

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

Although its work has never been confined to promotion of the more especial object of its organization, but has always embraced as far as practicable whatever activities seemed to make for civic righteousness, The Women's National Single Tax League had its origin in the desire to interest the women of the land, particularly those of Club affiliations, in the philosophy of Henry George.

While attending a convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs at Denver in 1898, a Single Tax woman of Washington, D. C., listened to delegates discussing almost every subject of importance, except the very one which she naturally regarded as the most important of all, the Single Tax. On her return to Washington, she called attention of the Single Tax women of that city, who were then members of a club composed of both men and women, to the lack of Single Tax interest and influence among the federated women's clubs, as evidenced by what she had observed at Denver. It was thereupon decided to organize The Women's Single Tax Club of Washington, with a view to its affiliation with the local federation of women's clubs. The Club was accordingly organized, in October, 1898, and in due season made application for admission to the Federation of Women's Clubs of the District of Columbia, but was rejected on the ground that it was a political club.

Thereafter, at a meeting of the Club held in August, 1899, a committee was appointed to draft and send out a circular letter inviting Single Tax women of the United States and Canada to a conference in Washington, to consider the advisability of forming a national organization of Single Tax women. The conference was held February 8th, 1900, and was attended by representatives from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the District of Columbia. After a session of two days, at which Miss Bessie A. Dwyer presided and Miss Gertrude Colles acted as secretary, The Women's National Single Tax League was organized,

with Mrs. John S. Crosby, president, Miss Bessie A. Dwyer, vice president; Miss Coline B. Currie, recording secretary; Miss Helena Mitchell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, treasurer. Mrs. Crosby continued to be president until 1906, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan, of Brooklyn, who was succeeded in 1909 by Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, of Orange, New Jersey. Mrs. Crosby was again chosen in 1911, and also in 1912, when the name of the organization was changed to The Women's National Single Tax Committee.

The league had no meeting in 1901, but since then has held a convention for three days in each year, as follows: 1902, New York City; 1903, New Haven; 1904, St. Louis; 1905, Philadelphia; 1906 and 1907, Brooklyn; 1908, Orange, New Jersey; 1909, Arden, Delaware; 1910, New York City; 1911 and 1912, Washington, D. C.

In addition to the work at these conventions, which have been well attended not only by delegates but by the general public, and which have been addressed by many men and women of note, the League has distributed Single Tax literature, furnished lecturers to associations desiring to hear them, given such encouragement as it could in support of Single Tax periodicals, promoted the formation of women's Single Tax clubs, and helped to secure for them and the cause they represent that recognition which they are now generally accorded by the various Federations of Women's Clubs throughout the country.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

(See frontispiece.)

MRS. JOHN S. CROSBY.

Bertie Mellen (Mrs. John Sherwin) Crosby, president of the League, was one of the organizers and for several years president of the Woman's Henry George League of New York city, and has been for seven terms president of the Woman's

Democratic Club of the City of New York, of which she was the founder. She was the first president, after its incorporation, of the Woman's Peace Circle, is first vice-president of the Harmony Club, and a member of the New Yorkers, Minerva, the Women's Press Club and the Equal Suffrage League. She was one of the organizers and first vice-presidents of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, and is now one of its vice-presidents; is a director of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Rescue Work of the Salvation Army, and chairman of its executive board, chairman of the Women's Jefferson Monument Fund Committee, and president of the recently formed Woman's National Democratic League.

Mrs. Crosby was the first president of the Women's National Single Tax League, holding the office for six consecutive terms, during which time she visited different cities in the interest of the League and assisted in organizing women's Single Tax clubs in Philadelphia, Cincinnati and St. Louis. After an interval of four years she was, in 1911, again made president, and was reelected in 1912. She has the faculty of doing a great deal of efficient club work without neglecting her domestic duties.

MRS. JENNIE L. MUNROE.

This lady, who is vice-chairman of the Women's National League, was born at Winchester, Va., in 1848. She was married at Lake City, Florida, shortly after the Civil war, and on the death of her husband she made her home in Washington, D. C., where she has been employed in the Interior Department for thirty years. She is the mother of two sons and grandmother of two boys and one girl.

At the age of fifty when the picture was taken which appears on another page, she had just graduated from the Washington College of Law.

It was about 1888 that her attention was called to the Single Tax and the writings of Henry George by that well known Single Taxer, Paul F. Bowen, and from that time to the present she has been an indefatigable worker for the cause and is

known wherever the movement has disciples.

JENNIE A. ROGERS.

Miss Jennie A. Rogers, the Treasurer of the League, was born at Delhi, Indiana. Her parents came from England.

Miss Rogers is a decendent of Richard Burbadge, the playwright and friend of Shakespeare, and a grand-daughter of Jonathan Rogers who during the Corn Law agitation had to flee to Warwick to escape arrest for writing songs that offended the privileged interests of his day. Thus it will be seen that there runs the rebel blood in the present generation of the Rogers family which impels them to stand in opposition to oppression and social injustice in their own day.

In 1886 the Rogers family came to Brooklyn, and it was not long before they all became interested in the doctrines of Henry George, including Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Walter B. Rogers, Musical Director of the Victor Company, Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, twice president of the Women's National Single Tax League, and Miss Jennie herself. The sudden death of Henry George was such a shock to Mr. Rogers, who was in poor health, that he followed his leader a few days later.

Soon after Miss Rogers became a Single Taxer she took up the teaching of the Kindergarten system because she believed public education largely to blame for the indifference to social injustice. As a noted priest has said: "Give me a child until it is seven years old and I have no fear for its future." Later she gave up the Kindergarten for the Playground which offered a much larger field for teaching children their rights as individuals and their relation to the community. Children come into the Playground on equal terms and under few restrictions, and the use of public and private opportunities brings into discussion the fundamental principles which govern the larger social order. Miss Rogers neglects no opportunity in preparing the youthful minds of which she is teacher, to act intelligently when the great truth of the Single Tax is presented.