

enemy is so strongly entrenched that there must be many a battle before the outer works can be taken and victory inscribed upon our banners.

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TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

During October of 1906 John Z. White visited Delaware, taking part in the campaign regarding the advisory, initiative and referendum. Some open air meetings were held near the middle of the State, and a good degree of interest was shown, but it was plain that some of the so-called leading citizens were a little afraid of anything in the way of a change. It is a curious frame of mind that leads one to oppose change merely because it is change. Do these people not know that improvement involves change? However the vote, as readers of THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW have learned, was a pronounced victory for direct legislation, and it will be followed with the usual vigor as well as caution of Francis I. du Pont and his supporters. A feature of the situation is that the three counties of Delaware, Newcastle, Kent and Suffolk, are very unequally represented in the legislature. Wilmington, which is in Newcastle county, contains about one-half of the State's population. This county has much less than its proportionate share of the representation. Some of the leading citizens were afraid that direct legislation would overcome this injustice, and give to each voter his due weight in matters political. It really is a trifle odd that opposition should be based on a clearly stated fear of justice. Congressman Williams, of Mississippi, spoke at what was claimed to be the largest meeting during recent years held in Wilmington. Mr. White followed him, and claimed for direct legislation the power to heal most of the ills of which the Congressman complained. It was a pleasure to observe that during a speech of an hour and a half Mr. Williams took no position and made no argument antagonistic to Single Tax doctrine. He also applauded the specific direct legislation proposed. Men who are well acquainted in Wilmington said that a considerable fraction of the audience were Republicans. Altogether it was very encouraging, and the election furnished further cause for gratification.

Early in November a number of cities near Chicago were visited, the first being Streator, Ill., where a very fine audience greeted the speaker. A number of questions were asked, and a fairly clear understanding of the matter was evidenced. Very little of the old spirit of violent antagonism is now exhibited by inquirers.

At Wilmette, Ill., an audience smaller but of equal quality came out. The atten-

tion was close, and the people were without doubt well pleased to hear Single Tax views. As the average citizen becomes familiar with the possibility of a genuine "square deal" in social affairs he gives and will increasingly give his adhesion. Constant repetition of Single Tax thought is the one solution of what, in a message to Congress, the President said is the most important matter with which the world has to deal—the labor problem.

At Aurora, Ill., on a very rainy evening, a lecture was given on Public Ownership of Public Utilities. The audience assembled in the New England Congregational church, and it is the custom for a class of young men to use the lecture as a basis for discussion on a subsequent evening. The speaker was assured that much opposition as well as support would develop at that meeting. None appeared in his presence. Ownership by the public or genuine regulation by the public body granting the privilege, is the goal of public utility discussion. Regulation that will regulate is possible if the United States courts will "let the States alone." Otherwise public ownership is inevitable.

A fine audience was met at Chicago Heights, Ill. The subject was the French Revolution of 1789, and the gathering was not slow to note the parallel between that day and our own time as developed by the speaker. Privilege versus Freedom is the only social problem of that or any other age. Privilege is always political in form and deals with religion, the bodies of men or with the land and roads they must use if they would live and be civilized. The people of Chicago Heights seemed to have aspirations in those directions, but after an evening seemingly extremely agreeable to everyone concerned, the local paper gave a report of the meeting which would compare favorably with the opposition in a warmly contested political battle. It is doubtless true that financial considerations make misrepresentation necessary to a certain portion of the press. To be good is to be great—therefore is the press little.

West Pullman, Ill., furnished a small audience, but for all that a very enjoyable evening was spent, for not only did we find some thoroughgoing Single Taxers, but also a number of earnest seekers for the truth relating to industrial matters. The world is becoming more attentive to the teachings of the modern prophet.

At the Hammond, Ind., high school hall we found a most excellent audience, which was other than friendly for some time, but finally gave evidence of a more cordial feeling. Some of the speakers' remarks evidently had a local application, for the audi-

ence quite generally turned to look at a certain group more than once. Doubtless some of upper sweldom were in attendance. We have friends at this point among the cultivated—as they are often described.

In the South Chicago, Ill., First M. E. church a lecture on "The Dignity of Labor" was given. Attention was called to the fact that at present labor is to a degree lacking in this highly desirable attribute—but is not wholly without hope. It was also noticed that in the eyes of the well-to-do the dignity of the laboring man is thought to arise from the facts—if true—of his honesty and his sobriety. This, however, was held to be placing the dignity with sobriety and honesty, while the present intention was to treat of the dignity of labor. That is dignified which achieves its purpose—provided the purpose be legitimate. The purpose or object of labor is surely its product. We make some excellent food—for the 400. We make fine clothes—for the 400. We make fine residences—for the 400. We make yachts, automobiles, private cars, handsome carriages, beautiful jewelry—for the 400. And when we find the foreman or superintendent or "boss" ill-natured we do not resent it as we feel a strong impulse to do. That's what bothered the editor above mentioned. Labor is without dignity to the degree that it fails of its legitimate purpose—its product. The audience appeared to agree—no purchased editor in evidence.

East Chicago, Ind., has a number of public spirited citizens. That is, a number that have not sold their souls to the local corporations. Fortunate town. Public ownership was discussed before a fair sized assembly. Much interest was shown in the explanation of the difficulties arising from federal interference with local attempts to bring public utility corporations under the control of the privilege granting power. This phase of this question has not been presented to what is called the popular mind in all the clearness and simplicity that the subject deserves. A very common opinion is to the effect that corrupt legislative bodies are the cause of our difficulties in respect of public utilities. Altogether too much truth is contained in this common opinion, but of itself the cause assigned is not sufficient for the effect. It needs to be and is supplemented by a wholly illogical position on the part of our supreme judiciary. Even without direct legislation, and cumbersome as are our law-making methods, the assigned cause alone is not strong enough to stay the power of the people. It is the legislatures and the courts combined that constitute the bar to righteousness. Yet we can see evidence of disintegration amid the combination of reciprocal rascality. Questions were many—and the "after meeting" was animated.

A small meeting was held at Highland Park, Ill., and Public Ownership discussed. The assembly gave close attention, and most of the audience was favorably inclined, but it could not be said to be aggressively disposed to right existing abuses. A number present were all we could desire, while the body as a whole belonged to what may be called properly polite society. They would be glad to see the world in a better condition in all ways—especially more genteel. They are good people—that's why they wish the world well.

Waukegan, Ill., was our next station. The assembly was reserved but not unfriendly. They were willing to be instructed, but were careful to avoid endorsing any position hastily. That's a good sign. As soon as people really get to thinking the battle is won. Hasty, ill-considered, chaotic thought on the part of the masses of men is the safety and the hope of plutocracy.

A lecture on "The Sources of Municipal Corruption" was given at Blue Island, Ill., before a very good audience. The "Sources" of course are ignorance on the part of both the public official and the private citizen, supplemented by a sort of forgivable general tendency to graft. The application of sound economic doctrine is offered as the only remedy. This doctrine is apprehended individually, but can be applied socially only. No trouble to gain both attention and approval here. Blue Island, as represented at the lecture, is ready for the new dispensation.

A very satisfactory meeting was visited at Fort Wayne, Ind., being a business men's organization. A full attendance filled the large club room, and a body of gentlemen actively concerned in the varied enterprises of that energetic community gave close heed to the argument advanced. Many questions followed, none of which were offensively formulated. Questions from the audience usually show that almost entire lack of acquaintance with matters economic, which is the condition of the great majority of our business men as well as those who advertise themselves professionals. The individual profit and loss point of view is the all but universal attitude, and nothing could better indicate the need for spreading the doctrines of Henry George. Frequent inquiry is made as to securing literature upon this economic puzzle. Parties are referred to *The Review*, *The Public*, and Swinney's distribution bureau at 134 Clarkson St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

The class in political economy at the University of Illinois was addressed. Very many of the pupils drew out pencils and papers—and very few took notes. Whether or not this lack of action is to be taken as

complimentary or otherwise is an undecided question. The closest attention was given throughout, but the matter seemingly most enjoyed was reference to the "law of diminishing returns." This was held to be merely an evasive way of suggesting the exploded doctrine of Malthus. As all effort thus far shows an increasing return per capita, why should professors develop the "law of increasing returns." We are told that the people of the United States are increasing their combined values at a most tremendous rate. We know that a great number are non-producers; that many who work are engaged in non-productive employment; that the tendency is for this group to increase more rapidly than the truly productive group. If then producers relatively decrease while production relatively increases, where shall we look for verification of the "law of diminishing returns"? It is to be feared that the professors will soon be thrown back upon the theological explanation: "It is a mystery." This, however, will be hardly acceptable regarding a matter in which there is no unknown factor. One professor recently said to the lecturer: "Is not the law of diminishing returns shown every day when a farmer is studying whether more intensive culture will pay?" He seemed to think the farmer was at the limit of production—per capita. He was asked in return if the farmer would readily agree to more intensive culture if a village or city should rapidly develop on the land he now used as a farm. The professor agreed to this, and he was then asked if his answer did not admit that the difficulty lay elsewhere than in the land? No reply as yet—but soon.

Minonk, Ill., reports eighty per cent. of its population as foreign born. It is largely a coal mining town. Here a good meeting was held, although not large. Talked with large number business men. They know that something is wrong. The rural free delivery crippling country merchants. Farmers and others are ordering goods from the large catalogue houses in the cities. Railroad freight rising, too. Bad, very bad—and worse. All this makes good ground for Single Tax seed.

Peru, Ill., was the next point, and a very fair meeting was had, although a good percentage of the audience were not at first disposed to be enthusiastic. The Dignity of Labor appeared not to be an enticing topic. As the laborer was not very earnestly advised to keep sober—in order that he might be more profitable to himself—and to his employer—the assembly soon discovered that the expected sermon was not forthcoming. Thereafter there was plenty of attention, and a considerable indorsement. One man was overheard to say, "Well, he gave us plenty to think about."

A pleasant audience of Chicago Single Taxers and their friends was the next greeting. Single Tax was the subject announced, and many who were unacquainted with the matter were in attendance, though it is curious to observe how attentive are those who have listened perhaps hundreds of times before.

Mendotta, Ill., gave us a small audience, but we had a good time for all that, and we voted ourselves a good company as to quality, if quantity were a more or less minus amount. About thirty were present, and there was the satisfaction of hearing some say they were glad they came.

Washington, D. C., gave us a rainy night and a small meeting, but our friends in that city are in earnest, and are a delightful group to visit.

At Pittsburg a disappointment was registered. Only one meeting was held, instead of two, as arranged, because, as we were informed, a sudden change of heart on the part of a leading citizen discovered us to be too radical. A very much better opportunity was refused in order to keep faith with the leading citizen. He seemed not to be controlled by a like impulse. However, the one meeting was enjoyed.

At Buffalo Robert Burns was discussed at the Unitarian Church before a fine audience. The body is impregnated with a degree of radical thought. Generally speaking, they are not afraid to look things in the face.

Zanesville, Ohio, was visited at about the time of the floods in the Ohio valley. It was a wet evening. A good audience as to quality greeted us—though it left something to be desired in the way of quantity.

At Newark, Ohio, a fine meeting was held. Many of the city officials being present—the mayor among them. Close attention and much interest was shown. Questions were asked, and a much larger attendance promised on the next visit.

Columbus, Ohio, was wetter than Zanesville. Congressman Lentz attended the meeting, and complained of the popular apathy, because of the small attendance. Questions, however, made the gathering very enjoyable. A number of young men attending school were present, and evidently wished to learn of the new gospel—though one of them thought he could give as well as receive information.

At Springfield, Ohio, a large gathering testified the possibility of developing popular interest in matters economic. Organized labor at this point believes in the dis-

cussion of real questions—and brings its mothers, wives and children along. It was an appreciative body to address.

At Cincinnati, Ohio, and at Covington and Newport, Ky., small meetings were held. Still the Newport meeting was very satisfactory. The audience was composed mostly of teachers and the membership of our church. They were really earnest people, and gave close attention when it was shown that present reform methods must of necessity prove to be failures. They are trying to do some good in the world, and vaguely wonder why the world does not grow better more rapidly. One man thought the world quite a pleasant place. His attention was called to the fact that this country imports about 1,000,000,000 foreigners each year—also in its industrial processes it kills and injures over half of that number of human beings each year. That gave a slight pause to his optimism.

At Lexington, Ky., a fine school was visited, and a most delightful evening spent discussing the French Revolution. Both students and professors seemed to enjoy the address. They were in no way adverse to drawing parallels between conditions then and now. A good many besides Single Taxers are learning that America's boast is at least partly hollow.

A good meeting was held at Akron, Ohio. The attendance was good both as to quality and quantity. Many of the careful and conservative, as well as influential, were present. It was one of those gatherings where it was evident the audience "want to know."

At Cleveland three church meetings were held—two quite satisfactory. The other rather disappointing, but a number of evident non-members were present, and listened with evident satisfaction. Otto K. Dorn is a persistent missionary, and after the last church meeting called on a literary society, where the philosophy of Henry George was once more presented.

The high school at Muskegon, Mich., was addressed on the morning of our visit, and in the evening a general meeting held in the school assembly hall. Manual training is a strong feature of this city. They have a fine school—and they want to know—are not afraid of the truth. The morning meeting included several hundred high school pupils and the evening gathering was equally enjoyable, although probably about one-half as numerous. They seemed to appreciate the address.

Cadillac, Mich., held meeting in the opera house and a very good sized audience was present. The matter was in the hands of

the educators of the city and quite an air of dignity attended the doings of the evening. Not all were friendly to our ideas, but there was no open hostility. It was one of those gatherings that Single Tax men like to "talk at," because of the opportunity afforded to prove that we are neither visionaries nor rioters.

The gathering at Michigan City, Ind., was extremely appreciative of Burns. Burns, the intelligent democrat, seemed a new character to them. Many congratulations were extended to the speaker.

Small meeting at Peoria, Ill. Very close attention was given by the audience, which was discriminating to a degree.

RENEWED ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA.

MESSRS. ALBRIGHT, STEPHENS, BURLEIGH AND ROSS SPEAKING IN MANY PLACES.

After four years of hibernating, the Single Tax Society suddenly awakened with its old-time vigor and enthusiasm and meetings are held every Thursday evening at 1415 Locust St. Many of the old faces were missed, for death and removal from town have taken away many of the former active workers. However, several new and enthusiastic members have signified their intention of working for the cause and the prospect for next season is good.

Mr. Frank Stephens gave an address at the first meeting answering an editorial in the *North American* on Socialism, and that paper printed a very fair and correct account of the address the following day. This, and the fact that many people of all walks of life, from college professors to plain business men, are privately or publicly accepting the doctrines of Henry George, show that the reform is rapidly progressing; and probably Philadelphia is not alone in this. But it is especially gratifying here in this hotbed of protection Republicanism.

The Single Tax Society is to have a Jefferson dinner on April 12th, too late for this letter; but the prospect is that it will be an interesting event. Mr. James MacGregor, of New York, has promised to speak, also a prominent lawyer of this city, Mr. Frank Stephens and other speakers of equal merit. Mr. W. L. Ross will preside.

Various speakers have addressed audiences in towns throughout the State during the last few weeks, mostly under the auspices of the National Woman's League. In February Mrs. Burleigh addressed the Women's New Century Club in Coatesville.

The Women's National Single Tax League made engagements for several meetings in