

one made slaves of men. The others ate the fat of sacrificial lambs while meting heaven's mercies out for gold.

Now in the light of later days, when men may better understand the Gentle Nazarine, nor fear to think, lest thought be treason to a king or hereay to God, let reason pass upon the claims and abstract shown, of title to the land, the ethics of man's right to lands or goods.

God grants unto the king, the king to viscount, earl or duke, and they to lesser lords, to knights and squires and to retainers bold. The kings first seizin was the livery of hell. The priest poured devil scented oil upon the tyrant's head. The other grants were paid in blood, to moat the royal castle walls.

The robber barons took by might the lands and harvests, from the sons of toil, who felled the forests and reclaimed the earth from desolation wild, who tended herds and plowed and sowed, and earned the bread they ate, with honest sweat, and had the title toil alone can give to betterments of land and products of the earth. The barons gave broad acres to the priests for abbey lands, and fed them from

#### EGYPTIAN POTS OF STOLEN FLESH,

and merry made with wine from grapes, that Sorrow's feet had trod."

The following with its special application of legal terminology is very happy :

"Omitting vested rights and vested wrongs, and ills of quick transition times to better days, what is the true, humane and just estate in land, the ethics of man's title to the earth or right to use the light and air or ought that God has made? Man wants, the Earth supplies, the land is his. He sees, his eyes give right and

#### EASEMENT TO THE LIGHT.

He breathes, his breath's allodial title to the air. Necessities make nature's laws, establish rights that man cannot alien by force of even democratic law. A Shylock bond for pound of flesh, or sale of self to peonage, aliening necessary rights which leave our children slaves, for want of them are contracts *ultra vires*."

Here follows the statement of principle :

"The light and air and land are man's to hold in common for the good of all. The dog owns not the hay that fills the manger and the man owns not of Nature's store what he can never use, nor can exclude from inherent rights to share in nature's bounties free to all. Yet man the Pharisee would sell the light of day, God's smile; the summer breeze, God's kiss, for title deeds convey not plains but solid geometric shapes from central earth to vault of blue. The things man makes are his, at least while nature offers from her full supply the raw material that all men need."

Then after a necessarily less poetical exposition of the method to be pursued, the

author continues. The rhymed portion is especially good :

"We ask not charity from plundering hands, nor restitution of the booty taken. Restore to man his present rights, his equal share of public wealth and nature's bounties, and protect him from monopoly's false claims. But agitation 'gainst such wrongs disturb the public mind and lead to anarchy and strife. Nay—agitation's life, stagnation's death.

The sluggish stream, and stagnant lake,  
That slumbrous lie, and ne'er awake

To agitations wild,  
Are spawned with filth, malarial death  
By fell disease, lurks in their breath  
So orthodoxy mild.

But rebel brooks that tumbling brawl,  
At every gorge and waterfall,  
In pools pelucid lie ;  
And oceans by perpetual flow  
From moon wrought tides, and winds that  
blow,

Their own depths purify.

For public good at country's call the  
mother gives her son, the wife her husband,  
as an offering to

#### THE BLOODY GOD OF WAR.

and if not freely given then the nation takes.

Where every manly life is subject to the country's call, and right of one to live may be denied for good of all, what is the mystery that makes the laws of property perpetual, though wrong, and brands as outlawed anarchists the man who dares to speak for right?

Truth never fears the light, but error hides in darkness, shrieks 'gainst the light of reason's torch and calls it brand of anarchy.

A man should give to men a *quid pro*. consideration full, for all that he receives and, who gives none, but sells to Heaven's donees their own free gifts from Great Jehovah's hand, defrauds his brother man and slanders God."

#### News—Domestic.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO—(Special Correspondence.—G. J. Foyer.) On Jan. 8th there assembled a body of earnest men in the rooms of the Chicago Single Tax Club, and after much deliberation there was formed the Illinois Non-Partisan League for Home Rule in taxation. A charter for the organization was quickly secured and the following officers elected: Thomas Rhodus, President; Chas. H. Hartman, Vice-President; G. J. Foyer, Secretary and M. J. Rowan, Treasurer. Bylaws giving a wide scope to the League were adopted, and the officers proceeded to action. An advisory board of vice-presidents consisting of the leading banker, manufacturer, merchant or farmer of every community in the State of Illinois

will be appointed and made president of his local board. The duties of these vice-presidents is to form organizations in their respective localities for local option in taxation. Certificates of appointment to each of the 2,000 vice-presidents of the League, together with application blanks for those who wish to join the League, will be mailed as soon as it is deemed advisable. A carefully prepared notice is to be mailed to the vice-presidents defining the position they should take in regard to making their town or county the best possible for the residents thereof, so as to encourage that kind of industry to which their locality is best adapted. The 200 editors of the largest dailies throughout the state are printing letters on the Single Tax, its relation to the farmer and the business man, showing the need for local option in taxation. Together with this combination the Chicago Single Tax Club will proceed to political action, and while the state is crying for home rule in taxation, the political movement will be crying for the Single Tax in Chicago. Thus the most carefully conceived scheme to carry the Single Tax in Illinois is rapidly taking shape. It is only a question of a short time when the vice-presidents throughout the state will be organizing for home rule in taxation. The letter-writing corps will be mailing their letters to the newspapers in the state and the Single Tax party will be standing for the Single Tax, all operating in a coherent body independent of one another with their "mother," the Chicago Single Tax Club, directing their every move. Our representative in going through the State of Illinois is constantly calling upon the newspaper editors, and many of these have consented to represent the League for home rule in taxation in their locality. When it is realized what force and impetus this will give the movement, none can doubt that the most practical scheme to bring about the Single Tax has been solved by the club. The Chicago Single Tax Club holds no meetings for the discussion of the Single Tax, but a regular meeting of its members assemble to discuss ways and means to further its adoption. The public are not invited to these meetings which are held in the office of the club. I believe the club will never hold meetings again to propagate the faith, and I also believe that the majority of the club are convinced that this is not the way to accomplish our ends. Fifteen years holding meetings in Chicago and a trial of the political movement was all that was necessary to prove the course that we should take. The club is not trying to capture the whole United States; our efforts are confined to the City of Chicago and, incidentally to the state. In the last number of the REVIEW it will be noticed that the different correspondents representing various localities take no part in politics, and have nothing to report as progress. Ernest Crosby discusses a point so fine that none but a microscopic eye can detect it, and when it

is made so large that all can see it, we find the same old story in "Progress and Poverty." In this issue it will also be noticed that another hair is being split on interest. Let us get the Single Tax upon the value of land, and all these minute difficulties will vanish. This beating around the bush looking for a new diversion can accomplish nothing.

MASSACHUSETTS.—(Special Correspondence.—Eliza Stowe Twitchell).—The advocates of the Single Tax in Massachusetts, have by no means grown lukewarm in their faith, or weak in their belief that the coming of the kingdom is steadily approaching; yet little is now being done here by way of open and progressive work.

Our chief difficulty lies in overcoming the general indifference of the public to an interest upon economic subjects.

The mass of people believe that with the death of Henry George died the life of the movement; but not so those who have grasped the meaning of the great reform which his name symbolizes. They realize the tremendous import of those doctrines, and the enthusiasm by which its advocates are actuated.

Reforms do not run themselves; yet the truths they represent once promulgated, tend to make their way in many forms, and through minds hardly aware how revolutionary are the ideas they are entertaining. Just at present, a bill has passed the lower house of our General Court, and is likely to pass the Senate, to tax the South Boston flats, owned by the Commonwealth, and which have long been leased to private individuals for a pittance. The plea is offered, that this is done to obtain more revenue; but the bill is backed up by landlords, whose adjacent land is decreased in value by its proximity to free, or very low rent land.

The same complaint has been made regarding the Quincy and Faneuil Hall Markets, owned by the city, and leased to business men at comparatively lower rents than adjoining property. In a sense, this has little to do with the principles of the Single Tax, because of the exceptional and local character of the proposed change; but it is marked enough to point a lesson regarding the source of this revenue, and the social character of its growth.

Ernest Howard Crosby delivered a most admirable address here in February, before the Walt Whitman Association. There was present a small but progressive and thoughtful audience, among them was the Hon. George Fred Williams, and at the close of Mr. Crosby's address, he made a brief speech, in which he pointed out some of his objections to the Single Tax, declaring that he thought the time had now come to tell the laboring men how they were being robbed.

It struck me that laboring men were already feeling this all too keenly; that the

time was now ripe to tell them how they could put a stop to being robbed. The Socialist was in evidence as usual, with his plea for the overthrow of capitalism. Mr. Crosby delivered the same lecture in Lexington and in Worcester.

An effort is now being made to secure audiences for a week of lectures by Mr. John Z. White. If it fail, it will not be for lack of funds, or of interest in his work; but because of the difficulty of securing audiences on successive nights.

We are, of course, much cheered by the progress of the movement elsewhere, especially in Great Britain. I am told, that Mr. George, before he died, used to say he was not sure which country would be the first to adopt the Single Tax; but should we be plunged in war with a foreign country, that Great Britain would have the honor of coming out ahead of us; for nothing sets back reform, and hinders progress as war or the rumors of war.

NEW JERSEY.—(Special Correspondence.—J. H. R.)—The attention of the public is again being forcibly attracted to the taxation problem through the agitation set into motion by Hon. Mark Fagan, Mayor of Jersey City.

Recognizing that present taxing methods involve great injustice to a large percentage of tax payers, and prompted by a desire to serve the interests of those discriminated against, Mayor Fagan is seeking to enlist the active cooperation of other high officials.

In response to an invitation issued by him to the mayor of every city in the state, a convention was recently held, committees appointed, and considerable enthusiasm aroused.

The principal object sought is the equalization of taxes, as between the railroad corporations and the tax paying citizens at large, it being contended that the transportation companies do not pay their just proportion.

While the motive back of the agitation is undoubtedly commendable, and while it cannot but result in some good, yet one cannot but regret that the excellent channel furnished by Mayor Fagan and his associates is not put to better use. If instead of devoting their energies to the accomplishment of some superficial reform which at best can result in little more than the robbing of Peter to pay Paul they would seek to substitute for present systems (?) one which would involve no robbing at all, the results of their work would be much more commensurate with the effort exerted.

Under the active leadership of M. T. Gaffney, M.D., 211 Plane St., Newark, a man who is a genuine Croasdaler, if ever a disciple of Henry George deserved that title, students of economics have been conducting throughout the past Winter an "Economics Study Club." The class through the kind co-operation of the authorities has enjoyed the privilege of using one of the

rooms of the Newark Free Public Library. Meetings have been held, and are being held every Wednesday evening, and it is possible that, in view of the interest manifested, they may be continued throughout the Spring and Summer. The class is reading "Progress and Poverty," one chapter being read at each session; the meeting then being thrown open to free discussion. Thus far there has been no exception to the rule that the sound of the gong, and the turning off of the gas, have left those present in the midst of a most interesting and usually hot debate. These occasions have furnished most desirable opportunity for advanced economic students to rehearse their parts and improve their facility of expression, and it is, in addition, gratifying to note the increasing number of junior students who, through this medium, are rapidly becoming proficient.

On February 16th, the State Federation of Civic Clubs held its annual convention in Newark. In response to an invitation extended by the President, George L. Rusby was one of the speakers. He read a paper entitled, "The Civic Club—Its Use, Disuse, and Misuse," which has since been published in full in the *Orange Journal*. The speaker sought chiefly to emphasize the importance of the opportunity enjoyed by the average local civic organization. Expressing regret at the fact that these organizations so often deal with superficialities instead of with fundamentals, with trifles rather than with broad truth. He urged upon his audience the importance of studying the great social problems, and referred them to "Progress and Poverty" as a book in which the writer has placed cause and effect in their true relation, and made plain the line of least resistance in solving the serious problems of the day. Mr. Rusby has since accepted the chairmanship of the State Federation's Taxation Committee, and will seek to surround himself with a committee of men with whose aid it will be possible to accomplish some desirable work through the medium of this state organization.

As an indication of the growing interest in the proposition advanced by Henry George, George L. Rusby was invited to address the Church Club of the First Presbyterian Church of Newark. The subject assigned the speaker was "Henry George;" and Mr. Rusby chose as his text: "The Man with a Spiritually Quickened Conscience Makes It a Study to Know What is Right and Just in the Community as Well as in His Personal Relations;" these words having been culled by him from a recent issue of the *New Church Messenger*.

The speaker explained to his audience that instead of devoting the hour to a study of the life of Henry George, he thought it better to explain the proposition which had been advanced by that great man, the principles upon which it rests, and an easy method for its application to modern so-

ciety. The audience listened with deep interest, a proof of which was shown in the fact that a goodly number remained after the meeting had been adjourned, to question the speaker as to such points as had especially appealed to them. Charts were used by the speaker in illustrating and emphasizing the principal points he wished to bring out.

Single Taxers throughout the State are awaiting with interest the arrival of John Z. White from Chicago, for whom it is hoped to make many appointments in New Jersey. If sufficient appointments are secured, Mr. White will devote the entire month of May to the field which New Jersey offers, and as there will be no charge for his services or expenses, tax reformers should actively interest themselves in securing as many invitations for Mr. White as possible.

OHIO, COLUMBUS.—(Special Correspondence.—Frank H. Howe.)—The Winter just passed has not been one of much activity in Single Tax work, yet, the faithful have done well as they had opportunity. The overwhelming defeat of Tom L. Johnson in the fall campaign was like a dash of cold water in the faces of those whose expectations had been raised to a high pitch by the prospect of Democratic control of the Ohio Legislature. It is doubtful, however, if control of the Legislature by Democrats, the large majority of whom were unfavorable to Single Tax, could do as much to further true Democracy as the present Republican Legislature under the control of autocratic leaders is doing.

Feeling sure in the control of the State the Republican leaders for several years past have forced through a policy of concentration of power in the hands of State officers, with a view to controlling local as well as State government, through a thoroughly organized and well disciplined Republican political machine. The working out of this policy was gradual and insidious up to this year, and not clearly perceived by any except students of governmental affairs, but the large Republican majority of last Fall has made them over-confident, and unless the signs fail, they are "riding to a fall."

The last session of the Legislature enacted the Municipal Code, which violated every principle of local self-government, but this Legislature is ripping up the school system, has passed the infamous Chapman bill, doing away with spring elections, so that the election of National, State and local officials shall take place on the same day, trusting to lead the people to ignore local issues and carry local elections on National and State issues. The next official ballot will have more than 240 names on it. How many voters can make an intelligent selection from such a selection of candidates. Rev. Dr. Gladden in a public address said the Chapman bill should be entitled "A bill to

prevent independent voting." Another bill proposes to place the power to grant franchises under the control of a State board. Still another bill proposes to sell the State canals to railroad corporations.

The canals of Ohio have directly and indirectly paid for themselves many times over, and even in their present (purposely) neglected condition are worth much more than their cost as a menace to extortionate railroad freights.

How far the Republican leaders will go toward separating the people from their liberties, their rights and their public property, no one can tell, as they seem to be "drunk with power." One Ohio Senator in voting for the Chapman bill said he was opposed to it, his constituents were opposed to it, but his party demanded it and he must obey, although he believed the party leaders would regret it. Let us hope they may. It seems to an onlooker as though in the death of Senator Hanna the party had lost the only man that could prevent its disruption. Factional fights, quarrels over the spoils, petty jealousies and intrigue seem rampant within its lines.

It is our belief that the Ohio people have been roused, and when they go to the polls again, notwithstanding the perfection of the Republican machine, with its unlimited supply of "golden lubricant" the machine may "slip a cog."

Single Taxers of Columbus are mourning the recent death of Harry I. Abbott, Sec'y of The Columbus Single Tax Club. He has been a faithful worker for many years, and never lost an opportunity to advance the interests of the Single Tax cause. A modest, yet fearless man, quiet and gentle in manner, yet bold in speech. Conscientious, painstaking, persistent and steady in the work of bettering the social conditions surrounding his fellow-man, not only along Single Tax lines, but in every activity of daily life.

His widow, Louise Herrick Abbott, is a Single Tax worker of superior ability and discernment. She has done much educational work through women's organizations and the publication of scholarly and logical papers on the subject.

Individual Single Taxers have not been idle during the past winter. In December, Frank H. Howe gave an address on "Government Ownership of Coal Mines," before the "Men's Club of the First Congregational Church," an organization composed of some 150 of the most prominent business and professional men of Columbus. This club twice a month discusses economic subjects and affords an opportunity for injecting Single Tax argument into the discussions that follow the addresses. Dr. Gladden frequently takes part in the discussions.

The Y. M. C. A. has a "continuous performance" every Sunday afternoon, consisting of debate, concert, lecture and

supper, commencing at 2 P. M. and lasting until 7.30 P. M. Among the subjects debated are "Capital Punishment," "Increase of Crime," "Political Corruption," etc. Two leaders open the debate with ten minutes each, and then the discussion is open to all for forty minutes, with three minutes to each leader for rebuttal.

Frank H. Howe and Ellis O. Jones have each acted as leaders at different times, and while the Single Tax is not mentioned as such, the principles are discussed. These meetings are attended by some two or three hundred young men, and afford a fine opportunity to promulgate Single Tax principles, which Single Taxers have availed themselves of, as well as Socialists, Anarchists and other doctrinaires.

John S. Maclean recently carried away the honors in a series of addresses on Taxation given before the Columbus Board of Trade. There were several speakers, among them County Auditor Jones, Prof. Hagerty, Professor of Political Economy at the Ohio State University, and Sinking Fund Clerk Gemuender.

After the atrocious inequalities and injustice of Ohio taxation had been shown by these speakers and the audience befuddled with intricate and impossible remedies, "Mac." got up and cleared the atmosphere by presenting the Single Tax in a very able address. At its close many questions were put to him, some pertinent and others impertinent (purposely so). Those putting the latter were made "chopping blocks," by the quick witted Scotchman, who answered their questions with darts that pierced their hides, amused and instructed the audience at the same time.

At the close of the meeting the President of the Columbus City Council was overheard to remark "That man Maclean knows more of taxation than all the experts put together."

Mr. Maclean during the Winter has addressed several church clubs and fraternal organizations on Single Tax and debated the question before a farmers' club.

While there has been no organized work on the part of the Columbus Single Taxers for some time past, yet individual workers have not been idle.

WISCONSIN, OSHKOSH.—(Special Correspondence.—John Harrington.)—In the last number of the REVIEW I gave a brief synopsis of recent legislation in this State along the lines desired by Single Taxers. Especial reference was made to the laws extending the list of exemptions. But at the annual meeting of the county supervisors of assessments held at Madison last month, the general line of instructions by the State tax commission to the county commissioners seems to have been to construe the law closely against allowing exemptions. For instance, a piano or other musical instrument is exempt when its

value, added to the other household furniture of the family, does not exceed in all \$200.00. The assessors are instructed carefully to investigate the value of the other household furniture before allowing a claim for exemption of a musical instrument. Thus are great minds and expensive governmental machinery being wasted on petty details. Thus also is shown the bent of those minds that cannot outgrow the old superstition learned in their youth, namely, "the equal taxation of all property."

In a former letter (July, 1902,) I predicted that the present system of forcing the full assessment and taxation of personal property, which was begun only five or six years ago, would result in failure. Already the breaking down process has begun. It is probable that the assessments of personal property for last year and the year before reached the high water mark. There is a growing revulsion against our whole plan of supervision.

Our failure, will, however, be but a repetition of the history of many other States for the past fifty years. And yet the lesson must continue to be taught over and over again, and still our good and well-meaning old fogies will not learn; they probably cannot learn. Like the efforts of old to transmute the baser metals into gold, and later, to construct a perpetual motion machine, so the superstition of "equal taxation of all property," must run its course.

Private property created by individual labor must still be taken for public purposes, because our good old grannies cannot see that the unearned increment, a value created by the public, ought not to go into private pockets. The proposition that nature created a public fund to meet the public expenditures is as meaningless as Choctaw to our honest old fossils. It simply causes their heads to swim and their mouths to drop open to hear it; to try to think about it throws them into a state of mental collapse.

My neighbor who seems to use about the same amount of gas as I use, and whose monthly gas bill is about double in amount, complains vigorously of the injustice of gas meters. But I assure him that he has no cause whatever for complaint; since he believes in taxing citizens according to their ability to pay, while I advocate taxation according to benefits received.

#### PERSONALS.

J. Herbert Quick, of Sioux City, Iowa, who is known to Single Taxers everywhere, and who was once Mayor of Sioux City, has a novel soon to be brought out by Henry Holt & Co., of this city. It is a story of a boom town, presumably Sioux City itself.

The Chicago *Commons*, which ought to know better, refers to the death of Mr. Hanna as the loss of a peacemaker. What kind of peace? The peace of Warsaw?