

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

John Z. White's wanderings have taken him again to the frosty regions of Minnesota and also to the sunny south land. In Minnesota, the city of Winona was visited, where three addresses were made—the first on the Single Tax, the second on the conflict between Socialism and the Single Tax, the third on some of the theories that underlie the existing order, with, of course, a comparison. These addresses were all given in the Unitarian Church and were attended by a very intelligent class of people. Many questions were asked at each meeting, and at the close, Wm. Pryor, the local abstractor, who had the meetings in charge, said, "Well you have set the ball rolling here beyond a doubt." Pryor is a Single Tax man who is perfectly willing to learn more about the matter. He has, to a considerable degree, interested the mayor and other city and county officials, as well as many business men—some of the bankers even admitting that "something is wrong."

Stillwater, Minnesota, was the next stop, and here our old friend, Robert Siebert, is preventing anyone and everyone from going to sleep. The mayor will not admit he is a Single Taxer, but declares stoutly that he is in favor of local option in taxation, which it will be agreed is very well for the time being. Many other officials and prominent citizens are of like mind. Local monopoly in the form of a private water company is very prominent in Stillwater affairs just now, and most of her active citizens, strange as it may appear, seem not to be with the monopoly. The evening of the address was bitterly cold, but there was a fair sized audience, and their interest was manifested by many and searching questions. The question of confiscation was not raised at this meeting, possibly because they have a very pronounced illustration of landlordism on their hands. The situation is this: Stillwater lies on the St. Croix River facing the State of Wisconsin. The city is surrounded by high and steep hills which reach to the river shore at both ends of the city—at one end of the town the declivity is almost perpendicular. The result is a confined space to which the city is practically compelled to limit itself. In spite of this condition one man has for years held a considerable body of land vacant in the very heart of the hole in which Stillwater rests.

The notion of compensating this man for all the inconvenience he has caused the people of the place strikes the average denizen in almost any light other than that of poetic justice. Stillwater is evidence of that slowly gathering force which is destined to correct many evils—to right many wrongs.

The next day a meeting was held at Red Wing, Minn., but sufficient time was allowed to stop at Minneapolis, at the annual meet-

ing of the League of Municipalities of Minnesota and listen to the opening address by the chairman, who was the last democratic candidate for the office of governor. It was a thoroughgoing anti-monopoly presentation of the question of public utilities.

At Red Wing a most interesting meeting was held. The people seemed particularly quick and keen of apprehension, probably due to the ministrations of our good friends Pardee and Smead. One question performed the surprising feat of coupling the two stock interrogatories, that is, first—would not the Single Tax compel the landlord to raise rent? or, second—confiscate the value of his property? A few inquiries in reply caused the questioner to admit that the landowner would be unable to increase rent, and then the old, old question of property rights was considered, and resulted in an agreement that ground rent must be absorbed by the State or workmen be reduced to a position of dependence.

To this point all examination of economic facts ultimately tends—the final question is not a matter of confiscating property, but a choice between freedom and serfdom; and when fully apprehended there is but small doubt as to what the answer of the American people will be.

From Red Wing to Beloit, Wis., where after appearing at a public meeting in the evening, Mr. White addressed the class in political economy the next morning. Both meetings were presided over by Prof. Chapin of the college and were both very enjoyable. The students took a lively interest in the matter, and asked for literature. Some of them will join our ranks before they are much older. Although the matter of confiscating property was insistently urged by one pupil, others were ready to answer him without assistance, and the ball once set in motion among young men and young ladies (for one of the most interested and keen of the class in political economy was a young lady) there is bound to follow that intellectual awakening upon which all betterment of humanity depends.

Milwaukee, Wis., was next on the route, and here a larger business college (the Spencer) as well as the State Normal School were addressed, besides the Woman's Club and a public meeting. A dinner for Single Taxers and those of their friends who wished to get more closely in touch with the work was attended. The schools were there as everywhere splendid bodies before which to present the gospel of freedom, and although the professor of political economy at the Normal School did not enjoy the jocular disposal of the "law of diminishing returns," and the chairman sought to break the effect of the presentation by cautioning the pupils against a too hasty acceptance of the argument, and by indulging in what

practically amounted to a debate, still the benefit was increased rather than diminished, for the little debate merely brought the essential points more clearly to view. The professor raised three questions, first: that if a man earned money and bought land (he said property, but was corrected) he should be secure in his possession. The reply was, the legal maxim, "let the buyer beware." And he was told that if he proposed to alter this, then he and not Single Taxers was the revolutionist. His second point was that where men were encouraged by law to invest in land, such law could not fairly be altered. The reply was the legal maxim, "No legislature is bound by the acts of its predecessors," and again, who is the revolutionist? The third point was that Single Taxers are proposing an attack on titles to land, although in form they suggest a change in taxation. The reply was an inquiry as to the condition of the present title to land, if it is not ownership in perpetuity subject to such tax as the State shall levy, and if so, how do Single Taxers differ from other good citizens; and again if change is proposed, it is certainly by champions of monopoly. It is needless to say that the large gathering of prospective school teachers listened with the keenest attention.

Returning to Chicago the campaign for municipal ownership was found to be developing—public meetings being held in various parts of the city, and several of these were attended and addressed. It is generally believed that at the coming election the law permitting public ownership will be adopted. What may be the resulting action will depend very largely upon the skill of the corporations and the watchfulness of the people. But that the public will be advised of all antagonistic action by the monopolists is certain, for the Municipal Ownership League is very much in earnest.

From Chicago the run was made to New Orleans. The change of temperature from 40° below zero at Stillwater and Minneapolis to 80° above zero in Louisiana is something to remember.

Other matters there are to remember. If you are a Single Taxer and visit New Orleans and call on Robert H. Cage, you will feel like slightly altering Burns:

"When death's dark stream I ferry o'er,
A time that surely shall come,
In Heaven itself I ask no more
Than just a Southern welcome."

When one visits Cage one is not a visitor, but is at home. And we were inclined to credit this all to Cage, because there seems to be such a kindly, genial glow about him, but suddenly—awakening to the fact that the better half of the family was being overlooked were forced to admit that Cage

ought to glow—similarly situated anyone would glow.

Just imagine true Southern hospitality combined with the broad grasp of the facts of human life that is furnished by a full understanding of Single Tax doctrine and then agree, as perforce one must, that ideal life is realized: Cage is not a club man, he stays at home o'nights—so does Mrs. Cage.

At New Orleans was held a public meeting at which Judge Clegg presided; also a specially called meeting in the Unitarian Church and the Woman's Club. They permit the women to vote on questions of hygiene in New Orleans, and as a result the city is to be kept clean. Fifteen million dollars has been voted to improve the sewerage system, and the common talk is "the women did it." Going from family to family these devoted women pointed out the need of better arrangements to save the babies and other children. This plea had its effect—considerations of expense were thrown to the winds, and the women went to the polls and voted the money. Not only was equal suffrage vindicated, but also the referendum, and a vastly improved sewerage system secured at the same time.

The meetings were attended by a thoughtful class of citizens—and one Socialist. This gentleman thought it his duty to try to change the topic of the lectures, but the rest of the audience disagreed with him, so he consoled himself with the announcement that he had entered his protest. He was told it would be placed "on file." To make sure, he came to another meeting, and had the protest filed again. Others asked questions from the view point of the ordinary or conservative citizen, but none in a spirit of antagonism. Questions were evidently asked for the purpose of securing further information. Professor Dillard, of Tulane University, was closely confined at home because of the illness of both wife and daughter, and Mr. Cage was thereby compelled to do double duty, but he is capable of doing all things that should be done. The Woman's Club is a fine body, and Miss Gordon, the president, is a flat denial that the climate of the South makes everyone indolent. Together with her sister, the delegate from Louisiana to the National Convention, and her other associates, she is determined there shall be no sluggishness until everything is put into "ship shape." No one could pay closer attention to Single Tax doctrine and explanation than did Miss Gordon, and in fact all of the members of the Club. Many of our best friends will be found among those who have taken up work in collateral, and sometimes even in divergent lines.

Natchitoches, La., one of the oldest towns in the United States, located in the western part of the state, was visited. Here two thoroughgoing Single Taxers, Mr. Carter and Mr. Wormsley, both practicing attorneys, reside, and they have already have a large

circle of friends interested in the land question—in good truth, both as speculators and as Single Taxers—and they are of the sort we seek—quiet, genial, persistent.

The State Normal School is located at this place, and is presided over by Professor Caldwell. This gentleman is held to have done more for the State in recent years than any other man within its borders. Whether he is a Single Taxer or not cannot be told, but certain it is that a very cordial invitation was extended to present the matter to the pupils, and a brighter, quicker audience would be hard to find. That they were interested is evidenced by the fact that at the public meeting which followed in the evening quite a body of students attended, although another meeting especially for the school, was held the same evening. These students all asked for literature, and were supplied by Mr. Carter, who is always "armed."

Before leaving Natchitoches reference must be made to at least one feature of the Normal School. Some four or five hundred pupils, varying in age from the kindergarten period to some fifteen years, are taught without charge by the students of the Normal. The children are under no "orders" as to deportment. They study or not as they choose; not only whisper, but go to the blackboard or to another pupil, or sit and dream, as their varying moods suggest. Freedom is the spirit in which Professor Caldwell believes—and his faith is no lip service. As a result, there was not a weary looking face in the whole school, and not as much disorder as is usual in schools conducted on the more popular military plan. The interest of the children was in the school work, and the only difficulty encountered was that the children desired to study more than Professor Caldwell considered advisable. Altogether it was an inspiring scene, and one calculated to strengthen faith in liberty. How long, oh, how long, before an oppressed people will realize the nature of their bondage—will know they are their own taskmasters? Is it strange, amid influences such as pervade this school, that Single Tax doctrines find fruitful soil?

New Iberia, La., was not visited, but there was little need. "Bob" Cage worked on the good people of that place until they were ready to accept "equal rights for all and privileges for none" if the rest of the State would permit. Their position long ago indicated what might be expected, or at least hoped for, if we had possession of that simple but fundamental measure of local self government known as local option in taxation.

Mr. F. H. Monroe arrived in York City on February 29th, and immediately entered on the preliminary work necessary to duplicate, in this great city, the work already done in Chicago and the West. His vigorous executive ability has enabled him to

perfect a complete working organization and secure means for an effective lecturing campaign. The officers of the Henry George Lecture Association are as follows: F. H. Monroe, President; Edw. Polak, Gen'l Sec'y; Leonard Tuttle, Rec. Sec'y. The members of the Advisory Board for New York are: Samuel Seabury, Chairman; August Lewis, Lawrence Dunham, John J. Hopper, Rev. John F. Scott, Robert Schalkenbach, E. Yancy Cohen, Dr. Geo. W. Thompson, A. J. Boulton, Thos. Ryan, E. Stillman Doubleday, John Moody, John A. Hill, Geo. L. Rusby, Thos. G. Shearman, Fred. J. Miller, Geo. A. Miller, C. H. Ingersoll, E. P. Ingersoll, Read Gordon, Dr. Walter Mendelson.

This done, invitations to speak were secured, and by March 31st, practically all dates for John Z. White for the month of April were filled.

On the evening of March 31st a dinner was given to those most active in the work, and the campaign entered upon amid surroundings that were much enjoyed by all present, among whom were: Samuel Seabury, Lawrence Dunham, Robert Schalkenbach, E. Yancy Cohen, E. P. Ingersoll. Bolton Hall, James R. Brown, Fred. J. Miller, Edw. Polak, Mrs. Christine Ross Barker, Mrs. A. Sterling, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Ryan, Miss Jennie Rogers, Dr. Matthew T. Gaffney, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Day, Chas. Govan, H. C. Stimpson, J. J. Murphy, Melvin Paliser, H. Schauer, W. S. Elliott, F. H. Monroe, John Z. White, and last but not least, in several senses, John S. Crosby, who acted as chairman.

Besides Mr. White the following speakers are subject to Mr. Monroe's call for occasional addresses: Herbert S. Bigelow, John S. Crosby, Ernest H. Crosby, Lawson Purdy. Bolton Hall, James R. Brown, Geo. L. Rusby.

In New Jersey, another Advisory Board has been organized, with the Hon. Herbert Boggs, ex-city attorney of Newark of that state as chairman. This board is composed of representative men from Newark, Orange, Nutley, Rutherford, Passaic, Paterson, Jersey City, Elizabeth and other towns. It will overlook the work done in the many cities of northern New Jersey, including those named.

Prof. Triggs, recently of the Chicago University, spoke before the Henry George Association in Chicago some two weeks since—the subject being "Ruskin." The professor's lecture was entertaining, but he failed to grasp the force of Chas. Tanner's criticism, namely that Ruskin's appeal was to the individual—that he did not seem to appreciate social forces. In reply to this Prof. Triggs held that much of modern "community" work—as missions and similar enterprises—was due to Ruskin. He evidently considered such work "social," and it was only when the question was stated

with care that he caught its meaning. He was asked, "Where does Ruskin draw a clear distinction between those voluntary associations of individuals—missions and the like—and those associations in which the community must act as a unit, as in the exercise of the police power or the maintaining of a system of land holding or a system of highways." His attention was called to the fact that voluntary associations are an expression of individualism, while land holding, highways and the police power, exhibit an association which is compulsory—the physical conditions of human life being the compelling force. The Professor said he did not know that Ruskin made such a distinction; in fact, he said, it was a new distinction to him (Triggs). It is strange that students have not found this line of cleavage, but they have not, and seem to have great difficulty in appreciating it when it is perceived.

Following is a partial list of John Z. White's meetings since the middle of January, 1904:

Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., (a week)—18 addresses.
 Detroit, Mich. (a week)—10 addresses.
 Chicago—Several debates and addresses.
 Winona, Minn.—3 addresses.
 Stillwater, Minn.—
 Red Wing, Minn.—
 Beloit, Wis.—2 addresses.
 Milwaukee, Wis.—5 addresses.
 Chicago—8 addresses on Municipal Ownership.
 New Orleans, La.—3 addresses.
 Nachitoches, La.—2 addresses.
 Chicago—2 addresses on Municipal Ownership.

NEW YORK CITY.

Thursday, March 31—Dinner with upwards of 30 active Single Taxers.
 Friday, April 1—Manhattan Liberal Club.
 April 2—
 April 3—10 a. m., Hugh O. Pentecost's church.
 —8 p. m., Brooklyn Philosophical Society.
 —8 p. m., Educational Alliance.
 April 4—Carpenters' Union in Brooklyn.
 April 5—Gotham Association.
 April 6—Jefferson Day Banquet.
 April 7—Sociological Club, First Congregational Church, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
 April 8—4 p. m., Woman's Suffrage League.
 —8 p. m., Labor Lyceum.
 April 9—Eccentric Association of Firemen.
 April 10—10 a. m., Aurora Grata Cathedral.
 April 10—3 p. m., Brooklyn Central Labor Union.
 April 11—League for Political Education.
 April 12—3 p. m., Urban Club, Brooklyn.
 —8 p. m., Reception Dr. Florence Leigh Jones.
 April 13—Newark Economic Study Club.

April 14—3 p. m., Brooklyn Woman's Single Tax Club.
 April 14—8 p. m., Memorial Social Club, Grace Church.
 April 15—Men's Club, Zion Parish.
 April 16—Christian Working Men's Institute, Amity House.
 April 17—10 a. m., Bill Posters Union.
 —8 p. m., New York Central Labor Union.
 —8 p. m., Debate, Socialism vs. Single Tax.
 April 18—7 p. m., United Suit and Cloak Cutters.
 April 18—8 p. m., Freeland League.
 April 19—Brooklyn Woman's Suffrage League.
 April 20—Bushwick Avenue Reform Church.
 April 21—Brooklyn Single Tax Club.
 April 22—Manhattan Single Tax Club.
 April 23—St. Philip's Guild.
 April 24—Debate: Socialism vs. Single Tax.
 April 25—Carpenters Union, No. 471, Brooklyn.
 April 26—Liberal Arts League.
 April 28—Philia Club.
 April 29—Cooper Union.
 April 30—Young Men's Hebrew Association.
 May 1—Debate: Newark, N. J.
 May 2—Dinner Continental Hotel, Newark, N. J.
 May 3—Orange Political Study Club.
 May 4—Bethany Congregational Church.
 May 5—Nutley, N. J.
 May 6—Rutherford, N. J.
 May 7—Paterson, N. J.
 May 8—Passaic, N. J.
 May 9—Jersey City, N. J.

There is more real solid Single Tax sentiment in Scotland than anywhere else. Buckle says:

"There have been more rebellions in Scotland than in any other country and the rebellious have been very sanguinary as well as very numerous. The Scots have made war on most of their kings and put to death many. To mention the treatment of a single dynasty: they murdered James I and James III; they rebelled against James II and James VII; they laid hold of James V and placed him in confinement; Mary they immured in a castle and afterward deposed; her successor James VI they imprisoned; they led him captive about the country and on one occasion attempted his life. Toward Charles I they showed the greatest animosity and they were the first to restrain his mad career."

A recent convert to the Single Tax is Francis J. Du Pont, of the great powder-making company of Wilmington, Del. From the beginning Mr. Du Pont has given evidence that he intends to enroll himself among the Croasdalers—that is, "Single Taxers who do something for the Single Tax."