

The Single Tax Review / Spring, 1906

Lecture Tour of John Z. White

The Editors

The John Z. White tour was continued through Canada, beginning at Toronto, where two weeks were consumed, commencing on Feb. 1st. Though one very good meeting was held at Niagara, N. Y. on the last day of January.

At Toronto the Empire Club was addressed at a noonday luncheon on Public Ownership. The Mayor of the city was present and was of the opinion that nearly everyone was coming more and more to believe in public ownership of utilities like street car systems, gas works and the like. The Empire Club is the conservative organization of the city, but really the people as a whole are moving forward in these matters. As a result the distinction between conservative and liberal is not more marked in Canada than is the difference between republican and democrat with us. If we ask ourselves, which is more progressive, a Roosevelt republican or a Parker democrat, we may hesitate about giving the honor to the democrat. The Club was very friendly and did not appear at all offended by the emphatic endorsement of progressive proposals.

An address before the Physical Culture Club on the importance of social conditions, was extremely satisfactory. The members were wide awake, and willing to learn anything that might aid in the development of a better race of men and women. The accumulation of dollars is not their only interest in life.

The third meeting on the first day in Toronto was a Burns anniversary dinner. A jolly company of Scots was encountered and they were pleased to know that one with a Yankee twang could still sympathize with their great bard.

Students at a College, a peace society, as well as a society for the advancement of "new thought," were addressed, also a boys institute. All of these meetings were interesting. Many questions were asked; at some of them quite a discussion developed.

The Political Science Club at McMurtus University developed a pronounced degree of interest on the Single Tax. The French Revolution was presented before the Normal School students, and was received with sufficient favor to bring a request that the speaker come again if possible.

At the Y. M. C. A. "Public Ownership" was presented and well received. This question is engaging more attention, and thereby a much greater knowledge is being acquired by all classes of people. At the Central Business College a very lively hour was enjoyed. The students were bright, and perfectly willing to laugh with or at the speaker. They were our friends at the close.

A Trade Union was addressed on the same day, and proved as friendly as the school. The people generally are gravitating toward our ideal, though to a great degree this is unconscious, but is none the worse for that.

Another college and the Laurier Club were visited. Sound economics, as viewed by Single Tax men were presented, and were well received at both. Men hesitate to endorse our whole programme but it is especially interesting to observe that there is an increasing disinclination to oppose that same programme.

A fine meeting was held at Webbs restaurant. Following the dinner a vigorous presentation of Single Tax was made. This called out some opposition. One man thought labor did not produce all wealth, did not make the stone, iron, or lumber (trees) of which a house is built. This was agreed to, and the gentleman was asked, who did make them? Another supposed that a hill was cut down perpendicularly and this used as one wall of a house. He then asked if labor made that hill? We thought the hill was already there, that no one made it. Curious how our opponents find it necessary to alter terms in order to even appear rational. The hill is of course, land. But then the gentleman is "cultivated".

Two churches were addressed the following day (Sunday), and also a large meeting in the afternoon. At the afternoon meeting one or two excitable anarchists propounded questions, but they were not profound. The three meetings were held to be very satisfactory to the Single Taxers of Toronto. A fine meeting was held at St.

Anne's Church, It was quite enthusiastic in fact. They were a good body of men, and are pre- sided over by a pastor who is alive, a vigorous progressive man, who believes in taking hold of things in order to find out their true inwardness.

Other meetings were held among different societies, and we left Toronto with a warm invitation to return.

Meetings were held at Cobourg, Ont. A Scotch programme was given, at which a talk on Burns was one of the numbers. On the following evening a lecture on the Single Tax was given close attention by an appreciative audience.

At Kingston the students at the college afforded a fine audience, and although the faculty does not wholly agree with the conclusions arrived at by Henry George, they are reasonably judicious about too definite opposition. The professor at least is willing to declare himself a free trader. A fine meeting was held on Sunday evening in the Methodist church—the regular evening service. They were not adverse to some fairly blunt statements.

At Brockville, Ont., several meetings were held—among schools chiefly—and all who came seemed to acknowledge more or less of the truth proclaimed. The idea that the Single Tax is a distinctly conservative proposal seems to be a new and inviting thought. Canada is doing well in the line of progressive democracy. Whatever the votes reveals, it is true that the people are becoming more democratic—in the best sense of that much abused word. £ At Montreal a fine series of meetings were held, including all manner of societies, among them labor, church, literary, women's, political, business, schools, etc. One of the best was the ministerial association. One good pastor said, "I don't know that Mr. White has this matter just right, but I am sure something is wrong," and the association applauded - vigorously. The Canadian Club was addressed at a noonday lunch, and it was a fine meeting, and we will wager that the next Single Tax speaker will be welcome. He probably will not be indorsed, but they will be glad to hear what he has to say.

In all these Canadian cities the papers gave good reports of our meetings. Meetings were held in Lewiston, Auburn, Woodfords and Portland, Me.; also in Boston, Mass. All of

these gatherings were interesting, but at Boston some offense was given to a few who sympathize with professors who profess to teach political economy in our leading universities. It is really of little avail, and too bad—to disturb the "dry as dust," as Carlyle said. Two meetings were addressed at Erie, Pa., and interest greatly exceeding our hope was manifested. An evening was spent in the church at- tended by John D. Rockefeller in Cleve- land, Ohio. A fine, bright, active lot of men they are, too. Dr. Eaton, the pastor, seems to have learned considerably more than half the truth as to social matters. The world moves.

At Elkhart, Ind., and at Grand Rapids, Mich., good meetings were held—though that at Elkhart was small. Milwaukee, Wis., was visited, as also was Colby, Wis., St. Paul, and Minneapolis, Minn., and Oshkosh, Wis. Likewise Springfield and Elmhurst, Park Ridge and Carlinville, Ill.

A number of meetings, political and otherwise, were addressed in Chicago. Our work is more and more favorably received. The people are beginning to think seriously. They will go forward, and again will shrink, but the general movement is ever toward the light.