

taken at the different reclamation points. It would be a splendid thing if Mr. Swanton could deliver this lecture all over the country. It is a very vivid illustration of how the government can assist its people in getting real homes. Says Mr. Swanton:

"The average income of the government employee in Washington, counting all from the President to the volunteer workers at \$1 a year, is less than \$100.00 a month, or \$1,200 a year, while the average income from more than 25,000 farms on the government projects is about double that amount, or about \$200 a month. Besides the farmer has his own home, and most of his food, and does not have to worry about the cost of living."

The lecture illustrates another thing, which is that every improvement made anywhere by the government, or the individual is reflected in increased land values. The territory irrigated by the Roosevelt Dam was worth about \$2,500,000 before the dam was built. Now the assessed value of the property in that same territory is \$72,000,000. Of this value \$40,000,000 is land value, \$12,000,000 improvements and the remainder personal property.

The cost of the dam, by the way, was \$3,500,000. This makes the land value equal to the value of the dam, the improvements and the personal property. To whom, would you say, does this land value in equity belong?

A HOUSING PROBLEM

An interesting discussion took place one evening last month at a meeting of the Single Tax Association, between Major Potter of the War Department, and John Z. White, of Chicago. The question was as to what should be done about the housing question in Washington. Major Potter has worked out a plan by which the government is to build temporary and permanent buildings, and rent them to the government clerks, saying that it would be impossible for the private contractors to build homes because of the scarcity of material and the high prices.

Mr. White in answer to this said that while it may be true that under present conditions a government building plan would be the only remedy, the real fault was in the chronic over-crowding of this city, and every city, due to the inflated value of all city land, and the unjust system of assessing taxes against houses when they were constructed. He pointed out that if it had not been for the prohibitive land values there would be ample housing accommodation now in Washington to take care of the increased population. He also pointed out that if it was not for land speculation which has made the land from Washington to Baltimore almost a barren waste, dozens of little towns would be scattered about within easy reaching distance that could very well take care of any overflow.

I might add that the worry and excitement of the war has caused no cessation in Single Tax propaganda activity in Washington, and that real effective work is being done.

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR

This was the slogan of one of the most enthusiastic Single Tax gatherings held in Washington for a long time. The purpose of the meeting was to listen to an

explanation of the California situation by J. R. Hermann, of the Great Adventure.

The hall was crowded, and a number of members of Congress and some of the most prominent Single Taxers in the city were in attendance. Mr. Hermann, who is a splendid orator, gave a stirring address. He told why it was that the prospects are so good for putting over a straight Single Tax measure this coming November. He said that the war had jolted the people out of their old habits of thought and action; that they were becoming used to radical action, that they were impressed with the idea that food will win the war, and that they were beginning to realize—as never before—that food can come only from the land. Finally, he said, that the people of California are becoming convinced that if the nation can conscript men to fight in the trenches in France it can conscript the idle acres to help feed them.

At the conclusion of the address, about two hundred dollars were raised within a few minutes, and many signified their intention of supporting the movement with regular contributions. Some of the more prominent citizens who contributed to the fund were Judge Lawrence Becker, solicitor of the Treasury, Arthur P. Davis, Director of the Reclamation Service, Geo. P. Hampton, editor of the *Farmers Open Forum*, H. Martin Williams; Jennie L. Munroe, former member of the Fels Fund Commission, Walter I. Swanton, E. J. Dakin and a number of others.

If Mr. Hermann can continue the success that he had in Washington, the Great Adventure will have ample funds to carry on a vigorous campaign, and the backing of sufficient nation-wide public sentiment to give it a good chance of success.

Mr. Hermann will speak in many places in New York city and vicinity and will soon start for the West, visiting Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Omaha, and other cities. He will also tour Canada. Appointments may be made with Mr. Hermann by writing to Single Tax Party headquarters, 246 West 14th Street, N. Y. City.

B. F. LINDAS.

Single Tax Party Activity in New York

THE Single Tax Party of this State has started to secure petitions nominating a full State ticket for the Fall elections. In connection with this work Mr. James A. Robinson, of Philadelphia, is making a lecture tour of the State. A meeting at Middletown was the first to be addressed. At Grace Church parish in that city over fifty persons paid admission. It is the intention of the lecturers of the party to charge a small admission fee, and the experiment seems to have proven a success from the start. There were two meetings in Middletown, where Single Taxers have preached the gospel these many years. The reception to the party idea was instantaneous and emphatic, and the two meetings were given generous space in the news columns of the *Argus* and the *Times-Press*.

A lecture at the Poughkeepsie Y. M. C. A. auditorium,

at which Horace Sague presided, though not so successful in point of numbers by reason of the presence of counter attractions on that evening, gained also its share of newspaper publicity, and here, too, party organization was effected, the work now being in charge of such well known Single Taxers as W. J. Bolton, Rev. Frederick S. Arnold, W. C. Albro and others.

In Suffolk County the movement for Single Tax party organization has been started. Mr. Reis spoke at Rockville Center to the women voters. Mrs. Wilmer R. Kearns presided and noted the desire of the audience to learn more of the Single Tax. This place is the home of George Wallace, the party candidate for governor, whose illness has retarded the work in Suffolk County, but the prospect of a course of lectures in the county is excellent. Here, too, the part idea is finding root.

In Schenectady, Hudson, Kingston and other cities covered by Mr. Reis and Mr. Robinson new recruits for the party were secured. In Hudson, where Mr. Reis spoke, Mr. Lester R. Worthington will take charge of the petitions.

In Erie County Mr. Carl Seelbach will rally the hosts for party action and to Erie must be added the counties of Columbia, Sullivan, Orange, Dutchess and Ulster, where organization work is proceeding. The work will be extended to New York and Brooklyn and near-by counties. In all the counties of the State Single Taxers are urged to get in touch with their County Committeemen, or write to headquarters for information. This work of obtaining signatures to the petitions will require the self-sacrificing labors of all the friends of the movement, and the work offers opportunities for propaganda of real value. Every signer of the petition is a future worker for the Single Tax; strangers may be approached in this way whom to address in any other manner might be deemed an impertinence.

The party is not neglecting other forms of activity to which this kind of organization lends additional force and impetus. Mr. Henry Donovan, in company with Mr. Benjamin C. Marsh, appeared before the Joint Cities Committee at Albany in support of the bill empowering cities to hold a referendum on the exemption of all classes of property from taxation. Meetings under the auspices of the Henry George School of Economics are being held every night in New York City and Brooklyn, and Mr. N. C. B. Fowles is receiving constant invitations to speak at various gatherings. A series of meetings will be held at 187 Broadway, this city, at noon hour each Wednesday, under the Auspices of the *Advance Sheet*, the journal conducted by Mrs. Julia Goldzier, and this will give Messrs. Fowles, Reis, Triner, Burger, Lloyd and Chodorov, who will divide the work here, an opportunity to address many of the progressive women who have been so lately enfranchised. In addition the party will hold monthly dinners at which the work of the new forces in the Single Tax movement will be discussed, and Single Taxers of the city can exchange views. No stone will be left unturned to band the workers for the cause in the city and State into one harmonious body for the work of industrial emancipation as outlined by Henry George in "Progress and Poverty."

New Jersey Organizes for Party Activity

A LARGE gathering of prominent Single Taxers at the residence of Mr. Wm. J. Wallace, president of the Eck Dynamo and Motor Co., 233 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark, N. J., formed a new political party called the "Single Tax Party of Essex County." It was unanimously resolved to place a candidate in the field on a separate party ticket excepting only where candidates of the other parties are in thorough sympathy with the Single Tax and pledge themselves to its support. The following resolution was adopted:

"We, residents of Essex County, N. J., and followers of Henry George, believing that all men are created equal and that they have an equal right to the use of the earth from which they derive their sustenance, shelter and support, and

Believing that the present monopolistic system under which land is held for the private benefit of a few, instead of for the general welfare of all, is unjust and is the cause of the great disparities that now exist between the conditions of the various members of the community, and that it is the basic reason for the present unjust distribution of wealth, and

Believing that the way in which land may be of equal benefit to all is by the government taking the full rental value of all land for its support and for the general welfare, and

Impelled as we are by the necessity of giving our principles political expression and of supporting only such candidates for public office as proclaim these principles during their campaign for such offices, and

In order that when they obtain public office they will be supported in their efforts to put these principles into the statutes of the State by a constituency that has elected them in these beliefs,

Hereby form ourselves into a political party to be known as the SINGLE TAX PARTY, of Essex County, N. J."

Among those present who signed the resolutions were Wm. A. Day, J. E. Stegner, Herman G. Loew, Attorney, J. B. V. Parks, W. J. Wallace, Wm. Boch, Thos. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Marcellus and Mary D. Hussey.

Arrangements for permanent organizations were completed and headquarters centrally located are to be opened. Delegates from Hudson and Bergen Counties were present and reported the formation of similar organizations in their respective counties.

Telegrams of congratulations were read from State Chairmen of New York and Pennsylvania Single Tax parties.

"MUNICIPAL ownership of public utilities" is the slogan of a great drive now being made at Albany, on behalf of the municipalities of the State of New York. We wish we could see in the movement some appreciation of the fact that the light, transit and power services are necessarily but feeders of the great parent monopoly—Land Rent. That lower car fares, lower light and power rates only mean higher rents, is surely by now a truism plain enough for the blind to see.