

The Single Tax Review / Spring, 1906

The Editors

NEW JERSEY STATE CONVENTION OF SINGLE TAXERS. A FORMIDABLE ORGANIZATION IN NEW JERSEY READY FOR MORE.

A large and enthusiastic convention of Single Taxers of the State of New Jersey was held in Newark on Tuesday, March 20th. Geo. L. Rusby, of Nutley, was elected President, and Matthew T. Gaffney, of Newark, Secretary and Treasurer. Three Vice Presidents were elected as follows: John Moody, Arthur C. Pleydell and Chas. Hecht. Nearly every county in the State was represented.

The actual business of the convention occupied but little time, for few differences developed, and there was perfect unanimity as to candidates selected to represent the movement before the people of the State. The time was, therefore, chiefly taken up by discussions as to the progress of the cause in New Jersey and throughout the country.

Mr. Rusby, the temporary chairman, said in opening the meeting:

"To comprehend the Single Tax idea," he concluded, "is to understand the vital relation between the cause and effect in social and political affairs, and it is this knowledge that places upon Single Taxers the responsibility of guiding the present rising tide of popular discontent into safe and adequate Arthur C. Pleydell, of Plainfield, who followed Mr. Rusby, said that he considered the present system of taxation idiotic.

"As practiced in Camden to-day," he added, "the tax on personal property put a tax on living and makes the honest man a sufferer, as we are endeavoring to find the value of a man's personal property by going around asking how many watches and how much jewelry, etc., he owns. This system is the easiest of all methods of taxation to attack. What we need to do is to get the people talking taxation, and the people are ready to listen to any talk on taxation at the present time. This is because the railroads and public service corporations have so battered and banged them that they have awakened to the fact that they are not getting their dues from these corporations in the matter of taxes, so that now the

people are ready and willing to discuss a problem that ten years ago would have been considered too radical for serious thought."

John Moody, who introduced a Single Tax plank in the Democratic platform at the Democratic conference held at the New Auditorium in the afternoon, but which was defeated, declared that the time is passed when the Single Taxer should stand on the outside of all party affiliations because they would not adopt a Single Tax platform.

"If we wish to have our cherished hope realized we must go right into a political party, take possession of it, and then force them to stand by our measures," he declared. "That's what we are doing in Union County. In the Democratic party we will go in for a Single Tax platform at the next election, and by this radical move we will gain votes and win out.

"I am positive that we do not comprehend the magnitude of the Single Tax sentiment in the minds of the people. Some are afraid to express their views, but if we can once get Single Tax into an active political party we will then bring out the true sentiments of the people, and then, and only then, we will win that for which we have been so long battling."