

"The French Revolution" was given before the Radical Club of Providence, R. I., on the following evening. It was a pronounced success in the opinion of all those present. The feudal lord's power was shown to be identical with that exercised by our modern monopolist. Freedom from monopoly as a result of rational taxation is now as when proposed by Turgot, the remedy.

The Boston University was visited next day, and an hour occupied before the class in political economy. The class evidently appreciated Single Tax economics. Attention was called to the fact that men make food, clothing and shelter—therefore they know how—therefore again, the processes can be examined, and a conclusion as to them be demonstrated. In short, the uncertainty that obtains in economic literature is absurd. This was a new idea to the class—maybe to the professor. At the same time we can pray earnestly for the time when all educators will favor freedom as does Prof. Baldwin. Absolutely no strings were tied to the speaker. If the class did not receive the Single Tax gospel the lack cannot be charged to Prof. Baldwin.

A meeting was held at New Bedford and another in Morgan Memorial Building, in Boston, before the Total Abstinence Guild. This closed our work for the time being in Boston, and the season was closed by a series of meetings in and about New York City.

A talk was made before the Women's National Single Tax League, then in session in Brooklyn. The women were more than kind in expressing appreciation of the occasion.

On Decoration Day exercises are annually held at the grave of Father McGlynn. For this year A. J. Boulton and John Z. White were selected as speakers. The grounds about the grave were filled with people and it is really inspiring to see the gathering of Father McGlynn's old and tried friends as well as those who have learned to love his memory without having known his charming personality. The occasion is one on which to preach McGlynn's gospel, which we all know included the Single Tax without excluding anything that is good and true.

The Board of Trade at Ridgewood, N. J., was visited and addressed. It is encouraging to find so many business organizations and schools that are no longer afraid to hear the truth. The Board gave the most careful attention and seemed favorable to our conclusions—though they were cautioned to do nothing hastily.

A return trip to Pawtucket, R. I., was arranged for the purpose of appearing before the Business Men's Association. This was a fine meeting. The plain fact of monopoly

—and its basis in unfair law—is becoming plain to all. Once this fact is generally affirmed, the end will be in sight.

A small meeting at Nutley, N. J., was held. A very fair one was held under the auspices of the Civics Club at E. Orange, N. J. The Independence League at Harlem Casino in New York City was addressed. The Men's League at Irvington, N. J., proved to be good ground. They voted the address to be the best they had heard on economic matters. That's why they are appreciated. A small group was met at Tarrytown, N. J., and a large meeting addressed at Ossining, N. Y. The latter is a branch of the Independence League which is being formed through New York State and bids fair to cause the politicians to sit up and take notice. Another meeting was held in Flatbush (suburb of Brooklyn). Also at the Seventeenth District Municipal Ownership League in Brooklyn.

At Trenton, N. J., a fine meeting was held. The assessors of the city were in attendance and asked questions. Everyone seemed highly pleased—save one socialist who was evidently of a melancholy temperament. The burden of the world was on him—and he wanted the "tools." He was advised to secure to all men the equal opportunity of making them.

An unexpectedly good meeting was held at Rochester, N. Y. The Independence League is visible at this point. Our good friend, J. M. Campbell, is still at work here—and where Campbell is there will the Single Tax gain.

#### THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, who was elected President of the Women's National Tax League at its recent convention in Brooklyn, N. Y., was born and educated in Delhi, Indiana. Her father, William Rogers, for many years an ardent Single Taxer, came here from England in '59 and in '61 enlisted, and fought through the war that the curse of chattel slavery might be abolished.

Her grandfather, Robert Rogers, was one of the radicals during the years that preceded the repeal of the "corn laws" in England, and many times went into hiding for weeks at a time to escape arrest, for having written songs which became popular, and which were uncomplimentary to the "powers that were."

Though only well into her "teens" when she moved east with her father's family, it was not a year before she was an earnest Single Taxer. Always of a quiet, thoughtful disposition, and having spent her childhood where there was plenty of room for all—none very rich, and none very poor, it

was appalling to see amid her new surroundings the two extremes of abundant wealth and abject poverty.

A copy of the *Standard* fell into her hands a short time after her arrival, and that, followed by a reading of "Progress and Poverty," showed both cause and cure. With the blood of a radical stock in her veins, it is no wonder she took up with so much enthusiasm this work of reform.

Mrs. Ryan was one of the charter members of the Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club, which was organized in 1890, and was its secretary for a number of years. In 1903 she was elected president, and served three years.

For eight years she served the Brooklyn Single Tax League as treasurer, and is at present treasurer of the Stuyvesant Political Equality League, and one of the Directors of the New York City Federation of Woman's Clubs, as well as a member of the Woman's Trade Union League.

She was a frequent contributor to the *New Earth* which recently ceased publication, and for several years conducted a letter writing corps, in conjunction with E. B. Swinney of Brooklyn.

No opportunity ever escapes her for saying a word for this great reform, and among New York club women she is known as "that Single Taxer."

Until April 3rd, 1900, this young woman was known among Single Taxers as "one of the Rogers girls," but on that date became the life partner of Thomas P. Ryan, a young man prominent in Trade Union and Single Tax work. A unity of interests drew them together and theirs is one of the few ideal marriages. One little daughter has blessed the union.

Mrs. Ryan and her associates on the new Board have already held several informal meetings and are laying plans for a campaign of propaganda work during the coming year.

Her election as President of the Women's League was a recognition of years of devoted work, and no wiser selection could have been made.

It will be noted by the readers of the communication from A. Pohlman, our German correspondent, that the Single Tax movement in that country is not anti-governmental. The Prussian ministry is itself recommending to the municipalities the taxation of land values. It may yet be found to be an efficient weapon in the hands of the government against the socialists in a country where the latter have won their most notable triumphs. In Germany, rather more than elsewhere, even though it be the home of Karl Marx, the immense vote polled in the name of socialism includes not only the hardened state socialists but hundreds of thousands of uncertain radicals and amiable and restless liberals.

## ECONOMIC AND SPECULATIVE RENT. HOW THE SINGLE TAX WOULD RELIEVE LABOR.

(For the Review.)

BY C. B. FILLEBROWN.

It has occurred to me that there are a series of specific topics to which Single Taxers might perhaps give profitable thought among themselves, looking to the greater strength that comes to any movement from mutual, as well as fundamental, understanding.

One such point is raised by Mr. Springer in the April SINGLE TAX REVIEW, as it relates to the comparative merits of the "tax reform" presentation and the "land and labor" presentation. If it is true that the Single Tax is not likely to find easy acceptance as a direct solution of the labor problem, may there not be practical and moral gain in urging it upon labor as a tax question?

Mr. Springer thinks the labor solution is literally to be found in access to rent by taxation, rather than in access to land. Mr. Buell also in same connection remarks that "There is no problem of land reform, but there is a vital problem of tax reform."

Progress and Poverty is a cumbersome book for the average student, because it goes into a profound and exhaustive diagnosis of land and labor and cognate conditions—a scope which is so wide as to be rather a hindrance to propaganda work, which concerns itself with immediate application of the remedy. Did not Mr. George himself set us the pace to be followed when in Book VIII, Chap. 2, he says: "We may put the proposition into practical form by proposing—To abolish all taxation save that upon land values," thus declaring his own estimate of the remedy as being a question of tax reform. Book VIII of itself appears to be a working formula for the problem of the whole book, easy because following the line of least resistance. Why not let the question assume naturally, and at once, the final form that it must inevitably assume?

Another point regards the position often expressed, or innocently implied, that rent despoils wages, and hence is the robber of labor. Mr. George in Progress and Poverty appears to make uniform use of the term rent, not as denoting economic rent, but as including with economic rent speculative or monopoly rent, agreeing with himself to disregard taxation, as for the time not existing, while treating the division of production into rent, interest and wages. For instance, when Mr. George says, Book III, Chap. 8, "That the increase of productive power does not increase wages is because it does increase the value of land. Rent swallows up the whole gain, and pauperism accompanies progress."

Passages like these need to be read with critical care. Of course all the rent that labor can expect to be relieved of by the