

300 SINGLE TAXERS IN CONVENTION HERE

Foreign Nations Represented at the Second Annual Henry George Congress.

A flurry of dissension marked the opening yesterday in the Pennsylvania Hotel of the second annual Henry George Congress at which 300 single taxers, representing most of the United States and several foreign countries, gathered for a three-day conference.

When the first session was opened by Joseph Dana Miller, editor of Land and Freedom and Chairman of the convention committee, George Edwards of Youngstown, Ohio, called for a business session and organization of the delegates. He was overruled by the Chairman and also by the convention.

"The convention is owned by the landlords," he exclaimed. "It is another of their self-congratulatory meetings dedicated to pussyfooting."

In his opening address Mr. Miller said the single tax on land was now more than ever capable of being put into effect through existing machinery. "Without changing their official titles," he said, "we could set the tax gatherers at work collecting the economic rent or the rent of land or land values. There would then no longer be any taxes, save in times of emergency, or a few taxes that might be retained from motives of public policy."

In a speech of welcome to the delegates Edward Polak, former Register of the Bronx, said that Henry George as an emancipator was superior to Lincoln, "who freed only the blacks in the United States, while George tried to free all mankind." He proposed the erection of a fifteen-story building in New York with one floor for a "Henry George auditorium" and the income from the rest of the building to be used for "perpetual propaganda." The convention voted to refer the proposal to a committee.

George H. Duncan, member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and of its special recess tax commission, said the gasoline tax was an "educator" for the single tax, although far removed from any single tax principle.

Percy R. Williams, once a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Assessors, held up the taxation policy of that city as a long step toward George's ideas. On the principle that the tax rate on buildings should be one-half of the rate on land, Pittsburgh had increased the land tax a third and decreased the tax on buildings by the same proportion, he said.

At the evening session Dr. W. E.

Macklin, who has been engaged in medical mission work in China, told of experiments in the single tax which had the approval of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in that country. Some progress in Denmark was reported by Jakob E. Lange, director of the Danish Small Holders School.

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