

JEFFERSON DINNER OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

A splendidly successful dinner in celebration of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson—the club's twenty-sixth celebration of this event so momentous in the history of democracy—was given at Kalill's, this city, on the night of April 13th. There were close to three hundred present.

Miss Grace Isabel Colbron acted as toastmaster, and made announcements of coming meetings under the auspices of the Club. She also read the following telegram from Mr. Fels to Mayor Newton Baker, of Cleveland:

Hon. NEWTON BAKER, Mayor,

"Papers announce Committee to-day deciding nature of memorial to Tom L. Johnson. In Tom's name, were he alive, and for those believing as he did in equal opportunity and economic freedom, I protest against other monument than the use of memorial funds to bring about the Single Tax and consequently destruction of special privilege. If this only appropriate course be taken, I agree to double the amount of subscriptions up to \$100,000.

Tom. L. Johnson worked for a great principle. To further that principle is the only memorial worth while.—JOSEPH FELLS.

Miss Colbron then introduced as the first speaker of the evening George L. Rusby, who gave a most interesting address, illustrating his points by charts printed upon canvass. He stated that Belgium had 600 inhabitants to the square mile, the United States 27, and Canada only 2. Yet in every one of these countries the same condition of overcrowding prevails. If Mr. Ryan (who was then aiding Mr. Rusby in exhibiting the charts) owned all the land of any country, that country would be overcrowded. Mr. Rusby exhibited one chart on which were painted the economic definitions given in *Progress and Poverty*, and said that if Henry George had done nothing but formulate these definitions he would have immortalized himself.

Rev. Harris R. Cooley gave one of the best addresses ever heard at a Single Tax dinner. It was a revelation of the intellectual and moral strength of the man selected

by Tom Johnson as his Commissioner of Charities, and showed how wisely the great mayor of Cleveland had chosen. Speaking of a certain congested section of this metropolis, he said that if all the inhabitants of the world were crowded into the State of Delaware there would be less congestion than in this one metropolitan district. He quoted some striking lines from Locksley Hall, and said "These are not the words of a social agitator, but the poet laureate of England." Mr. Cooley told of the work in Cleveland under the new ideals that had been inaugurated in that city by its late mayor and the men whom with splendid prescience he had surrounded himself. The address was enlivened by many touches of real humor, and was a talk to be long remembered by those who heard it.

Hon. William H. Berry, once State treasurer and one of the radical leaders in Pennsylvania, in the course of a speech vigorously delivered, said "There is not a title to a single piece of land that is not written in the life-blood of humanity. Either that, or legal cajollery has been the means of denying to the masses of men their equal rights to the use of the earth. The Single Tax as proclaimed by Henry George provides a remedy. The Single Tax is scientific. If any one denies this it is because he does not know anything about it. It is not necessary to say this to those here assembled. You know more about the Single Tax than I do. In looking in your faces I recognize those from whom I have learned nearly all I know about it."

Charles Frederick Adams, the concluding speaker, took occasion to defend the lawyers from the half-humorous attack of Mr. Berry, and mentioned the names of many eminent Single Taxers of the legal profession who have done splendid service to-day and in the past for the cause we have at heart.

The dinner ended at about eleven o'clock, and the committee of arrangements of the Manhattan Single Tax Club are to be congratulated on another very successful affair. These dinners, of which this is the third, have been notable for the fact that at least fifty per cent. of those present were not Single Taxers. Many of them for the first time heard the gospel of economic re-

form strongly presented by two of the speakers, Messrs Rusby and Cooley, and met the men who for a generation have upheld the banner of the cause that is nearing its triumph. Too much praise cannot be given the committee and the hustling, persistent and self-effacing president of the Club, Mr. John T. McRoy.

TWO LIBERATORS.

(For the Review.)

There rose a man with a mighty heart,
 In the days when they shackled men;
 And the bondsman's fetters were riven
 apart,
 By a stroke of his noble pen.
 And a hundred millions bless his name;
 And though empires pass away,
 The years shall add to his crown of fame,
 Till the hour of the world's decay.
 But a subtler bondage the freeman feels;
 For a lash in the despot's hand
 Is the parchment crime that so foully steals
 The right to the people's land.
 But one has dared for the truth to plead,
 And for freedom to live and die;
 He has torn the veil from the face of greed,
 And has branded the ancient lie.
 And in days of triumph to come, I ween,
 When the tale is told again,
 By Lincoln's side shall the form be seen
 Of the man who stood for men.

—JAMES F. MORTON, Jr.

Our readers and friends of the cause everywhere are asked to bear in mind that we are greatly in need of help for the REVIEW. Send in your orders and contributions, and bear in mind that we still have thousands of copies of the Vancouver and Edmonton numbers and it is not too late to distribute them. We will make special offers to any one taking these in one thousand lots.

THE more land sells for the less working-men and women get for themselves.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

RHODE ISLAND.

A brief statement of the salient features of the Rhode Island "Tax Act of 1912," will be of some interest to the readers of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

It was enacted after three years of consideration and modification by a commission appointed to prepare it.

The law provides for a State Tax Commission of three members, which is composed of two Republicans and one Democrat. That portion of the State taxes which has heretofore been paid into the State treasury by the cities and towns has been lessened, by reducing the rate from 18 mills to 9 mills. The Chairman of the Tax Commission is desirous of removing entirely this State tax upon municipalities, and then, he says, the objection to local option in taxation will be removed. Hereafter taxable property is to be listed by the towns and cities in four separate columns, to wit: Land, buildings and other improvements, tangible personalty, intangible personalty. The rate upon intangible personal property is fixed by law at the low rate of four-tenths of one per cent.

Many of the influential business men who favor local option in taxation said this year, Let us wait to see how the new law works before making another change. Nevertheless, the following bill was introduced:

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section 1. Towns and cities may exempt from taxation buildings and other improvements, or tangible personal property, or both; Provided, the same be voted at a legal meeting of the electors of the town, or at a legal meeting of the city council; and, provided, further, that any exemption so made shall continue for a period of ten years and until otherwise voted.

Section 2. When any town or city shall exempt any class of property from taxation, as provided in the preceding section, said town or city may assess its ratable per centum of its ratable value: Provided