

First Annual Convention of the Single Tax Party of the United States

AT LAST! A National Convention, free and open! Not run by anybody in particular, but by all present, composed of men and women who would not only die for the Single Tax (after all, we have got to die some time), but would actually vote for it. A real democratic Convention, a really efficient one, presided over by a singularly able chairman, who was the servant, not the master of the assemblage. Nobody with any political irons in the fire, but all seeking for harmony and the greater efficiency that comes from concerted effort, and all animated with one purpose—to bring this question of ours not merely into clubs and lecture rooms, *but to the electorate, by whom alone its permanency can be secured.* To make it a *political question*—that was the one aim on which there should be no compromise. There was another, which was that there should be no deviation from the principle that the land belongs to the people, and that this can be secured by taking the full rentable value of land.

Nearly a dozen States were represented, most of them already organized, others in process of organization. The delegates numbered about seventy and the visitors swelled the attendance to many more.

One regret remains. Many of the old faces were absent. Yet these men will watch with interest what seems to them as yet an experiment. They will not be hostile as the movement gathers strength. It is impossible to think they can remain aloof. They are, most of them, as honest as the men and women who composed this Convention. They have been following a false road and have got lost in the maze. They will find the way pointed out by those whose courage has been equal to the occasion. Some have become apathetic; some have become hopeless, almost. The rising tide of the new enthusiasm will stir them again. Their faith will again quicken. The friends of the Old Guard will be with us—all of them in time.

Yet this is to be remembered. As the REVIEW has contended, this movement must be begun all over again. On June 28 it was started. Future historians treating of the political history of the time, will date the real beginning of the movement from June 28, 1919. The tide that will now impel Single Taxers to political action is irresistible. The response to this splendid manifestation will be immediate, and will be heard from Maine to California. The gathering was not large, nor yet was it disappointing. It could have been swelled to a thousand delegates if work and money had been available. The significant thing is that a representative gathering of Single Taxers was brought together from nearly a dozen States to start a new National Party for the Single Tax, that they all made gratifying reports of the spirit stirring in their respective States, of organizations formed or under way.

When in the campaign of 1897 Henry George called the

second time for volunteers for political action, the situation, locally, at least, bore some slight resemblance to the present. Single Taxers in this city were then playing at politics; some were for Seth Low, some were for Tammany. The Single Tax was being forgotten. The clarion call from the leader roused them from their lethargy, their innocuous political activities, from the play-toys of politics. They sprang to the call, and the Single Tax again made its appeal to the electorate.

Today Henry George is not with us—nor any leader. And they are not needed. The truth is our leadership. The cry of the hungry is our inspiration. The need of this great reform is our overmastering impulse.

The movement has now begun.

THE MORNING SESSION

The morning session was called to order at eleven o'clock by E. Yancey Cohen, who read the following call:

At a recent conference of delegates representing the Single Tax Party organization in the States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, a resolution was adopted approving the formation of a National Single Tax Party and the holding of a Convention composed of delegates from States of the Union in which a Single Tax Party is in existence, and designating the undersigned as a Provisional National Committee with power to issue a call for a National Convention.

Pursuant to the foregoing authority vested in the undersigned as such Committee, it is hereby announced that at 10.30 a.m., on Saturday, June 28th, 1919, at the headquarters of the New York Single Tax Party, No. 246 West 14th Street, New York, a Convention will be held for the purpose of organizing a Single Tax Party of the United States, of electing a National Committee and of transacting such other business as may be brought before the Convention.

Delegates to the Convention must be chosen by the organized States in the proportion of one delegate to each one hundred votes or major part thereof cast for a Single Tax Party candidate at the last State election.

Provision will be made at the Convention for the representation of such States now organized as have thus far not cast votes for a Single Tax Party candidate.

ROBERT C. MACAULEY, CHAIRMAN
Single Tax Party, Pennsylvania

JAMES DANGERFIELD, CHAIRMAN
Single Tax Party, New York

E. YANCEY COHEN, CHAIRMAN
Single Tax Party, New Jersey

LOUIS KRAMER, CHAIRMAN
Single Tax Party, Delaware

Provisional
National
Committee

Mr. Cohen said the New Jersey party went into the political field last Fall, and did fairly well for the first time. It was decided early in the Spring that a formal meeting be called, and this was done at the Robert Treat Hotel, in Newark, on March 29. We had a special reason for calling this meeting in anticipation of the Fall campaign.

It was one of the objects of the meeting to extend the party organization to other States.

Mr. Cohen now read the resolutions adopted at the Robert Treat Hotel extending to Single Taxers in other States the invitation for the formation of Single Tax party organizations.

Mr. Cohen explained that they had secured the services of Mr. Robinson to visit the States of Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and Mr. Morino to visit Rhode Island, in which States party organization had now been effected. Delegates from these State party organizations are with us today.

Mr. Robert C. Macauley was nominated for temporary chairman, and was unanimously elected.

On assuming the chair he expressed his delight at the realization of his hope that such a Convention would be formed and a new party organized. He said that four years ago, with but a few active Single Taxers of like belief, he hardly expected this hope to become a realization. He was proud to address a Convention which marked the beginning of the most important movement for the freeing of mankind.

Mr. Macauley reviewed the course of the past few years. He said the party movement had clarified the convictions of Single Taxers and unified the movement. We had fifty-seven varieties of activities. And the full truth of our doctrine had become obscured in fifty-seven different ways. The Single Tax parties, wherever organized, have demanded that the full rental value of land be taken. Now a little after four years we are organized into a National Single Tax Party, with a dozen States organized. You are making history. You are taking the last step toward the securing the freedom of mankind. Thank God! this is the first practical step that has been taken. Nothing is left for me now but to declare that the first Convention of the National Single Tax Party is open for business.

Mr. Cohen was nominated for temporary secretary, and there being no further nominations the chair declared Mr. Cohen elected.

The Chair now appointed the following Committee on Credentials: Mr. Cairns, for Connecticut; Mr. Loew, for New Jersey; Mr. Baker, for Pennsylvania; Mr. Morino, for Rhode Island; Mr. Bastida, for New York; Mr. O'Neil, for Massachusetts; and Dr. A. W. Plummer, for Maine.

Moved by Mr. Bastida and seconded by Mr. Gallup that all Party members be accorded a vote in the Convention. Mr. Macauley thought the basis of representation should be the Single Tax vote cast in any of the States where campaigns had been made. Mr. Fowles, of New York, explained that in New York State the difficulty in getting on the ballot was almost insurmountable, and that therefore such a basis of representation was unfair to New York Single Tax Party members. For instance, a defective list in one county would nullify the whole body of petitions even though we got fifty thousand signatures. Such a basis of representation as was recommended was unfair, and placed a State like New York at a disadvantage in

comparison with States where a few hundred signatures are all that the law requires. We spent considerable money to get on the ballot in New York, and it is unjust to New York to adopt such a basis of representation.

On motion of Mr. Wallace, after considerable debate, the Convention decided that the basis of representation should be five delegates for each State and one additional for each one hundred votes cast, or fraction thereof.

The following Committee on Rules was appointed: Mr. Mayer of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gallup of Connecticut, Mr. S. M. Morino of Rhode Island, Mr. Haxo of New York, Mr. Bourgeois of New Jersey, Dr. Millet of Massachusetts, and Dr. Plummer of Maine.

The Convention now adjourned at 2.30, on motion of Mr. Reis.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by Chairman Macauley. Mr. Loew, for the Committee on Credentials reported that they had elected Mr. Bastida chairman. The report was as follows: New Jersey having cast 23 hundred votes was entitled to twenty-three votes, plus 5, making 28. New York was entitled to 19 votes, Pennsylvania 28, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine, 5 each. The names of the delegates were now read off by the Chairman of each State delegation.

Carried on motion of Mr. Dix that each State vote its entire delegation.

The report of the Committee on Rules was now presented by Chairman Mayer and adopted.

Mr. Gallup of Connecticut, here moved that the temporary officers of the Convention be made its permanent officers. Carried.

Mr. Bourgeois of New Jersey, Mr. Reis of Pennsylvania, Mr. Fowles of New York, Mr. Haxo of New York, and Mr. Reading of Pennsylvania, introduced resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Resolutions appointed in the same manner as previous committees had been by permitting each State delegation to nominate one member. The Resolution Committee consisted of Mr. Robinson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Cairns of Connecticut, Mr. Bourgeois of New Jersey, Miss Schetter of New York, Mr. Orem of Massachusetts, and Mr. Arthur H. Morino of Rhode Island.

The Committee on Constitution was now appointed as follows: Mr. Miller of New York, Mr. Dix of Pennsylvania, Mr. Gallup of Connecticut, Dr. Millet of Massachusetts, Arthur H. Morino of Rhode Island, and Mr. Loew of New Jersey.

The following Committee on Platform was appointed: Mr. Wallace of New Jersey, Mr. Miller of New York, Mr. Cairns of Connecticut, Mr. O'Neil of Massachusetts, Mr. Robinson of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Arthur H. Morino of Rhode Island.

Mr. Mark M. Dintenfass being introduced as candidate for the Governorship of New Jersey, pointed out the importance of getting busy and doing something at this time

after so long a period spent by Single Taxers in ineffectual efforts to reach the public. He was a believer in publicity. Already the notices the press had given his candidacy were worth thousands of dollars if they had to be paid for. He believed in party activity and in a National party. He was encouraged and optimistic, and he called on every member to work early and late for the success of every Single Tax Party ticket in the field. He was heartily applauded.

Letters of prominent Single Taxers in different States were read commending the organization of a Single Tax Party.

A. J. Orem, of Boston, a Prohibitionist, spoke for the Single Tax Party, and showed how the Prohibition Party had forced its issues into politics. E. M. Caffall of New Jersey spoke, and M. C. O'Neill of Massachusetts electrified his audience by his eloquent and stirring words. Mr. O'Neill was the protege of Father McGlynn and imbibed his early knowledge of anti-poverty doctrine from the lips of that good and great man. All his life he had felt that there would come a revival of the mighty movement that Henry George and Father McGlynn inaugurated and he thanked God that he had lived to take part in the present political party movement which had all the signs of a rapidly growing and triumphant outcome. Mr. O'Neill spoke with wonderful power and deeply moved his hearers by his strong, restrained, yet impassioned words.

EVENING SESSION

The evening session was given up to the reading of the Constitution and debate upon its various provisions.

Mr. Callingham of New Jersey, moved that in place of a two-thirds vote necessary to amend the Constitution, power to amend rest with a majority of those present at a Convention. This was carried.

After general debate on the Constitution, which was read by Mr. Dix, and in which debate Messrs. Reis, Loew, Chodorov, Wallace, Miller and others took part, the Constitution was finally adopted as read, with a few unimportant changes.

Mr. Robinson of Philadelphia, spoke briefly, and Mr. McKnight, also of Philadelphia, spoke and ended by reading some admirable verses of his own composition. Mr. Gallup and Mr. Dix also spoke briefly, as did Miss Sims of New York.

Mr. Wallace offered the preamble presented by Mr. Samuel L. Shoup, of New Jersey, to the Platform which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Haxo of New York, made an appeal for the SINGLE TAX REVIEW and was seconded in a short talk by Mr. Cairns.

Representatives on the National Committee were as follows.

For Pennsylvania: J. A. Robinson, J. H. Dix, R. C. Macauley, Jos. E. Jennings, Jerome C. Reis.

For New York: G. Haxo, Joseph Dana Miller, F. Chodorov, Miss C. O. Schetter, A. Bastida.

For New Jersey: W. J. Wallace, M. M. Dintenfass, E. Y. Cohen, E. J. Jones, H. G. Loew.

For Connecticut: J. Cairns, C. M. Gallup, Mary B. Ely, W. J. Lee, A. H. Batchelder.

For Massachusetts: Dr. Millet, M. C. O'Neil, J. C. Orem, W. R. Orem, W. Crossman.

For Rhode Island: A. H. Morino, S. M. Morino, M. Phillips, J. Kelso, W. H. Fiske.

Delaware and Maine are entitled to representation, but reserve their selection until they have further opportunity to confer with the Party members.

On declaring the Convention adjourned the Chairman expressed his gratification at the success of the Convention. For a long time he had been filled with the desire to see something done, and this day was a reward well worth the waiting.

A meeting of the National Committee was called on the adjournment of the Convention. The officers of the new National Single Tax Party are as follows:

Robert C. Macauley, National Chairman.

W. J. Wallace, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Joseph Dana Miller, National Secretary.

E. Yancey Cohen, National Treasurer.

The following constitute the Executive Committee of the National Single Tax Party, of which the National officers are members ex-officio:

James H. Dix for Pennsylvania.

Antoino Bastida for New York.

Arthur H. Morino for Rhode Island.

John Cairns for Connecticut.

M. C. O'Neil for Massachusetts.

Herman G. Loew and Mark M. Dintenfass for New Jersey.

PLATFORM OF THE SINGLE TAX PARTY, ORGANIZED JUNE 28, 1919

PREAMBLE

ACKNOWLEDGING the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and in order that the Brotherhood of Man may be better expressed in our laws, we, the Single Tax Party, adopt the following platform:

Man is dependent upon the earth, of which his body is made and to which it inevitably returns.

Earth, air and water supply his physical needs. Air surrounds him, water flows at his feet. Earth brings forth abundantly of its products responsive to his will.

When he has access to this source of natural abundance and freedom to retain the products of his industry and skill he is a free man. The essential condition of right human relationship begins in the equal opportunity of all men to the use of land.

In crude civilizations slavery and serfdom were encouraged to obtain the unpaid labor of men. Modern civilizations do not tolerate body slavery or serfdom, but, in their land laws, establish an unjust system that insidiously but effectively reduces many to economic dependence almost as helpless as chattel slavery and quite as intolerable; for a poorly paid and dependent class is inevitably created by obstructions to the use of land imposed by private ownership of land rent.

This cause and taxes on buildings and improvements,

restrictions on trade, as by licenses and income taxes, and monopoly prices on commodities required for housing, building, heating and living, subject to servitude and misery those who are not the beneficiaries of these unjust conditions.

The parent of all monopolies is the private appropriation of the rent of land. Other monopolies exist because this fundamental crime against human rights is permitted to endure.

It is the duty of government to make the right of all men to the use of the earth secure under all changes of social conditions, and to so administer the land and other natural resources of the country that they will be of equal benefit to all its people.

When land rent is privately owned it is legalized extortion, as it is the exaction by an individual of the value of a privilege which he has no right to own; but when it is paid to the nation it becomes the means by which all men share equally in the use of nature and realize many of the benefits of a democratic government.

In order to carry into effect these principles, which underlie the Single Tax, we demand laws appropriating the full rent of land and other natural opportunities to the use of the National, State, County and Municipal governments to be used for governmental expenses and for the common welfare, this rent to be collected on all land according to its rentable value. We demand that no portion of this rent be permitted to remain in private hands.

The rent of land belongs to the people.

Each individual should pay to the community rent for the land he occupies and all should share alike in the benefits accruing from the public administration of this vast fund.

Security of possession is essential to obtain from land the results of one's labors. This security is obtainable under a system which provides for periodical adjustments of the land rent according to the general and well diffused public demand that may exist for its use. The system now used to determine relative land values could be used to determine relative rental values.

Improvements placed upon the land would be salable and would be untaxed.

While we demand that the rent of land shall be devoted to the public use we stand unreservedly upon the right to private property in any product made by man.

We are opposed to taxes on any industrial enterprise or its products, to taxes on buildings or other improvements, to taxes on necessities or luxuries, and to taxes on incomes or inheritances, because some incomes and some inheritances are earned and because such taxes serve no social purpose in securing greater opportunities for labor and capital, and are a violation of the right to property.

The legislation we call for will remove the enormous indebtedness placed on the people by land owners and for which they render no service in return. This debt is the capitalized value of the rent which the community must pay to them for the privilege of living on its own soil.

The legislation we demand will give us all an equal opportunity to supply our needs and to retain and use the products of our labor. It will enormously increase the production of wealth by the removal of burdens which now weigh down industry. It will permit land to be devoted to its best use as there will be no inducement to keep it idle. It will enable all who are willing to work to earn a bountiful living and will remove the fear of unemployment and poverty, and will create a state of society in which there need be no strikes to interfere with the general welfare, because of the unlimited opportunity it would give to labor. It

would eliminate the class spirit and place men in relations of industrial harmony. It will free men from the bondage of excessive toil and will enable them easily to make adequate provision for their old age. It will purify government by giving it an income to which it is justly entitled, thus permitting it to put an end to a variety of unjust and oppressive taxes which violate the right of all men to retain what they have individually produced. It will instill in the people respect and affection for their government, for they will then recognize it to be the instrument by which their rights are established and preserved and under which they can live in peace and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Our government was founded to insure a condition of justice to all its people. Laws which authorize intrusions on individual rights or that permit some to prey on others reflect a debased public conception of human relationships and morals.

We call upon all men who have a love of country in their hearts and a desire that our nation may be established in prosperity and justice and who believe in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, to join this party, take part in its councils and assist in its work; to the end that the principles enunciated in this platform may be established in our laws.

RESOLUTION

FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE NEGRO—INTRODUCED BY MR. READING OF PHILADELPHIA

WHEREAS: America was created to break monopoly, and to set MEN FREE, UPON A FOOTING OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we, the Single Tax Party in National Convention assembled do pledge to the Negro equality of opportunity under the Single Tax, and do guarantee to them the enforcement of all rights guaranteed to all people under the Constitution of the United States.

RESOLUTION

ON PURPOSE AND OBJECT

WHEREAS, The reconstruction made necessary by conditions growing out of the war makes it more imperative than ever that the natural resources of the nation be made accessible to use by the people, and

WHEREAS, Land speculation which is holding idle a large part of our resources causes restricted production and decreases the opportunities for labor and thereby fosters the abnormal shortage of housing with its excessively high rentals, and

WHEREAS, No adequate remedy is offered or suggested by any existing political party, and

WHEREAS, Fundamental reforms can be accomplished only by political action, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we do hereby form ourselves into a National Single Tax Party to carry this great question directly to the electorate, through every resource in our power.

RESOLUTION

ON GENERAL POLICY—INTRODUCED BY MR. REIS OF PHILA.

WHEREAS, We the delegates of and representing the Single Tax Parties of the several States, having been called together in convention and are thus today assembled, and having in mind the extraordinary and critical state of public affairs and noting the existing political parties' utter lack of understanding or deliberate aggravating of the serious political and economic problems confronting our nation, and

WHEREAS, It becomes the duty of American citizens when they differ with existing policies of governmental legislation and administration to strive to bring about their alteration

through the sacred American institution of the ballot, and

WHEREAS, No present political party has a platform or principles that are in the slightest degree common with the views held by the organizations which we represent, and

WHEREAS, Party organization is the tried and accepted method of political action for citizens of a free country holding like views on political matters, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the business of this Convention is the creation and organization of a new national political party to be known as The Single Tax Party, the said Single Tax Party to have for its object the placing of separate and distinct candidates for public office in the political arena in the United States and its political sub-divisions. And be it further

RESOLVED That all candidates nominated for public office by the Single Tax Party shall be pledged to a platform embracing the doctrine that 100% of the rental value of the land of the nation belongs to the people of the nation and that there shall be no taxation or other restrictive regulation on the private enterprise and industry of the people.

AMERICANISM

Be it further RESOLVED That we condemn the activities of those who insist that the structure of our government needs to be altered as a means of procuring economic reform. We hold that the American type of government, though probably requiring some technical minor alteration, is the best yet devised by the mind of man and that any reform no matter how drastic can be obtained through the medium of the ballot. We further hold that our social problems have been created by the culpability or at least the ignorant blundering of administrations elected to office by older political parties and that a political party having knowledge of the true situation and receiving the support of the people can eliminate every crying economic evil.

LABOR

From all over the world come the cries of those who demand that the man or woman who toils shall receive a better share of the world's goods. Nothing less than a just share is demanded. Sometimes they take the form of tremendous labor agitations, sponsored by men blindly groping for a true solution of their condition. These agitations were once foreign to America, because they were unnecessary. America was then the land of promise. We declare that America must once more be put on the road to economic security and liberty. The Democratic and Republican parties stand idly and helplessly by, advocating now and then some innocuous price-fixing or business regulating laws while the Socialist Party openly advances those doctrines which lead to such spectacles as in Russia. Practically nothing is advanced by these older parties as to the millions upon millions of idle acres in our nation, home building acres, mining acres, railroad building acres, forestry acres, docking acres, canal building acres, farming acres, held by land speculators at a hold-up price and which can quickly and readily be forced into use by the taxing power of the government, thus providing untold opportunities for employment directly upon the land or in the businesses created by an increased use of natural resources, which would remove the source of all industrial conflict, namely, competition for opportunities of employment. These idle acres of which we speak are within the city limits of our great cities, or near transportation. We hold that the land which should be forced into use is that which is at or nearest to the centers of our population.

EMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS

We hold that it is the duty of the nation to take steps to provide employment for returning soldiers, those heroic souls who gave the very spirit of America to the world. We demand that immediate steps be taken to throw open the idle lands of all the States to industry. While farming is one of the noblest and most important of industries, yet it is not the sole occupation which America should assist its sons to enter. Ordinary business can take care of every man in the nation if industry is allowed to exercise itself upon the natural resources of city, town and country. We recommend to the attention of every returned soldier that if the lands of every character were put to use, instead of these heroes being compelled to beg for employment, industry would beg for their services. We condemn the policy of the present Democratic administration in suggesting that the swamps and arid deserts of the United States be unloaded on America's defenders, and demand for them that the idle and valuable lands of the States, cities and towns in which they make their homes be opened for their use and occupancy under terms that will prevent land speculation.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Further be it RESOLVED That the Single Tax Party stands committed unequivocally and unalterably to the rights of private property. We condemn the attitude of the Democratic and Republican parties on this question. They continually are sponsors for measures limiting this right. Notably among their recent assaults upon it are the various income and excess profits taxes which so hamper and restrict enterprise. These parties do not differentiate between earned and unearned incomes nor legitimate and illegitimate profits. Their general doctrine seems to be that inasmuch as there are some unearned incomes and some illegitimate profits, all incomes and profits must be taxed and restricted in order not to allow the guilty to escape. We hold that the income tax and excess profits tax are therefore highly immoral and contrary to the best interest of the American people, and maintain that if incomes and profits are earned, they belong absolutely to their owners and that it is morally a crime for even a government to interfere with them. We hold that any unearned incomes or illegitimate profits must be the result of either theft or some special privilege granted to a few over the many, and the Single Tax Party demands the absolute abolition of such thefts and special privileges. Likewise the Socialist Party demands the absolute abolition of practically every form of private property. We maintain that this is even more immoral than the stand of the Democrats and Republicans. We declare that it is not the business of government to take part in the production of wealth, its functions being solely those necessary to secure for the citizens political justice and liberty. We further declare that it is criminal for one part of society to take over the wealth which another element of society had a function in creating and that society as a whole has no rights to any of the wealth created by any of its parts and that the reverse is equally true that individuals have no exclusive right to that which no individual or group of individuals create, namely, the land, the gift of nature to all mankind. We declare that it is the solemn purpose of the Single Tax Party to write into the laws of the United States this principle of justice.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, That we, the delegates representing the Single Tax political party organizations of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Delaware, in Convention assem-

bled at the City of New York this 28th day of June, 1919, do hereby, for our respective organizations, organize a national political party to be known as The Single Tax Party, for the purpose of electing our candidates to office to procure legislation that will place the principles of the Single Tax on the statute books of the United States and the several states of the Union, and we do hereby severally pledge ourselves to support the platform and the constitution that will be adopted at this Convention.

NEWSPAPERS—RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY MR. FOWLES, OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, Certain newspapers, periodicals, magazines and other organs of publicity have manifested a desire for the endorsement of the National Single Tax Party or its members, and

WHEREAS, Perfect unity of action and policy before the public can only be assured by a complete knowledge on the part of the Single Tax Party, of the policy, personnel and financial standing of such organs; therefore,

In order to secure such uniformity of action and policy and to exclude as far as may be any policies inimical to the Single Tax Party on the part of any newspapers, periodicals, or magazines, or other organs of publicity; be it

RESOLVED, That a standing committee of five be appointed to be known as the "Publications Committee," to whom applications for the endorsement of the Single Tax Party or its members shall be made, and

That this Committee shall be empowered to use all necessary means to satisfy itself of the policy, personnel, financial standing and other details of organs applying for endorsement of the Single Tax Party or its membership or appealing for such support; and

That this Committee shall have power to withhold or grant the official approval of the Single Tax Party or its members in the interval between the completion of its investigation and the meeting of the National Committee to which it shall make its report at the first opportunity.

Constitution of The Single Tax Party

ADOPTED AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD IN NEW YORK ON JUNE 28, 1919.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

SEC. 1. The name of this organization shall be THE SINGLE TAX PARTY.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

SEC. 1. Every citizen of the United States who is not affiliated with any other political party or organization, who subscribes to the principles and purposes of The Single Tax Party and pledges himself to further the interests of the Party, shall be eligible to membership in the Party by signing an application therefor, which shall be substantially as follows: "I hereby declare my belief in the principles and purposes of The Single Tax Party and apply for active membership therein; and I hereby pledge my best efforts to further the interests of the Party and agree to abide by its rules and to support and vote for its candidates."

SEC. 2. No person holding an elective public office by gift of any party or organization other than The Single Tax Party, shall be eligible to membership without the consent of his State Committee; nor shall any member of the Party accept or hold any appointed public office, honorary or remunerative (Civil Service positions excepted) without the consent of his State Committee. No member of the Party shall be a candidate for public office, nor shall he accept a nomination for public office from any other political party or organization without the consent of The Single Tax Party committee having jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. A member who desires to transfer his membership from the Party in one State to the Party in another State, may do so upon the presentation of his card showing him to be in good standing at the time of asking for such transfer and also a transfer card duly signed by the Secretary of the local organization from which he transfers.

SEC. 4. Any member charged with disloyalty to the Party or to its rules may be dismissed from membership by a majority vote of the County Committee or by the State Committee after he has been given a fair and just hearing in his own defense.

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.

SEC. 1. The organization of The Single Tax Party shall consist of a National Committee of representatives elected as hereinafter provided, and all regularly constituted State Organizations in each State and Territory of the Union.

SEC. 2. The management and control of The Single Tax Party shall vest in and be administered exclusively by the said National Committee and its Executive Committee and other Sub-Committees and officials in the interim between the holding of National Conventions, and by the National Convention.

SEC. 3. The National Committee shall be composed of not more than five representatives from each State and Territory of the United States in which a regularly and duly constituted Single Tax Party State Organization has been organized and is in existence, which has approved and adopted the platform as formulated and promulgated by the National Convention of The Single Tax Party, and which State Organization has been duly recognized by the National Committee of The Party as one of its integral parts, and the voting power of each State delegation shall be directly in proportion to the highest Single Tax vote cast at the last election or the last State election. Organized States in which no election has been held shall be accorded the same voting strength as that accorded the State which has cast the smallest vote.

SEC. 4. The members of the National Committee for each State and Territory shall be elected at the National Convention held in New York City on June 28, 1919, and thereafter by a majority vote of the members of the State Committee of The Single Tax Party Organization in each State or Territory. In such States and Territories in which there is no regularly constituted Single Tax Party Organization, the National Convention of the Party or its National Committee shall have the power to designate members of the Party to represent such States and Territories in the National Committee. All members of the National Committee whether elected or appointed as herein provided shall hold office until July 1, 1921, and the term of office thereafter shall be for two years beginning July 1.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

SEC. 1. The duties and powers of the committee shall be:

- (a) To represent the Party in all National and International affairs.
- (b) To call National Conventions or Special Conventions on two-thirds vote of the committee.
- (c) To formulate the rules and the order of business of all National Conventions of the Party not otherwise provided for by this Constitution and subject to amendment and adoption by the National Conventions.
- (d) To elect its own officers and appoint an Executive Committee and other Sub-Committees whenever it may be necessary, all of whom shall hold office at the pleasure of the National Committee.
- (e) To locate and maintain the National Headquarters of The Single Tax Party and such bureaus and departments in connection therewith as may be necessary.
- (f) The Committee shall formulate its own rules of procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- (g) Meetings of the National Committee shall be held annually and meetings of its Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as the Executive Committee may determine.
- (h) To perfect and strengthen the Organization and promote propaganda.
- (i) To make reports of the membership and condition of the Party Organization to National Conventions with recommendations thereon.
- (j) To organize Single Tax Party organizations in such States and Territories where no Single Tax Party Organization recognized as such at a National Convention or by the National Committee, is in existence.
- (k) The National Committee shall have power to employ an Executive Secretary and one or more National Organizers whenever in its judgment it is necessary for the welfare of the Party, so to do. Such Secretary and organizers may be removed at any time by the Committee.
- (l) The Committee shall also have power to solicit and receive funds and dues from individuals and State Organizations to defray the necessary expenses of conducting the affairs of the Party and for propaganda work.
- (m) The Committee shall also have power to appropriate funds for the current expenses, to maintain a National Headquarters and such other expenses as may be necessary to maintain and conduct the affairs of the Party. All warrants drawn on the Treasurer of the National Committee shall be signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the chairman of the Committee.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

Sec. 1. Immediately after the National Convention of the Party, the members of the National Committee elected at such convention or by their respective State organizations, shall convene and elect the following officers: A Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer who, together with seven other members of the National Committee shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall carry out the policy of the Party upon all questions, National, State or local.

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee shall present to the National Committee at each annual meeting, a full and complete report of its official acts during the preceding year.

ARTICLE VI.

STATE ORGANIZATIONS.

Sec. 1. The formation of all new State or Territorial Organizations shall be under the direction of the Executive Committee.

SEC. 2. The platform of The Single Tax Party shall be the supreme declaration of the Party and all State and Municipal platforms shall conform thereto. No State or local organization shall, under any circumstances, fuse, combine or compromise with any other political party or organization, or refrain from making nominations in order to favor the candidate of such other organizations nor shall any candidate of The Single Tax Party accept any nomination or endorsement from any other party or political organization, excepting as provided in Art. II, Sec. 2.

SEC. 3. No member of The Single Tax Party shall under any circumstances, vote in any political election for any candidate other than Single Tax Party members, nominated, endorsed or recommended as candidates by The Single Tax Party, or advocate voting for them, under penalty of expulsion from the Party, except when The Single Tax Party has made no nomination for the office.

SEC. 4. In States and Territories in which there is a State or local Single Tax Party organization, the said organizations shall have the sole jurisdiction of the members residing within their respective territories and the sole control of all matters pertaining to the propaganda, organization and financial affairs of the Party within such State or Territory; provided such propaganda is in harmony with the National platform and declared policy of the Party.

SEC. 5. The State Committees shall make monthly reports to the Executive Secretary concerning their membership, financial condition and general standing of the Party.

SEC. 6. The State Committees shall pay to the National Committee every quarter a sum equal to five cents per month for each member.

SEC. 7. Whenever a controversy exists in a State organization, relative to the platform or principles of the Party or an interpretation of the Constitution, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee of the National Committee and the Executive Committee shall have power to investigate the matter, examine witnesses and all papers and documents appertaining thereto and finally determine the said controversy on its merits.

ARTICLE VII

CONVENTIONS

SEC. 1. The regular National Conventions of the Party shall be held in all years in which elections for President and Vice-President of the United States are to be held.

SEC. 2. Special Conventions of the Party may be held at any time, by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee.

SEC. 3. The date and place of Conventions shall be fixed by the National Committee.

SEC. 4. Each State and Territory shall be entitled to a representation in the said National Conventions in direct proportion to the highest Single Tax vote at the last election or last State election. No delegate shall be eligible unless he is a resident member of the State from which his credentials are presented.

SEC. 5. The date of the election of delegates to the National Convention shall be fixed by the Executive Committee or as prescribed by the general election laws in each State and Territory.

SEC. 6. At the time and place set for the opening of the National Convention, the Chairman of the National Committee shall call the Convention to order, and call the roll to ascertain the number of uncontested delegates, and they shall permanently organize the Convention.

SEC. 7. The National Convention shall have the power to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President, to adopt a National platform and to transact such other

business as the Convention may see fit. Vacancies on the National ticket shall be filled by the National Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

SEC. 1. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance at a National Convention or at a Special National Convention called for that purpose.

Meeting of the National Executive Committee

A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Single Tax Party was held on July 8th. There was present almost a full representation, which is evidence of the new spirit. Present at this meeting were Messrs. Wallace, Loew, Cohen and Dintenfuss of New Jersey, Messrs. Macauley and Dix of Pennsylvania, A. H. Morino of Rhode Island, and Messrs. Bastida and Miller of New York.

It was decided to raise money to get on the presidential ticket in each of the 48 States. Mr. James A. Robinson was selected as National Organizer, and the Finance Committee was authorized to make such appropriations as are needed to send Mr. Robinson on a speaking and organizing tour through the Middle West.

From the State Secretary of the Massachusetts Single Tax Party

THE Convention is over! It was inspiring. God bless the men and women who met in New York City on June 28th to launch the only party in the field which means real human liberty! The only party which means economic plus personal freedom. I was glad to be able to speak for many good men in Massachusetts who will welcome the glorious opportunity to vote for the principle set forth in the Platform.

What do we care for numbers when principles are at stake? The feeling which each one experienced when looking into the faces of those present was the inspiration borrowed from those great lines:

"Hereditary bondsmen, know ye not
Who would be free
Themselves must strike the blow."

The Single Tax Party has come as a necessary thing. We are being bamboozled by both the hypocritical, psalm-singing, graft-juggling, sell-your-soul, swap-your-vote, corporation-controlled monopoly parties. The influence of the great departed was there. The spirits of Dove, Davitt, Father McGlynn, Henry George, John S. Crosby, Tom Johnson and Joe Fels, the men who gave their lives to the cause of freedom, must have hovered near.

One staggering blow at the fountain source of economic evil and the children of the race will begin the march of real progress to secure God's gift of the earth for his crea-

tures, instead of its being the plaything for a handful of plutocrats who use it for the ends of monopoly.

Nothing shall now discourage or dampen our enthusiasm. We are still few in numbers after forty years of propaganda that has failed because the real appeal was lacking. But Right will win.

"One with God is a majority."

We must be aggressive, knowing the fight is not an easy one. We shall not faint nor grow weary, seeing the signs that we now do of an awakening spirit in the movement.

On with the fight for humanity! M. C. O'NEILL

From the Maine State Chairman

THE situation in Maine in regard to the outlook for the Single Tax political movement is rather hard to determine. We are handicapped by the fact that the State is comparatively sparsely populated, so that it is difficult to get together very many of those interested in the cause. The further fact is, also, that no concerted agitation having existed for many years, even those interested have lost touch with one another.

Though some of the leaders of the movement in its early days have left us for the great beyond, many of those prominent at that time are again enthusiastic for its revival, and hope to live to see the Single Tax a live issue in the politics of the State and nation.

We find here, as doubtless elsewhere, some citizens sympathetic with our object, but who have not yet clearly "seen the cat;" some who understand, but for one reason or another, have taken no position on the question. Among both these classes, are men prominent in the business and political life of Maine. Just how far these men will go when the proposition is fairly put up to the people is hard to tell.

Two facts render the present an opportune time for political movement. First, the industrial unrest, with the obvious lack of any definite programme for its relief by either of the great political parties, is leading a continually increasing number of the electorate to ask themselves and one another the slight difference between the Republican and Democratic policy. I believe these inquirers demand an answer to the question "What are you going to do about it" and will no longer be satisfied by an appeal for regularity issued by party leaders, whose principal motive is a preference to be on the "inside looking out" rather than on the "outside looking in." Second, the extension of the suffrage to women will bring to the polls a large number of voters seeking really to better conditions, who, if not so well versed in political affairs as their male fellow citizens, have the advantage that they do not "know so many things that aint so."

For good or ill, the movement is launched, petitions in circulation for nominations for State officers are being freely signed, and Single Taxers generally are enthusiastic over the outlook.

A. W. PLUMMER.