

gration to this State many large tracts of land have been thrown on the market at reduced prices.

A. W. FOLSOM.

DEMONSTRATION AT COOPER UNION.

THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB HOLDS A MASS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SUBWAYS—SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT LEUBUSCHER, HON. BIRD S. COLER, JUDGE JOHN FORD, HON. ROBERT BAKER AND HENRY GEORGE, JR.—RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The Manhattan Single Tax Club, feeling the impulse that is now stirring among Single Taxers everywhere urging them to renewed activity, held a meeting, enlivened by a band of music, on the night of July 1st, in the big hall in Cooper Union for the purpose of urging upon the newly appointed Public Utilities Commission the calling for bids for the construction of the new subways, leaving their operation or leasing until after completion, and urging that body to keep to the routes already selected. President Leubuscher opened the meeting in a vigorous speech, after which the resolutions prepared for submission to the meeting were read by the editor of the *Single Tax Review*. Speeches followed by those named at the head of this column. That of Hon. Robert Baker drew attention to the undemocratic nature of government by commission, and the small hope that existed of such a commission doing anything effective to correct monopolistic abuses. "No Pass Baker," as he has come to be known, no longer in derision, since there are dozens of "no pass" governors now-a-days since Congressman Baker took that bold stand, and more who wish they were, aroused the enthusiasm of his audience. Mr. Coler, President of the Borough of Brooklyn, went into the debt limit bugaboo, and made short work of that contention to prevent the people from escaping the toils of monopoly. Judge Ford, author of the Ford Franchise law, touched aptly upon the situation, and the meeting wound up by Chairman Leubuscher putting the resolutions to a vote, and their adoption by acclamation.

A REFERENDUM LEAGUE FOR NEW YORK STATE.

There has been organized in this State for active work an Initiative and Referendum League, the objects of which are "to render bribery futile, needed reforms possible and make the government more directly answerable to the people." The president of the league is Hamilton Holt, and among its vice-presidents are F. W.

Hinrichs, Rev. Newall Dwight Hillis, Josiah Strong, James B. Reynolds and Edward M. Sheppard. George Foster Peabody is the treasurer, and the chairman of the executive committee is John Martin. Among the members of such committee are the well-known names of A. J. Boulton, John B. Clark, C. H. Ingersoll, Herman G. Loew, Milo R. Malthie (just appointed member of the Public Utilities Commission), Gustave Thompson, John De Witt Warner, and Judge William H. Wood. The secretary is Henry B. Maurer, and the office of the league is 299 Broadway, this city.

The work of the league will be to propagate its doctrines by means of lectures and a press bureau, etc., to secure legislation providing for the referendum in the cities, and to put candidates on record respecting this much needed reform. It will start referendum leagues wherever possible, and will co-operate with all bodies, farmers' Granges, labor and suffrage organizations, etc., which will aid the work. A bill has been framed, combining the advantages of the Maine and Oregon amendments, and is now in the hands of Senator Fuller, of Brooklyn, who may introduce it at the next session of the legislature. It is proposed to call a convention at Carnegie Hall, perhaps some time in January, at which it is hoped John Wanamaker will preside. One night will be given to mayors of cities where the initiative and referendum are operative, and another night to the governors of States similarly situated.

Single Taxers will give this movement their support without relaxing their efforts to popularize the Single Tax, realizing that the electors must be trained to the intelligent use of political instruments even before the instruments are perfected.

THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LABOR.

There was held on May the 13th, in this city, the Fifth Annual Convention of the C. A. I. L., which is short for The Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor. Bishop Potter is president. Its specialty seems to be rummage sales, advancement of legislation respecting the prohibition of child labor and tenement betterment. Worthy objects, all of these. But like all people who are fighting symptoms rather than causes, and who, all things considered, rather prefer that kind of campaign, since it arouses no antagonism and threatens nobody's special interests, they evince a decided aversion for doing anything that would go to the roots of privilege.

Mr. Alexander Law, who was a delegate from the St. Chrysotom Chapter to the convention, is not that type of man. He knows what is the matter with society and is will-

ing to strike at it. So Mr. Law introduced a set of resolutions which recited that the present condition of the people, the degradation of labor, the herding in unsanitary, disease breeding tenements are directly due to our present land system, and called upon the convention to resolve that it recognize the supreme importance of the land question and place itself on record as favoring the taxation of land values. Perhaps the resolutions were a little extreme for a non-Single Tax convention, but they were designedly so. The convention did not have to favor so radical a set of resolutions, but no milder declaration would have stood any better chance of adoption by such a conference. It was rejected on the ground that it was "outside the scope of the convention." Think of it—a convention for the advancement of labor! Outside the scope of the convention to consider labor's relation to the land! If the Association may not consider the land question what in the name of heaven is it organized for? Does it propose to advance the condition of labor without touching the land? Suppose it were possible to give all the laws to labor and all the land to those who do not labor—does this remarkable association imagine that any of its laws could be made effective? Did this association ever consider that but few of the tenement house laws of this city are observed, that, as a matter of fact, many of them *could not* be observed. They cannot be observed for this reason, among others. Take many of the sanitary regulations, the law seeking to compel the lighting of dark tenement hallways, and other regulations that might be mentioned? In so far as these laws are observed at all the poor—Labor, for which this Church Association evidences such tenderness—must pay for them. Because the poor cannot afford to pay for them they are mostly dead letters. Does Bishop Potter know this? Does the C. A. I. L. know it? They are curiously incompetent if they do not. But any real analysis of the situation, any method other than the silly one of coddling labor with rummage sales and smooth words would disclose the heart of the problem—would reveal the grinning figure of special privilege, which is the skeleton in every official closet of these ultra respectable organizations, and which must therefore be kept carefully padlocked, and always "outside the scope" of their conventions.

Mr. Louis F. Post, who has occupied the position of member of the Board of Education in the city of Chicago, by appointment of Mayor Dunne, is among the dozen members of the board whose resignations are demanded by Mayor-elect Busse. It is not often that a public man is so signally honored by two administrations.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.

THE STEVENS REPORT ON GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING—GOVERNOR HUGHES, COUNSEL OF THE STEVENS COMMITTEE, SHOWN TO BE SOUND ON THE QUESTION OF THE CAPITALIZATION OF ACTUAL PROPERTY, VERSUS THE CAPITALIZATION OF FRANCHISES OR PRIVILEGE—HAS GOVERNOR HUGHES SELECTED HIS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEST HE LAYS DOWN?

A most interesting document is the report of the Stevens Committee, which appeared in May, 1905. That during all the stir that has been made over the attempt of the Consolidated Gas Company of this city to defeat the law making power that would be willing to accord some relief to the consumer, no reference has been made to it by the public press of the metropolis, is a peculiar circumstance—and a suspicious one.

The committee which presented this report were authorized "To proceed to investigate and examine into the organization and operation of the gas and electric lighting companies; the reasonableness of the charges maintained by the gas and electric lighting companies operating in the City of New York for services rendered by the city and its inhabitants with reference to the cost of service and the capital actually employed therein; the conditions under which the business of the companies is conducted with reference to competition; the quality of the service; the circumstances connected with the negotiation and execution of the city light contracts of 1904; and any other phase of the gas and electric lighting business as conducted in the City of New York, deemed by the committee to be germane to the purpose of such investigation," and to report "the result of their investigation with such remedial measures as it may deem proper."

This committee which brought in this admirable report consisted of Frederick G. Stevens, chairman, Alfred R. Page, James K. Apgar, George B. Agnew, Edwin A. Merritt, Thos. F. Grady and G. M. Palmer. The last two named brought in a minority report, as was to be expected from a friend of the common people of such stalwart steadfastness as Tom Grady. The present governor of the State of New York was counsel for that committee.

But here is the paragraph of that report that will most interest the readers of the REVIEW, since whether written or approved by the present governor at least had his endorsement, and is a very clear statement of what a public service corporation is entitled to. Its capitalization should be only such as may fairly represent the actual capital in-