the wedge of Single Tax theories into the body politic of a rich and flourishing community, passed almost unnoticed, while heated debates were aroused by some other items of the bill, touching the taxation of rents, etc. Everyone concerned seemed to think it quite right that the city should in this manner claim a portion of the wealth won for the individual by its, the city's development and growth. The strong communal life in German cities puts the interest of the community before that of the individual as a matter of course in all municipal dealings, and this manner of thinking made the new tax seem quite right and proper, while probably few of the City Fathers realized that it was the beginning of a new idea in land ownership, of a new system of political economy. The father of the new idea, the very able and modern-minded Head Mayor of Frankfurt, Dr. Adickes, said little about this side of his plan; in fact he scarcely acknowledged his own share in it, but made it seem rather a natural growth from the suggestion of the City Council.

The new law requires a formal acknowledgment still from the Prussian Government, a necessity Frankfurt has fought against for some time with the argument that tax raising for local purposes is a purely local matter, and that it and every city has the right to make its own laws on this subject. This matter came up again during the recent debate and it was decided to present a bill to the Government for the needed reform.

Frankfurt-on-Main is one of the richest and most enterprising cities of Germany; has been of importance in political history, and still is of importance in the history of high finance. Although numbering little more than one-fourth the present population of Berlin, there is relatively more wealth in Frankfurt than in the imperial capital, and it has always been independent of the latter city in its dealings with the business and financial centres of other countries. It has been a free city; has never been hampered by the presence of a Court; its garrison is merely nominal, and it is now one of the showiest, handsomest cities in Europe with the social and business life of a rich financial centre.

If in this home of some of the great money kings of international fame as much municipal freedom and advance in modern thought can be shown as has been shown in Frankfurt, particularly under the administration of Dr. Adickes, it is an excellent example for our similarly situated American cities to follow. The presence of the great ones of the money world need not be any greater bar to the healthy modern development of municipal life than is the presence of a monarch, for municipal affairs can and should be kept free from either sort of influence. Frankfurt is the first community of any size in Germany to introduce this tax on increase of land values, but the little village of Oetzsch, near Leipzig, has had a similar arrangement for some time, by which a very slight tax was taken, in a way to prevent outsiders speculating in the land of the community. The East Asiatic Colony of Kiantchou, with its 33½ per cent. tax on the increase, still remains in the lead, of course, although the importance of Frankfurt gives its action corresponding weight.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

The British Columbia Legislature has raised the Real Estate Tax from three-fifths of one per cent. to one per cent. and on wild land from two and a half to five per cent. This assessment is made on the value of both Real Estate and Wild Land.

In our news department our earnest Single Tax worker, G. J. Foyer, waxes impatient at what he styles "the beating around the bush looking for a new diversion." But Single Taxers are not yet agreed as to the importance of one line of agitation over another. Until they do so agree we must recognize that every plan of agitation is good, and that those who persist faithfully in the plan they conceive the most effective, are doing the very best they can—are doing in fact the only thing they ought to do. Time may indeed reveal a uniformity of plan upon which all may unite, but even this is doubtful; and whether it is desirable is more doubtful still.