

not assume from this that all these are Georgian Single Taxers. They are still rare. The thousands that can be noted know enough of what the Single Tax means to favor and vote for it.

Our weakness is the many, many thousands who have never even heard of the Single Tax. Just recently a clergyman of average intelligence, forty years old and fifteen years in his profession, after listening to a discussion of the question told a friend that that was the first time he had ever heard it mentioned. If this man, presumed to be above the average in intelligence, never heard of it before we may rest assured of a great host like him. We are trying to impress these facts continually upon the working Single Taxers of the State, trying to make men realize that it is not opposition that they have to contend with but ignorance. Ignorance and lack of information, and there is only one cure for that, and that is to give the people a chance to learn. Only today a well informed Labor leader holding a very responsible place in the movement and who favors the Single Tax, asked me if the Single Tax were in operation in Texas today how it would help the working girls employed in a certain institution he named. The question coming from a friend indicates the hard road yet to be travelled.

We are laying our plans today for effective political action in 1924. There are five or six congressional districts in the State that can easily be made debatable ground. We are trying to get men in each of these districts big enough for the job to start a campaign in their respective districts for Single Tax and free trade, making this campaign run through the next two years. They will not be avowed candidates for Congress until the proper time arrives, but they will have laid the foundation for making a successful issue in their respective districts, and they will have reinforced the Single Tax work tremendously.

A movement of this kind cannot be hurried although when the time is ripe for final action it will seem to come like a sudden impulse, but the real work will have been done long before. It is hard to hold Single Taxers or any other group together on a long, hard drive. Chambers of Commerce are held together easily because there is something new and different coming up all the time. Nothing of very great importance is accomplished, but enough doing to retain interest, and enough hope held out to retain membership.

It is quite different with a single proposition program, that must finally depend upon popular vote. 2% of our population are new voters each year. A new crowd is rushing on you all the time. You must retain the ones you have gained and yet add others. It is a heart-breaking proposition for those responsible except that the result will be so vitally worth while to the world.

This will give you something of the Texan programme. I am but reinforcing previous reports in the hope that it may prove a helpful suggestion to others. I wish I could give some of our political plans more in detail, but that is

obviously unwise. Our hope is to continue along these lines until Texas writes the Single Tax into the constitution.

WM. A. BLACK.

## Wisconsin

WILLIAM KIRSCH, research assistant with the State Department of Markets, recently led a discussion at the capitol before a group studying agricultural conditions which shows how different is the view with regard to taxation of farmers in the middle northwest from that entertained by the farmers in New York State.

Mr. Kirsch contended that prosperous conditions for the farmers depend largely on the buying power of the general public, and that consequently the farmers should look upon the wage earners not as natural enemies, but as allies, and farmers should be happy when wages are high, for that means that their principal customers are well paid and prosperous. Mr. Kirsch also showed that the toll taken from the people through transportation and all public utility monopolies is what robs both wage earners and farmers. He showed that the largest toll-takers, through unearned increment, are the men and corporations who monopolize natural resources, the land, the coal, iron, copper, lead and oil deposits, timber, water power, dockage and wharfage facilities, and choice business locations. The mere ownership of these things permits the taking of toll to the extent of millions of dollars yearly for which nothing is returned of value.

This view is entertained by a large portion of the State officials and the leaders in farm organizations.

How different this view is from that entertained by Silas Strivings, of the Farm Bureau Federation, of New York State. Mr. Strivings is advocating the repeal of the full crew bill, to help the railroads to make still larger profits on their watered stock. He has declared himself opposed to farmer representation on the Federal Reserve Board, and his general attitude shows that he believes that low wages would be a boon to the farmers.

The leading candidate talked about for Secretary of State by the progressive wing of the Republican Party, is Herman L. Ekern, who is a good Single Taxer. So, as your readers know, is Lieutenant-Governor Comings, who will run again for the same office. CHESTER C. PLATT.

## Progress In Canada

OUR campaign for signatures to the Tax Exemption petition, made during the closing months of last year, has given our Association a prominent place among the activities of Toronto.

One of the results, a most important one, has been the interest shown by university students in the Henry George teachings on political economy.

The nestor of our movement in Canada, W. A. Douglass, and one of the youngest men in our ranks, for his years, has had several classes of students at his home, where im-

portant truths, so conspicuous by their omission from official text books, have been given, and eagerly appreciated by these coming leaders.

At present we are busy raising a large fund for this year's campaign. In all probability it will be necessary to issue a mandamus, compelling the Toronto City Council to take action after our petition is presented, so that the Tax Exemption by-law be submitted to the ratepayers for their decision.

This fund will defray the cost of securing about 2,000 more signatures to our petition and other necessary incidentals.

Though R. Honeyford is not on our City Council this year, he is taking a keen interest in association with A. W. Roebuck in preparing our case.

The Toronto Branch of the National Progressive Party, with Single Tax as a plank of its platform, has had a number of parlor meetings preparatory to a more complete organization.

Several well known professors of Toronto University are prominent in this movement, also a number of Single Taxers who naturally desire to assist the Progressives in the Federal and Provincial areas.

A recent letter from Premier Drury—an outstanding Single Taxer—addressed to the Toronto Progressives, strongly commends the formation of similar clubs in other Ontario urban centres.

News comes from Victoria, B. C., to the effect that should the City Council there revert to taxing improvements, in accordance with a by-law recently passed, the opponents of this plan will submit a plebiscite to the ratepayers. S. T.

## Meeting of the National Executive Committee, Single Tax Party

ON February 27 a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Single Tax Party met at the Philadelphia headquarters, 842 North Broad street. There were present Messrs. Robinson, Macaulay, Haug and Dix of Pennsylvania, Messrs. Wallace and Loew, of New Jersey, and Messrs. Geiger and Miller, of New York.

Mr. Wallace presided. The affairs of the movement were discussed. The possibility of having an international conference of Single Taxers in Geneva or London this Summer was a matter for discussion. No official action was taken looking to preparations for such an event. Personally, however, those present, among whom were visitors not members of the Executive Committee, Messrs. Schaeffer, Wingert, Davis and others showed great interest.

## Omnipresent

THE conference for progressive political action met in Chicago in February. The N. Y. Times commenting editorially—and with its usual flippancy—says “of course, delegates of the Single Taxers were present.”

## CONTRIBUTED

### Economic Fundamentals

1. LAND is the natural resource, the *cardinal* prerequisite, from which all life comes forth, and by which life in its varying cycles is sustained.

2. LIFE is essential to the generation, the expression and the operation of mind.

3. MIND is the life-force which initiates and directs all governable energy.

4. HUMAN ENERGY, expended either mentally or physically, constitutes service or labor.

5. LABOR applied to land or its products, when wisely employed, produces wealth. Its return is wages, salaries or fees.

6. WEALTH is the product of labor applied to land. When labor employs capital to assist it, labor's efficiency may be greatly increased. Labor earns its return in wages, plus a profit to the capitalist, *before* payment of wages is made, or no increase in Wealth is possible.

7. CAPITAL is the unconsumed portion of the surplus wealth that labor has produced, which labor actively employs in increasing its productive power in the processes of production and exchange. The increased production resulting from the use of capital allows added wages to labor, and profits to productively employed capital.

8. WAGES, salaries and fees for services rendered, are the returns to labor. Their aggregate amount depends wholly upon the margin of production unabsorbed by interest and ground rent.

9. INTEREST is the return for capital loaned. Its per cent. of return depends upon the margin of production unabsorbed by wages and “ground rent.”

10. ECONOMIC RENT, “ground rent” or “land value,” is purely a socially produced value. It is that value incident to land locations, and arises in proportion as populations increase or concentrate. It accurately measures public services enjoyed by or available to holders of locations. The proportion of the total wealth produced in a nation that is absorbed by ground rent, depends upon the relative scarcity of available locations. Capital and labor can get only what is left *after* ground rent has taken its share. Ethically, ground rent belongs to the public producing it.

11. UTILIZED LAND and labor, supplemented by productively employed capital, are the three sole factors of wealth production.

12. ETHICS demand that, with as much accuracy as may be practicable, privately produced values should in undiminished measure go to their producers, and that, likewise, publicly produced values should go to the public producing them. No other basis of wealth distribution can be strictly honorable or permanent. K. P. ALEXANDER.

THE old parties seem unreal. We want a new inspiration in politics.—LORD ROBERT CECIL, 1921.