

CEREMONIES AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CLUB HOUSE.

The new home of the Manhattan Single Tax Club was formally opened Monday, June 29th. All members and friends of the club were invited to inspect the building and meet the committee which had purchased and remodelled the building for the club. Commodious as it is, compared with our old quarters, it was utterly inadequate to the task of holding all who attended, many having to remain outside until a portion of the crowd departed.

President Jno. S. Crosby welcomed those present in behalf of the club, and announced that the speeches would probably take the form of a review of the club history, as a number of former presidents had been invited to speak. Before that, however, he desired to introduce Mr. Edward Polak, Chairman of the Club House Committee. Mr. Polak said that the committee had found it necessary to work hard, but had worked ungrudgingly, as it had been a labor of love. Mr. Polak stated that he desired to put the financial part of the committee's labors before the meeting, and did so, saying:

"The purchase price of the house was \$12,500. The committee had intended to spend only about \$300 in making changes in the building, but found it best to remodel to the extent of about \$1,000. About one half of this sum has been subscribed; the remainder we wish to raise to-night. As to the purchase price, about two thousand dollars has been secured. The committee organized a realty company composed of all club members who wished to purchase stock. This stock is guaranteed a dividend, but a dividend lower than the interest on the mortgage, resulting in a large saving in interest charges to the club. The club has the right to purchase all stock at such times as it desires. The club, of course, will from time to time acquire the stock, and in the end own the building free and clear of debt. The Women's League will occupy a part of the building and pay for it, and the revenues derived from the building will suffice to pay all charges, leaving dues from members, initiation fees, etc., to be used for club purposes and for the acquiring of stock in the realty corporation." Mr. Polak thanked the club for its support of the project, and highly commended his co-workers on the committee, Messrs. Doblin, Stimpson and Scully.

Mr. Wm. Faulhaber, first President, was introduced and told of the club's foundation in a basement bowling alley in lower Second Avenue. This was in 1888, and the club grew rapidly in numbers and influence until it finally secured a club house in Lexington Avenue, foolishly, however, renting instead of buying.

Letters were then read by Melvin E. Palliser from a number of former club

presidents, also from Geo. Fred Williams, of Massachusetts, and Congressman Robert Baker. Louis F. Post sent congratulations, Lawson Purdy, exhortations, and W. D. McCracken, blessings.

Judge Samuel Seabury spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"At the opening of this club house it is proper that we should first extend our thanks to those members of the committee whose earnest and energetic efforts have made this occasion possible. We congratulate not only the members of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and the Single Taxers of this city, but all those—no matter where their residence, who believe in Single Tax principles—upon the opening of this club house and the establishment here of a hall and public platform dedicated to the cause of liberty.

"Those of us, who recognize in the writings of Henry George the teachings of the greatest democrat America has produced, rejoice that a platform has been established in New York City upon which the advocates of freedom shall always be welcome.

"Whenever the cause of human liberty shall be in danger, or whenever oppression shall seem to have won a victory, let it be the mission of this hall to sound the note of protest and to proclaim the principles of democracy.

"Let us be uncompromising in our demands. We will accept nothing short of the codification into the laws of our country of the principle of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. We should not be carried away by or waste our energies upon alleged reforms, the purpose of which falls short of the attainment of this end. Let us demand the opening to all, of the natural opportunities of our country, and insist that the laborer shall receive as the measure of his wage the whole product of his labor. To this he is in justice, entitled. To force him to be content with less is to compel him to submit to injustice. As the means of securing equal opportunities to all and preserving to each the full product of his labor we must uncompromisingly demand the taxation only of land values and monopoly privileges, exclusive of improvements, and to the full amount of their value. If the Manhattan Single Tax Club shall be loyal to this principle it will by so doing prove faithful to its highest and best traditions in the past and this hall—to be called the Henry George Memorial Hall—will prove a useful place in which to proclaim the teachings of him in whose memory it is to be appropriately dedicated."

Mr. Crosby said he had no doubt that in time to come men would from all over the world visit the club house as they came to many shrines, and then introduced Henry George, Jr.

Mr. George said in part: "I was one of those who were opposed to this project, thinking that the effort to carry it out

would cripple the club's other work. Fortunately, the committee disregarded me, and others like me, and went ahead. I congratulate those gentlemen and am happy to announce myself converted to their view. For many reasons this is an affecting moment to me."

Mr. Benjamin Doblin said he had always thought the club should own its own home and believed it could have done so any time these last ten years. "The only trouble was, we never had a man like Polak to get a plan in shape and put it into execution."

Mrs. Lora Coope, of Washington, introduced by President Crosby as "one of the most recent but by no means least zealous of Single Taxers," congratulated the club on its "handsome home" and "handsome president," and told of the conference of the Women's National Single Tax League at New Haven. Mrs. Coope said that the women were going to go on working to the best of their ability and would rejoice at all progress made whether through their efforts or the efforts of the men.

Mr. Thos. J. Connery told of his conversion to the Single Tax while crossing the Atlantic. The captain of the ship after vain efforts to convert him to the Single Tax, offered to wager champagne for the party that Mr. Connery, if he read one chapter of "Progress and Poverty," would read the book. Mr. Connery thought it safe and accepted the wager. On going to his cabin that night he read one chapter, then another, and then a third, after which he forgot the wager and read the whole book before morning.

Among other speakers were Congressmen Robert Baker, William E. Hicks and Henry J. Marcus.

Repeated calls for H. C. Stimpson and James R. Brown brought neither. Stimpson was modest, as usual, and Brown was bashful. One fled to the basement, and the other disappeared.

The ladies of the Women's League served refreshments after which a general inspection took place. About a dozen applications for membership were signed.

The house is a brownstone front of three stories and basement; neighborhood excellent; building about 20 by 60 feet, with a yard in the rear which may be used as a summer garden. With the advantage our new quarters will give us and the stimulus that will come to Single Tax work with the separation of the value of land and improvements on the tax rolls, we expect a strenuous Fall and Winter campaign for the club.

WM. F. CASEY.

SYMPOSIUM.

ON THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION.

Following are a number of communications called forth by the letter of Mr. Edward T. Weeks, favoring independent polit-

ical action, published in our Winter number. In a circular since widely circulated Mr. Weeks presented two leading questions, as follows:

1st.—Where Single Taxers are free to organize politically, can they vote with parties which favor the ownership of land, without themselves incurring moral guilt?

2nd.—Should our political work be governed by moral principle, or by mere seeming expediency?

We will continue this Symposium in our Fall number. It is not our fault that the majority of those whose communications are presented herewith, are in agreement with Mr. Weeks. Our friends on the other side have simply failed to respond to our request for letters in reply. Hence it is that if there were not hosts of others to be heard from, Mr. Weeks would seem to have won his case. Our friends will kindly remember, however, that the hearing is not yet closed, and the columns of the next issue of the *Review* are open to their communications.—The EDITOR.

Cincinnati.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Replying to your Mr. Week's questions, I would say:

1.—Single Taxers can vote with parties which favor ownership of land, without themselves incurring moral guilt; whenever doing so commends itself to their best judgment, as the quickest way open to bring about the ends for which we are working.

If, for example, a party which has a reasonable chance of success at the polls—should favor local option in taxation, would it not be something akin to treason to our principles for Single Taxers to vote against such a party even though it favored private ownership of land?

The Legislature of Oregon, controlled by such a party, submitted to the people of that State the most progressive direct legislature amendment which has yet been adopted anywhere—a majority of the people approved this amendment and now as a result of this action of a Republican legislature, Oregon Single Taxers need get but eight per cent. of the voters of the State to sign a demand and they can secure a direct vote on the question of local option, or for that matter on a straight out Single Tax proposition.

2.—Our work should be governed by whatever method of procedure seems to us to be the best to get the Single Tax—that is what we are in business for and not for the purpose of making a spectacular display of how straight we can stand for principle; to let an opportunity go by, to hasten the adoption of the Single Tax on the sole ground that moral principle comes before seeming expediency—seems to be anything but the most moral action imaginable.

DANIEL KIEFER.