

are reported to have resorted to the land value tax. But the most important and far reaching step was taken on the 20th of March, when the Berlin city council by a vote of 65 against 54 providing for a tax on the increased value of land (Zuwachsteuer). To this the German S. T. organ remarks: Its practical application is of course postponed, as it was referred to a committee, and we are prepared for many a hot fight yet, which only he who knows the heated ground of Berlin can understand, but in spite of all that we may consider it an extraordinary victory.

A given amount of land in the city of Cologne yielded a tax revenue of 20,000 marks, but after one year taxing this same area in accordance with its selling value it produced 200,000 marks.

Everywhere, where the taxation of land value has been adopted, a reduction in rents has followed, in Dortmund, 90,000 inhabitants, where the first, or one of the first adopting the new system, a home which rented before for 154 marks is rented now for 101 marks, another 206 marks, now 136 marks, etc., etc. And, says the writer, this is not yet quite our ideal tax, since we still tax houses also, and will make a still better showing when we exempt the improvements. But half a loaf is better than no bread, and keeping hammering at it we will get the other half a loaf later. It would be idle to wait till the state gave us permission to tax land value only. Let each community go ahead and make its own tax laws, with which the state does not interfere as long as it "pays the King what is the King's."

We are pleased to hear that now in Italy the seed of our doctrine is planted. Our fellow Single Tax worker, Mr. Ummen, has delivered in a series of Single Tax lectures in northern Italian towns which has appeared in pamphlet form under the title of *Riforma dei Tributi Agrari*.

On May 1st a daily Single Tax paper has been launched in Berlin named *Deutsche Nachrichten* which is to stand shoulder to shoulder with the present German organ, which has changed its name to that of "*Bodenreform*."

The *Bodenreform* of May 20 reports the following additional towns as having adopted land value tax: Schmalkalden, Rudesheim, Herford, Witzenhausen and Freiberg, and it says that in fifty towns, or their councils, it is under discussion, and such discussion, with hardly an exception, has ended in our favor. F. BURGENDORFF.

Fred. Skirrow, of Keighly, Yorkshire, was in Manchester last month organizing the great demonstration which took place at the Belle Vue Gardens on June 29d, of which mention will be found in the article by John Paul on another page.

NEW YORK GROCERY CLERKS ORGANIZE.

A REMARKABLE MEETING, WHICH ELICITS UNMISTAKABLE TESTIMONY OF THE SPREAD OF SINGLE TAX DOCTRINES AMONG THE WORKERS — STRIVING FOR RELIEF FROM FEARFULLY OPPRESSIVE CONDITIONS.

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in the most unseasonable May of this year, a crowd of men were gathered in a grimy, ill-lighted hall on 54th Street, near Third Avenue, in the City of New York. The meeting consisted principally of young men, country boys, who had come to the city from their rural homes, from Ireland or Germany. They occupied long seats which were placed across the room at intervals. Upon a raised platform at the end of the hall stood a desk and a chair for the use of the chairman and on either side, placed against the windows, were desks for the secretaries. A sign, reminiscent of the signs which one sees outside grocery stores, read "Persons wishing to join the Grocery Clerk's Union enroll here."

This meeting was interesting as illustrating the inception of many similar movements which have seriously and favorably affected the well-being of the laboring masses of the city. It is often said that unions are organized by the men to enable them to tyrannize over their employers, but this was the beginning of a union, and even the most unfriendly critic would find it difficult to deny that the purpose at which it aimed was worthy of support by every citizen who believes in bettering the condition of his fellow men. The union was organized not to advance wages, not to restrict employment to its members, but simply to ask for living hours of labor. The present condition compels the majority of the men who are working in grocery stores to work from six in the morning until nine at night, winter and summer, with the exception of Saturday night, when they work until midnight or one o'clock, according as the stress of business demands.

Not alone were the employees protesting, but there appeared with them many of their employers, anxious to be relieved from the strain of keeping their stores open so late, for the employer or capitalist is almost as badly hurt by this system as the employee. The organizers had invited to address the meeting John S. Crosby, H. Robinson, Abram Abrams, of the Central Federated Union; John J. Murphy, J. P. Kelly, of the Letter Carriers' Association; Timothy Murphy, a grocer, and some of the officers of the Manhattan and Bronx Retail Grocers' Association.

The speeches were extremely interesting, especially to a Single Taxer. With the exception of the representatives of the Central Federated Union, who urged the men to place their main reliance upon organiza-

tion and did not otherwise refer to economic remedies, all the other speakers urged upon the men present the importance of viewing their troubles from the standpoint of the general condition of labor which could only be bettered by the destruction of land monopoly.

The Chair was taken by a Mr. D. H. McLain, who read a letter of regret from Henry George, Jr., and who affirmed his belief in the principles enunciated by the late Henry George as the only cure for the evils they were suffering from. Mr. McLain is a man who, from being an employee, has become an employer, and is still sympathetic with the men in the ranks, and he promised to do everything that he could to help their cause. Mr. J. S. Crosby spoke at considerable length, pointing out such unreasonable hours invaded the sacredness of family life and made it impossible for men to maintain those relations with their wives and children which civilization and humanity alike require. He showed the men that they were oppressed by the same conditions that oppressed their brethren everywhere and that only by restoration to the people of their fundamental rights in the land could men be able to understand and enjoy the full products of their toil. He was followed by Herman Robinson, who detailed at considerable length the efforts which had been made to bring a few inhuman and grasping employers to a realization of the responsibility which they were assuming in preventing the reduction of the hours during the summer time from fifteen to thirteen. Mr. Abram Abrams spoke at length and very eloquently on organized labor, and said he would recommend to the Central Federated Union that its members be advised to avoid stores which kept open later than seven in the evening. Mr. J. J. Murphy told of his own experiences in the business many years ago and how it enabled him to understand and sympathize with the men who were struggling for better working hours. Mr. Kelly, of the Letter Carriers' Association, told of the struggle which the letter carriers had made to improve their condition and how as the result of its success letter carriers had devoted the spare time which their shorter hours had given them to self cultivation in many directions. They had organized a fine band and individual members had studied for and been admitted to the professions. Mr. Timothy Murphy, a grocer, made one of the most effective speeches of the afternoon and declared himself entirely in accord with the idea that relief to labor would only come by the recognition of the rights of men to the earth upon which they lived.

Officers of the Manhattan and Bronx Retail Grocers' Association expressed their sympathy with the efforts of the men to shorter hours of labor, and the meeting adjourned after resolutions of thanks had

been proposed and carried to the men who had made the various addresses. The significant feature of the gathering was the impression which it gave of the widespread knowledge of the Single Tax theory among laboring men generally.

The whole spirit of the occasion was one calculated to encourage Single Taxers, and there seemed to be excellent reason for believing that the Union would accomplish the purposes of the organization, and in its work we bespeak for them the sympathy and co-operation of other Single Taxers. Even thirteen hours a day in a store is a long time and it is to be hoped that it will soon be reduced. No one will be inconvenienced, because when people know that they cannot procure supplies after a certain hour they will secure them before, and thousands of our fellow citizens will have two hours more to give to self-instruction and to civic advancement.

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

At Springfield, Ill., a pulpit was occupied on Sunday evening, and an address dealing with the moral phase of economic study and practice was given. Especially was it urged that the development of Christian character is rendered needlessly difficult by the pagan public and social arrangements by which we are surrounded. If we would truly make men better we must correct industrial injustice, and this injustice results wholly from mistaken application of political authority.

Pekin, Ill., has a clear headed man at the head of its school system who is earnest to present sound doctrine. If the pupils and people do not profit by his advice it will not be because of faulty instruction. The meeting was interesting.

Crown Point, Ind., had a good address according to report. They seemed to anticipate something beyond ordinary people, but upon discovery that Single Tax men are just human beings became quite friendly.

An excellent meeting was held in Milwaukee, Wis., the address being before the Knights of Columbus, nearly all of whom are actively engaged in business pursuits. They have a fuller realization of conditions than their votes would indicate.

On February 19th, an address was given before the National Convention of Women Suffragists at Chicago. It is not held that any one's opinion was changed—that were too great a claim—but the ladies were very cordial.

At Waukesha, Wis., the Y. M. C. A. was visited, and an excellent meeting was held.