

First Annual State Convention of the New Jersey Single Tax Party

SINGLE Taxers of New Jersey met in convention at the headquarters in Newark for the organization of a State Single Tax party on Saturday, July 27. There were representatives from every county in the State and the proceedings were characterized by an earnestness and determination that promise well for the future.

Mr. Chandler called the convention to order and nominated Mr. Wallace as temporary chairman. Mr. Bourgeois was made temporary secretary. A committee on credentials was chosen consisting of Messrs. Cohen, Jones and Walsh.

E. Yancey Cohen was chosen permanent chairman. Messrs. Bourgeois and Loew were nominated for the position of permanent secretary, and Mr. Loew was chosen by a close vote.

It was decided that the State committee consist of two members from each county organization and one additional member for each 25 members of the county organization.

The committee on platform was announced as comprising Messrs. Wallace, Walsh, Bourgeois, Jones, and Mrs. William B. DuBois.

Mr. Miller addressed the convention briefly, and was followed by Mr. Callingham, of Camden, who said that the argument for independent political action was unanswerable. He said that hereafter he would work with the Party, being convinced that to have the Single Tax on the ballot was the very best means of education that could be adopted. Mr. Chambers, also of Camden, declared that in his opinion the political movement was in the right direction, that the thing to do is to bring this question to the people as a political issue. Mr. Fowles spoke with his usual earnestness.

Mr. Wallace now read the platform, which was taken up section by section. There was a very interesting discussion on the meanings of "ground rent," "land values," "rental value," "rentable value," etc. The discussion developed the usual differences as to shades of meaning, but the platform was finally adopted as printed in this issue of the REVIEW, and represents the best thought of the convention brought out by a debate in which almost every member present took part.

Mr. Chandler now nominated Mr. Wallace as U. S. Senator. Mr. Loew seconded the nomination. Mr. Wallace was unanimously chosen, at which Mr. Chodorov suggested that a street corner meeting be held as soon as the convention adjourned and the members had finished supper.

Mr. Wallace said that he felt the importance of the approaching campaign in the State. He felt the need of polling a large vote—not for himself but for the Single Tax. He assured the members present that whatever methods were adopted the best efforts would be put forth, with all the energy at the command of the State Committee.

Following are members of the State Committee: Ber-

gen Co., E. Yancey Cohen, M. G. Larssen; Camden Co., Richard Chambers, Wm. M. Callingham; Essex Co., Wm. J. Wallace, H. G. Loew, Alfred N. Chandler; Hudson Co., Adolph P. Huser, Wm. B. DuBois; Monmouth Co., Rev. Luther Latham Holmes, Chas. B. Zacharias; Passaic Co., Thos. W. Ward, Ernest L. Remig; Union Co., James J. Walsh, Edwin J. Jones.

It was moved by Mr. Bourgeois that a telegram of congratulations be sent to the friends in California on their success in getting on the ballot, and Mr. Callingham moved that Missouri be included. This motion was carried.

In the evening a monster outdoor meeting was held on the corner of Broad and Park, and was addressed by Messrs. Lloyd, Chodorov and Callingham. Mr. Callingham spoke for nearly an hour and a half, and his serious appeal found a response among the earnest men and women who stood listening without interruption until the meeting was adjourned.

Under such auspices was launched the Single Tax Party of New Jersey and the candidacy of William J. Wallace as U. S. Senator.

PLATFORM OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE SINGLE TAX PARTY

The Single Tax Party of New Jersey in convention assembled in order to express the principles and purposes of the party adopts the following platform:

Whereas, a state of war now exists between the Government of the United States and the Imperial German Government, the Single Tax Party pledge all candidates and all members of this party to support the National Government by every means in their power in the prosecution, by the use of the military and naval forces of the United States, of this most just, righteous and necessary war which we, with our gallant allies are waging against the Imperial German Government and the arrogant, cruel and tyrannical military caste that is now dominant in Germany. If our voices can bridge the Atlantic and reach the plain people of Germany who are the victims of the imperialists who are rapidly dragging them to ruin, we would call upon them to rise in revolt and cast off the chains that now bind them to Hohenzollernism. This is a war to make the world safe for democracy. We believe the revenue for conducting this war can best be raised from ground rent as provided in this platform.

We believe that all men are endowed by their Creator with an equal and inalienable right to the use of the earth in order that they may have an equal opportunity to supply their needs and an equal opportunity for their free development.

We demand that the ground rent of all land be collected by the Government, being convinced that only in this way can involuntary poverty and fear of poverty be abolished, a just division of the products of labor be secured and equal opportunity and justice for all be obtained.

We demand that all of the rent of land be taken by taxation for all public needs before any tax be levied on the products of labor, or the rewards of active and constructive enterprise. By collecting the ground rent for governmental purposes people would be relieved from the indirect taxes which they are now obliged to pay in the price of all the products which they consume.

In order to carry into effect these principles we demand from our legislature a law appropriating the full ground rent for the use of the National, State, County and Municipal Governments and that this rent be collected on all land, used or unused, according to its rentable value.

The legislation we call for, when enacted and recognized to be the intelligent purpose of the electorate of this State, will destroy the enormous increments of fictitious capital which find their roots in the exclusive privileges conferred upon a favored few of the people by the ownership of the elements of nature. These privileges enable them

to exhort from the masses of the community large and increasing amounts for the privilege of living and working upon their own soil. Among the special privileges of this character are those which consist of the ownership of city and country land, mines and waterpower. The rent to be paid for the use of the resources of nature, when they are all available for occupation and use and when none will be held by speculators will be very much less than the prices paid under the present condition of speculation, restriction and extortion. None of the rent would be applied to support in idleness a privileged class or to unjustly increase the revenue derived by those engaged in active business, but all would be appropriated for governmental use.

All members of the community would be relieved from taxation on the houses in which they live, the business in which they are engaged, improvements which may be made to their property, and the costs which are added to the necessities of life by taxation upon production and distribution of such products to points where they are available for use. It would simplify and cheapen government by the elimination of restrictive and supervisory laws designed to partially counteract the detrimental effects of our monopolistic system of land ownership. It would instill into the youth of the country a respect for the equality of opportunity which it was the purpose of the founders of the government to secure for all its people. It would enormously increase production and wealth by the removal of burdens which now weigh down industry and thrift. It would free labor from the bondage of excessive toil and it would enable all who are willing and able to work to secure a good living. It would remove the fear of unemployment and poverty. It would equalize the opportunities of all men in relation to the land and through the ease with which employment could be obtained it would enable all to seek the fields in which the best talent of their mind would have proper development and in which their industry would receive the most adequate reward.

We believe that the women of the State are as vitally interested in the welfare and problems of the State as the men and we pledge ourselves to the enactment of laws giving them the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

The State is founded to secure a condition of justice to all its people, and the most fundamental purpose of our legislature should be the enactment of such laws as would prevent injustice and establish the equality of opportunity to all.

We call upon all men, regardless of their former political affiliations, to join this movement and, by associating with an active political party, having for its sole purpose the legislation above described, cast their influence upon our legislature and upon the public conscience; and we invite those who have a love of country in their hearts and a desire that it may be established in prosperity and justice to join with us in urging these views upon the people and upon the legislature of the State.

How Political Parties May Be Started

(Concluded from last issue)

The old order is nearly gone. Thirty years is a long time to give to an experiment. It should not be necessary to argue against promiscuous, unorganized Single Tax work after having given that experiment thirty precious years and many dollars. The best argument against that method of getting the Single Tax is not only the almost hopeless collapse of the movement, but also the constantly increasing number of taxes with which labor and capital are burdened, with hardly any addition to the meagre taxes on land values. That is the sad result of all the years and all the money and all the labor—a result which would be disheartening to us if we were not conscious of the greatness of the truth for which these sacrifices have been made.

After this dismal failure, there remains but one thing for Single Taxers to do—to go back to the time when this policy, now proven erroneous, was decided upon. Let us take up now the policy advocated by Dr. McGlynn—separate and distinct party action.

New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware have been organized. In California they are voting on a constitutional amendment for the Single Tax; until it is shown that that the powers that be, may defeat the object of a constitutional amendment (even after it is passed), it is best in those States that have the initiative petition to

try that method. But, let's try *voting* for the Single Tax in every State in the Union. That's the point.

In 1920 we of the voting-for-what-we-want idea hope to have a national convention at which a number of politically organized States will be represented. Who will start the work in other States than the five already organized? The State Secretary of the Single Tax Party of New York, 246 West 14th Street, New York City, will be pleased to give any Single Taxer anywhere the benefit of our experience in the Empire State.

In the last issue of the REVIEW brief outlines of the election laws in a number of States were published. Below are the briefed election laws of other States. Repeated requests for the laws of the remainder have been ignored, and we must leave it to interested Single Taxers in these States to secure the laws from their respective Secretaries of State.

CONNECTICUT—This State requires nomination by party convention or caucus. The organization of a new party would have to be perfected before securing a place on the ballot.

IDAHO—For State office—300; for district office—150; for county office—50; for township office—10.

KANSAS—For State office—one per cent. of votes cast for Secretary of State at preceding election. For district office—two per cent., in at least one-fourth of election precincts of at least one-half the counties in the district. And so on down.

MISSISSIPPI—For State office—50 signatures in each county. This is for independent nominations only. A new party is recognized as soon as it has perfected a State organization, with regular county and district committees.

MISSOURI—One per cent. of entire vote cast at the next preceding election in the State or sub-division; not exceeding 1000 signatures, or less than 50.

MONTANA—Five per cent. of votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office (in State or sub-division) at next preceding election.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—For Governor—1000 signatures. For congressman—500 signatures. Proportionately smaller for lesser offices.

NORTH CAROLINA—For new political party—10,000 signatures. For non-partisan candidate for such office, according to vote cast in last election.

NORTH DAKOTA—For State office—300 signatures. For sub-division—ten per cent. of vote cast for member of congress last election. For town or village—ten per cent. of votes cast at last election. In no case more than 300.

OKLAHOMA—No provision for new political parties. A non-partisan candidate can have his name placed upon the official ballot by merely petitioning the proper officials within a given time.

VIRGINIA—New political parties not recognized by laws of State. "Any person who intends to be a candidate for any office, State or national, shall at least 30 days before such election notify the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in writing, attested by two witnesses, of such intention, designating the office for which he is a candidate." The simplest method for independent candidates offered by any State.

WASHINGTON—A new political party may nominate candidates by convention. See convention laws. FRANK CHODOROV.

An interview with Lawson Purdy, in the *New York Times* explains his plan to safeguard the inhabitants of war towns from speculators. Practically this plan is an application of Single Tax. Mr. Purdy is chairman of the Committee on New Industrial Towns. Another member of the same Committee is Robert Murray Haig, so we can imagine that the proceedings are not entirely harmonious.

THE *New York Tribune* quoted the SINGLE TAX REVIEW editorially twice in the same week.

A RUMMAGE sale organized by Miss Corinne Carpenter of Brooklyn, for the benefit of the Great Adventure, netted \$15.00.