

which was adopted unanimously: Resolved that the Single Taxers of New York assembled on Washington's Birthday hereby send greetings to the great Commoner of Wisconsin and wish him a speedy recovery.

MARCH DINNER OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

A dinner was given by the Manhattan Single Tax Club at Kalil's Garden, this city, March 16th, at which 174 persons were seated. Mrs. E. M. Murray acted as toastmaster. The speakers were William C. de Mille, author of "The Woman," Mrs. Frederick Nathan, John Moody, and Frank Stephens. Mr. W. C. de Mille spoke of the difficulty of presenting a Single Tax play. Before you can have a Single Tax play that will have any chance of success you must have a Single Tax audience. There must be a responsive sentiment for such appeal; it cannot be created.

Mrs. Nathan spoke on the suffrage movement, and John Moody on the trusts. Frank Stephens, the concluding speaker, gave an eloquent exposition of the Single Tax.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

BALTIMORE.

Councilman Heatwole at the regular session of the First Branch City Council introduced a resolution requesting City Solicitor Field to furnish a written opinion on the taxation of ground rents. The resolution which was adopted read as follows:

Whereas, It is a basic principle of federal, State and municipal government that all citizens shall give financial support to said governments through taxation in proportion to their wealth; and

Whereas, The holder of what is commonly classed "ground rents" enjoys unusual security in his investment, without in any way sharing the burdens of taxation; therefore,

Be it resolved by the First Branch City Council of Baltimore, That the City

Solicitor be and he is hereby requested to furnish this branch with a written opinion, at his earliest convenience, on the following points:

1. Has the city of Baltimore, under general powers granted by her charter, the right to levy and collect a tax on the income accruing from ground rents?

2. In case the city lacks legal authority at present to levy and collect said tax, would it be within the powers of the legislature to grant such authority?

PITTSBURG.

RAYMOND ROBINS, JAMES R. BROWN AND JOHN Z. WHITE IN PITTSBURG—THE BROWN-MERRICK DEBATE LISTENED TO BY 3000 PERSONS—MR. BROWN AT THE NORTHSIDE UNITARIAN CHURCH.

During the last week of January and first week of February the Men's Religion and Forward Movement held an eight day session in Pittsburgh at which Raymond Robins stirred up the Socialists of the Smoky City by declaring that Socialism was "97 per cent indictment of existing conditions, much overstated and doing violence to the truth, and that it was but 3 per cent constructive and that very bum." A clergyman present challenged Robins to discussion which, of course, his several engagements every day while here made impossible. However, a group of socialists became so belligerent in challenging Single Taxers to debate that this challenge was accepted by R. E. Smith a prominent business man, of Pittsburgh, and a debate was arranged between F. W. Merrick, editor of *Justice*, a socialist weekly paper published in Pittsburgh, and James R. Brown of New York, which came off in the Lyceum on Sunday afternoon, February 18. Although but little advertised an audience of 3,000 was present. Single Taxers usually deprecate such debates, and as a rule very little is gained by such discussions. However, political conditions about Pittsburgh and throughout Pennsylvania have driven many into the Socialist ranks who have no knowledge of any other remedy for the economic

evils afflicting society. This was made apparent by the many who frequently applauded the remarks of Mr. Brown and also by the earnest attention given him throughout his entire address by a vast majority of the audience. Of course, there was a group of enthusiastic Socialists that applauded vociferously every point which Mr. Merrick emphasized with vigorous language, but they were in a minority, although four out of five of the vast audience present no doubt classed themselves as Socialists. An encouraging sequence to the debate has been a request from quite a number who were present for Single Tax literature. A basket collection taken realized \$158.00. Mr. Brown addressed the North Side Unitarian Congregation on Sunday evening, breaking in on the regular programme of the evening by taking a part of the pastor's time. In speaking of the Bowery Mission he said that so frequently did the orthodox ministers who addressed the mission read the story of the prodigal son that the 15th chapter of Luke was torn from the Mission bible. Brown was present at the Hungry Club on the 19th and made some remarks taking issue with the speaker of the day.

John Z. White made a number of addresses in Pittsburgh beginning on Wednesday, February 21, at a dinner given by the Rotary Club.

At a luncheon on Thursday he addressed the Credit Men's Association. On Thursday evening he addressed an open mass meeting at Wilmerding. Friday evening he appeared before the Brotherhood of the Second Presbyterian Church of Wilkesburg. On Sunday evening, Feb. 25, he occupied the pulpit of the Northside Unitarian Church.—L. S. D.

NEW JERSEY.

A bill introduced by Assemblyman Chas. O'Connor Hennessy, of New Jersey, permitting every district of the State to adopt its own tax provisions, was considered by the House Committee on the Revision of Laws on March 4th, and its advocates were accorded a hearing.

Joseph Fels, George L. Rusby, John H.

Adamson, and Chas. H. Ingersoll, were the Single Taxers who spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Fels described the operation of the exemption of improvements in Vancouver, which he said had demonstrated the feasibility of such exemption. Mr. Rusby gave a list of the numerous influential bodies that had endorsed the principle of the bill. He was obliged to answer a fusillade of Single Tax questions, for the hearing could not be confined to local option or exemption of improvements, but took a wider range.

Mr. Rusby said in part:

"Those municipalities choosing to exempt personal property and improvements from taxation would alone assume all of the responsibility for doing so, and if the plan should result satisfactorily (as has been the case in every country in which it has been tried), other communities would naturally follow in adopting the same change; if the result should be unsatisfactory, quite naturally other communities would not follow."

W. S. U'REN VISITS CALIFORNIA.

W. S. U'Ren, of Oregon, delivered an address in the San Francisco Building Trades Temple on the evening of Tuesday, February 20, under the auspices of the California League for Home Rule in Taxation. He brought the latest message from Oregon, which is that those who are enlisted in the fight for the people are keeping up their work from year to year, and will continue to struggle for something additional at each election, that will help the cause of political and economic freedom.

Referring to the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court sustaining Oregon's initiative and referendum enactment, the speaker said: "I see the Supreme Court has decided not to stand in your way if you wish to extend the powers of the people in governing themselves. It seems to me that this is prudent as well as good law. You remember what was said by Mr. Dooley on this point. 'As to whether trade follows the flag, I dunno, but it do appear that the