

Several men of social and political standing have lately publicly announced themselves followers of Henry George, and ready to devote themselves to the work of propaganda for his doctrines. Baron Erik Palmstierna, a young Councillor in Karlskrona, has left the army with the avowed intention of devoting himself to Single Tax work. Dr. Adolf Aström, of the Law Department of the University of Lund, has already made himself known by his writings on the subject. Dr. Aström has investigated the old Swedish land laws and has found much valuable material concerning the ownership of land and water frontage, to prove that the ideas we are now fighting for were understood and acted upon in antiquity, and that only the abuse of the Roman Code brought about the present wrong conditions. There has been no organized Single Tax League in Sweden as yet, but Mr. Johan Hansson in Gothenburg, a capable and convinced Single Taxer, hopes to found such an organization in the course of the coming year.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

On October 19th, John Z. White arrived at Peoria, Illinois, and spoke before the high school, and a very joyous and appreciative body it proved to be. The principal was courtesy itself, and some of the pupils insisted on attending all meetings held in the city. As usual the strongly self-reliant and thoughtful are attracted, but the attitude of nearly all men marks a change in common thought toward our position. The recent developments as to Mr. Dougherty, who for a generation had been Peoria's most prominent and trusted citizen, both in banking and in educational matters, made many timorous. The business men's association seemed to fear further discoveries if matters were more deeply probed. It was matter for self congratulation on our part, however, that such feeling developed no antagonism to our doctrine. Prominent gentlemen suggested that on another occasion they would be glad to listen. The whole matter revealed a growing good will toward Single Tax men.

Other meetings were held. One at the home of our friendly poet Robert Cumming, which was most enjoyable, and drew several who were of the opposition, but evidently disturbed in their position of supposed security. By the way, if you receive an invitation to visit Robert you will find yourself entertained by a very modest and very artistic lady, and what's more, you'll be comfortable.

At another meeting, much to the enjoyment of that thorough-going Single Taxer Mr. Hill, a socialist broke forth. He evidently did not realize the difference be-

tween assertion and argument, nor the requirements of polite intercourse. His opinions are still unshaken, and therefore he was victorious in the encounter.

Our visit to Springfield, Ill. continued from Oct. 21st to 31st. Some eighteen meetings were addressed, including two at Auburn, a town about an hour's ride from Springfield. The list includes several churches, a Jewish synagogue, two high schools, labor and business societies. The bar association gave us an evening, and the judge of the circuit court was good enough to say that the theory of law sustained by our argument was undoubtedly sound and that the courts were gradually coming to realize it. That theory simply stated is this: The exercise of the police power and the maintenance of a system of land tenure are absolutely necessary to civilization. In the execution of these functions, government enters into contracts with individuals—as supplying materials or erecting buildings. The Supreme Court has decided repeatedly that the government cannot contract away its police power; that to do so is in part to surrender sovereignty. This court has heretofore placed the tenure of land (including rights of way of public utility systems, known as easements, which is merely incomplete ownership) in the same class with contracts that are incidental to the execution of sovereign functions. The true position is that land tenure is an act of the sovereign power, of the same nature as the exercise of police power. To surrender contract of land is in degree to abdicate sovereignty. The institution of private property in land, therefore, implies the inauguration of some plan whereby the people's control of land shall not lapse. The Single Tax on land value is the best plan known to the securing of this end. This is the theory the learned judge endorsed and which he said the courts are slowly coming to recognize. It was noticeable that not one of the lawyers antagonized the position. A gentleman who lends money for a living did, but received little encouragement. He was so reckless in assertion as to declare the Single Tax principle in operation in Russia—having reference to the little communes.

At the Ministerial Association, several clergymen bluntly asserted adherence to our position. One was in opposition, seemingly holding to some fog-bank idea as to value. He declined to develop the thought—as it would take too much time.

At our church the pastor, seated beside the speaker, by more than one earnest "amen" endorsed emphatic declarations against existing conditions and tendencies, and that require us to sustain social theories analogous to that whereby one beauty rose is produced through the sacrifice of numberless buds.

If any one is depressed by virtue of slow progress of Single Tax thought, let him visit Springfield and make the acquaintance

of Messrs. Bode, Lee, Hubbell, Rieffler, and last but not least by several, that seasoned warrior Joe Ferris.

The high school meeting was a sure enough success. The principal is not an enemy. A woman's meeting was held—several ladies saying, I must get my son, my brother, my husband to attend some of these lectures.

The leaven is working. We cannot see the cause grow, but, like corn, we can see that it has grown.

At St. Louis, Mo. between twenty-five and thirty meetings were addressed. These consisted of churches, schools, educational and business societies, fraternal women's and labor organizations, etc. Two of the meetings were practical failures, but these counted for little among so many. Comparatively few socialists appeared, and of those who did, none were especially obnoxious. Socialists are finding it difficult to tell how they are going to do things. In denunciation of existing evils they are excellent, but the elaboration of constructive policy is on other hands.

In St. Louis the good people have on hand a problem of transportation which is peculiar to themselves. Bridges are thrown across the Mississippi River at this point and are privately owned. As a result, there is a special tax or toll on goods from the east. For instance, coal mined some sixty miles away, in Illinois, is charged forty cents for transportation to East St. Louis. To cross the river (a distance of about one mile) the charge is thirty cents. This extra tribute amounts to nearly two million dollars per year on coal alone to the good people of St. Louis. It will be observed that these people do not object to being overcharged for transportation, but do object to a tribute that is much in excess of that wrung from other cities. One of the feudal "rights" of the lords of the eighteenth century in France was that of charging peasants a percentage of the produce they carried over bridges. The citizens of St. Louis are trying to discover the difference between their own position and that of the feudal serf.

This object lesson causes public ownership to be a very popular matter in that good town. It also serves to make plain the fact that existing troubles grow out of legal interferences with industrial operations—as did all feudal "rights." When once this fact is clearly apprehended, it is easy to reveal the Single Tax cat. There is but one thing needed to secure approval of our doctrine—that is understanding. It is more fully understood to-day than ever before. As a result, it commands wider respect. It is consequently easier to secure attentive consideration.

Ex-Attorney General Crowe of Missouri also endorsed the Single Tax at a banquet held at the Planter's House on the last night of our stay in St. Louis. It was an occasion

of much joy to our old friend, Stephen Ryan, the sage, philosopher, Single Taxer and shoemaker. And he had good reason for delight. It was originally planned to give a small dinner to a dozen or fifteen of "the faithful," but one and another expressed a desire to attend until the little dinner at some restaurant grew into a banquet of well toward one hundred and fifty guests at the Planter's. Many prominent people attended and those who thought the Single Tax movement had lost its virtue discovered reason to amend their notions.

At Kansas City, Mo., a dinner brought out, among others, an Episcopal rector, a Catholic priest, a Universalist minister, a popular preacher (Dr. Roberts), besides a mayor, a chief of police and some lawyers—and, of course, some rational people. The chief of police responded to a toast, and the mayor offered to lay odds that there was not another chief in the United States that could make one like—or equal to it. It was a fine talk and the crowd endorsed both the talk and the mayor's comment. A lawyer new to our ranks endorsed our gospel, and proposed vigorous work in Kansas City—on his own behalf promising hearty support. After adjournment Dr. Roberts said he had heard of Single Tax but was not aware of its breadth and far reaching effects. He was asked to give it full investigation. He replied: "Oh, you may be sure I'll do that, now. I want to know the truth." The following Sunday morning his audience, crowding one of the largest theatres in the city, heard a vigorous sermon against land monopoly. He pointed out that oil and coal deposits had been monopolized, but fortunately the sun had been placed over ninety million miles distant. The audience fully appreciated the reference. Dr. Roberts is a polished speaker, of great earnestness, and fearless. The rector said, with much feeling: "Something must be done." The priest sent for the speaker a day or two later, as he wished to know further of the Single Tax. The Universalist is now of us.

A lecture devoted to public ownership before the central labor organization was immediately followed by the adoption of resolutions to begin organization to that end. Things are beginning to crystalize.

A meeting of the Commercial Club at Kansas City, Kan., was addressed, and very much good will for our cause was expressed by the members. One man wished to know how it happened that land owners who improved usually succeeded financially, while holders of vacant property frequently found themselves in distress. He was asked in reply if most improved land is more than partly improved? And if this fact is not in harmony with our contention? That is, we assert that taxes on land value compel improvement. If, therefore, we impose small taxes, slight improvement follows. All this of course on the admission of his asserted

fact, which really has no more than the color of truth. Other meetings at Kansas City show the same general tendency. The power of monopoly is everywhere exerting itself, but everywhere there is increasing resistance.

At Belton, Mo., the high school and a public meeting were visited. The school is small, but the principal is a thorough and a devoted man. The public meeting was well attended by an audience typical of rural Missouri. No pretence to display, but genuine manliness. They wanted to know about the Single Tax, and were in earnest. Jas. A. White, a lumber dealer, was chairman.

A very good meeting was held in the court house at Springfield, Mo. John T. White, whose address at the Chicago conference of 1898 will be remembered by all who attended that gathering, is an active Single Taxer at this point.

Neosho, Mo., was the next point. A meeting was held at the court house. F. S. Briggs, hardware dealer, is the more active Single Taxer of the place. Congressman Benton acted as chairman, and expressed a desire to be fully informed as to our proposals.

Joplin, Mo., was visited and results were not so satisfactory, owing to the fact that T. J. Sheridan, who had affairs in charge was, up to a day or two before our date, absent because of attendance on a labor gathering at Pittsburg, Pa. A small meeting was the result, but a most enjoyable degree of interest was developed on account of certain socialists making a real effort to get our point of view. It was curious to observe how they succeeded in answering their own objections. Whenever socialists begin to think they will be their own salvation.

Many places were visited in Texas, with varying results. Rainy weather was a definite bar at two meetings. Four talks were given on the one day we visited Fort Worth. A. H. McCarty is a whole regiment at this point.

At Bellanger, during an appeal for equity, the speaker asked: "Do you really desire a social condition in which you can force some one to black your boots? Are you afraid to participate in a 'square deal?'" After adjournment the Mayor, who had introduced the lecturer, said to him: "How are you going to get your boots blacked if you cannot force some one to do it?" The reply was: "Well, I might do it, myself." The Mayor asserted that civilization would be impossible on that basis. He was asked: "Do you actually believe, Mr. Mayor, that civilization depends on the fact that you can compel some one to black your boots?" The absurdity was too much for even the Mayor of Bellanger.

At San Antonio a number of meetings were held. The high school was enjoyable

from the fact that the principal was much afraid the subject, "Political Economy," would not interest the pupils. It was further enjoyable because he very emphatically altered his opinion, and wished us to come again. It was one of the finest gatherings of high school pupils thus far visited. E. G. Le Sturgeon is a strong, steady and persistent worker at this point. A debate with a socialist brought out the fact that the local leader is a fine man, wholly devoted, but also wholly uninformed as to economic laws. They will catch the thinking disease in time. The Trades Council was visited, also the Swedenborgian circle and the Scientific Society. The last meeting was a thoroughly enjoyable one. Several members of the military post are members, and the society is made up of cultivated men and women. Intellectual alertness is a good neighbor. Several members are Single Tax men.

Henry George never uttered words more true than those expressing his prophecy, "The future is ours."

At Houston a number of meetings were held, including business men's clubs, the Young Men's Democratic Club, labor and women's associations, the Single Tax Club, and gatherings at the celebrated Log Cabin.

H. F. Ring and J. J. Pastoriza are among the most earnest Single Tax men in the country. Meetings were well attended, and much space devoted to them by the papers. Mr. Pastoriza has just sold his business, and will make our propaganda work his hobby. His business was hardly closed before dozens of men urged him to accept nomination for the legislature. He is a successful business man and has a remarkably large list of warm personal friends.

Throughout this trip of three months the press all along the route has been anxious to report our work. It is most certainly a good indication.

Representatives of the Houston city government have just returned from Cleveland, Ohio, where they have been looking into Mayor Tom L. Johnson's ways. Their first suggestion is public ownership of the city water plant. The papers to-day announce the inauguration of a vigorous public ownership campaign, closing with "The White lectures served as the overture; the curtain will go up very soon." The direct legislation agitation is also active. If home rule can be secured from the State legislature, all these reforms will move quickly in Houston and other cities in Texas.

Some one has finally said, "I know of only one prosperity. Does the human soul prosper here?"

The death of ex-Congressman Jerry Simpson removes one of the foremost of the Old Guard of the movement. At some future time the REVIEW will contain an adequate sketch of his life and services.