

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

Although its work has never been confined to promotion of the more especial object of its organization, but has always embraced as far as practicable whatever activities seemed to make for civic righteousness, The Women's National Single Tax League had its origin in the desire to interest the women of the land, particularly those of Club affiliations, in the philosophy of Henry George.

While attending a convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs at Denver in 1898, a Single Tax woman of Washington, D. C., listened to delegates discussing almost every subject of importance, except the very one which she naturally regarded as the most important of all, the Single Tax. On her return to Washington, she called attention of the Single Tax women of that city, who were then members of a club composed of both men and women, to the lack of Single Tax interest and influence among the federated women's clubs, as evidenced by what she had observed at Denver. It was thereupon decided to organize The Women's Single Tax Club of Washington, with a view to its affiliation with the local federation of women's clubs. The Club was accordingly organized, in October, 1898, and in due season made application for admission to the Federation of Women's Clubs of the District of Columbia, but was rejected on the ground that it was a political club.

Thereafter, at a meeting of the Club held in August, 1899, a committee was appointed to draft and send out a circular letter inviting Single Tax women of the United States and Canada to a conference in Washington, to consider the advisability of forming a national organization of Single Tax women. The conference was held February 8th, 1900, and was attended by representatives from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the District of Columbia. After a session of two days, at which Miss Bessie A. Dwyer presided and Miss Gertrude Colles acted as secretary, The Women's National Single Tax League was organized,

with Mrs. John S. Crosby, president, Miss Bessie A. Dwyer, vice president; Miss Coline B. Currie, recording secretary; Miss Helena Mitchell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, treasurer. Mrs. Crosby continued to be president until 1906, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan, of Brooklyn, who was succeeded in 1909 by Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, of Orange, New Jersey. Mrs. Crosby was again chosen in 1911, and also in 1912, when the name of the organization was changed to The Women's National Single Tax Committee.

The league had no meeting in 1901, but since then has held a convention for three days in each year, as follows: 1902, New York City; 1903, New Haven; 1904, St. Louis; 1905, Philadelphia; 1906 and 1907, Brooklyn; 1908, Orange, New Jersey; 1909, Arden, Delaware; 1910, New York City; 1911 and 1912, Washington, D. C.

In addition to the work at these conventions, which have been well attended not only by delegates but by the general public, and which have been addressed by many men and women of note, the League has distributed Single Tax literature, furnished lecturers to associations desiring to hear them, given such encouragement as it could in support of Single Tax periodicals, promoted the formation of women's Single Tax clubs, and helped to secure for them and the cause they represent that recognition which they are now generally accorded by the various Federations of Women's Clubs throughout the country.

OFFICIAL BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

(See frontispiece.)

MRS. JOHN S. CROSBY.

Bertie Mellen (Mrs. John Sherwin) Crosby, president of the League, was one of the organizers and for several years president of the Woman's Henry George League of New York city, and has been for seven terms president of the Woman's