

was exceedingly cold. The result was a rather slim attendance—about one hundred. The interest of those who were there was gratifying. Some questions were asked, but most of the audience were seemingly satisfied with the presentation—one old man on shaking hands at the close of the lecture, said: "I am glad I came to-night. I know, now, what I am trying to do." This man was plainly a type of thousands, who know something is wrong and know the interests of workmen are common, but who have not been able clearly to perceive the true relation of economic forces. He said further: "I can work with better heart now." Words like these are cheering to those of us who see the dawn of a better day.

At nearly all meetings we meet the usual mental attitude of doubt toward anything new, followed, of course, by the very apparent fact that the landlord would shift the tax to tenants. And when vacant land is indicated and we ask which tenant is nearest, we are, of course, told that our plan would result in confiscation which honest men cannot defend. This, of course, forces the choice of confiscating the landlord's power or permitting him to continue confiscating the wages of labor. A few illustrations usually silence direct opposition—and the balance of the interview is generally a game of checkers.

The debate on December 27 between John Z. White and Col. W. A. Roberts was somewhat peculiar, for the reason that Col. Roberts is a Bryan Democrat. But it really was curious to hear him shout "confiscation" as lustily as a Southern slave owner, or a society saver of New York in 1886. He professed to be a free trader—that is, he wants trade freer than it is now—and obviously he was a currency reformer. The railroad monopoly might properly be curtailed; but the Single Tax—could it be possible that intelligent men advocated so crazy a proposition. Why, just one incident in his career illustrated the harm it would do. He at one time (so he told us) bought a tract of land, divided it into lots, and subsequently sold these on monthly payments—paying the taxes himself until the lot was cleared of debt by the buyer. Then he built a house for the owner—also on monthly payments—who, from the time the building was erected, began paying taxes. Now, we were asked, is it not perfectly clear that if the Single Tax were in operation this whole scheme would be impossible—and so these buyers could not have become the owners of the lots in question? The Colonel was perfectly serious. He really thought those poor people would never have been able to get those lots unless he or some other kind individual first sub-

divided the property. He was much like the prominent and dignified citizen who was perfectly sure in his own mind that owners of vacant land were merely holding it until such time as it may be needed, and who was very much offended when asked if, should the owner let go, he thought it would fall through? Meanwhile, he was precisely right when he said owners of vacant land were holding it until such time as it might be needed.

As met by us, the members of church men's clubs and members of trade unions are about equal in intelligent appreciation of our arguments. The very best appreciation that we have thus far encountered has been met with among these two sorts of organizations.

There are few men who are not aware that better conditions are possible, but they are afraid of each definite proposal. They advocate an altered condition, but object to each particular method proposed to that end—talk one way, vote another. The chief strength of conservatism is cowardice.

FAIRHOPE ON ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY.

Fairhope celebrated its ninth anniversary on New Year's night with a very interesting and enjoyable programme. The Christian Church building, kindly tendered for the occasion, was crowded to its limit, emphasizing the need of a larger auditorium, which is one of the improvements talked of for the near future.

The Secretary's history of 1903 showed a net gain in population of thirteen families, the construction of sixteen dwellings, one store building and very extensive improvements of two other store buildings, and the completion by the Association of a warehouse, 82 by 74 feet, in connection with the wharf. The receipts from land rents were \$919.75, as against \$817.20 for 1902 and \$479.63 for 1901. The wharf receipts were \$986.05, as against \$708.84 for 1902 and \$533.54 for 1901.

A notable feature of the year was the accession to the membership of the Association of a number of well known Single Taxers, among them, Jno. S. Crosby, Ernest H. Crosby, August Lewis and George L. Rusby, of New York, C. F. Nesbit, of Washington, R. F. Powell, of Philadelphia, Robert Tyson, of Ontario, Chas. R. Eckert and Jos. C. Campbell, of Pennsylvania.

Prof. Bellangee returned from his extensive Northern tour in the interest of the Colony the day before New Year's to be present at the anniversary. His trip was of very great advantage to the Colony in many ways, and he will probably go out again in the Spring. It would be hardly possible to drive him North again during