

Mr. Watson quotes approvingly the plank of the People's Party which says that "there should be no monopoly of land for speculative purposes." But the plank is meaningless. Either it wishes to condemn land monopoly or speculation in land. We may conjecture whether it condemns only speculation in monopolized land—or monopolized speculation in land—or if it wishes to be understood as condemning only such speculation as includes large areas of land, or—but why pursue the tortuous inquiry further? It is a plank which appeals to "reformers" of a certain stripe because it means nothing. But if land is as justly property as houses or horses why is speculation in it singled out from speculation in other kinds of property for special condemnation? Mr. Watson says he "sees no difference in *principle* between the ownership of a cow and the ownership of a cow lot." Of course, he does; otherwise he would advocate a plank to read; "There should be no monopoly of cows for speculative purposes."

Mr. Watson denies that the power of railroads is the power of land ownership, and this is the way he does it: "The thing which hurts us is that franchise which empowers the corporation to tax the citizens and the property of the citizens as they pass along the highway." In other words, the railroad franchise is the power to tax the user of the highway. Of course, the highway is not land. But what is it? And what is the franchise but the title to it—a title to the exclusive use of a piece of land extending in strips and bounded on each side by rails. The power of such franchise and the power of a title to land in fee simple are the same—the power to tax the user of the area indicated. "The road which the transportation companies use could never have inflicted harm upon individuals or communities," says Mr. Watson. No, for roads are not sentient things that can rise up and smite us. "The thing which hurts is the franchise." And all this leads us to inquire if after all Mr. Watson is really serious.

The marvel is that this Georgian, who has been a not unimportant figure in Congress and in one presidential campaign, should have acquired so little real information as to the fundamental principles of economics. This generation has had its surfeit of showy but superficial characters who have attracted popular attention by their volubility, their oratorical powers, or their glittering promises. We are no sooner through with one than another steps resplendent upon the stage. We see one after another unmasked, but we seem never to be able to recognize the tribe. The procession is a long one, and we are probably not yet through with them. Maybe they serve some useful purpose—as half truths prepare the mind for the reception of whole truths; and

these men with their little two penny candles of reform offer us that which is better than no light at all. Some of us, for whom the real light is too strong, may even be prepared in this way to look with naked eyes upon the sun. JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

SINGLE TAX WOMEN IN CONFERENCE.

WORK OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The Sixth Annual Convention of the Woman's National Single Tax League was held in Brooklyn on May the 29th, the 30th and the 31st. The sessions were opened by a business meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, May the 29th, in an upper hall at Edgett's, cor. Fulton St. and Flatbush Ave. All the various meetings were held in this building. At the first meeting reports from various states and organizations were heard, and two addresses were made. Miss Eva Turner of Brooklyn spoke on The Block Kitchen, which started an interesting discussion. And Mrs. Isabelle Schindler, of Fairhope, Ala., gave a most interesting account of the progress and flourishing condition of that little Single Tax Colony. This is the first time that an official woman delegate from Fairhope has been present at a Convention, and Mrs. Schindler's personality as well as what she could tell, won much sympathy. Violin selections by Master Hugh Aitken enlivened the programme for the afternoon meeting.

That same evening the first public meeting was held, before an audience that taxed the capacity of the hall. Mayor Bird S. Coler gave a cordial address of welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. Florence Burleigh, of Philadelphia. Mrs. Burleigh has a simplicity and directness in her manner of speaking, and an easy use of popular metaphor, which, combined with a thorough understanding of the subject, makes her a welcome addition to the slender corps of women Single Tax speakers. The main address of the evening was made by Mr. John Z. White, who spoke for nearly an hour on "The Single Tax." Mr. White was in his very finest form and has never spoken better here in New York. The audience followed his every word with absorbed attention. A pleasing musical programme was given between the addresses.

The following morning—Memorial Day—a number of delegates and other Single Taxers met in Greenwood Cemetery, to pay the customary homage to the memory of Henry George, by laying a wreath on his grave. The date for the Convention had been chosen with a view to allowing delegates from a distance to be present at this ceremony.

In the evening a banquet was held at Edgett's at which two hundred diners sat down. Speeches were made by Mmes. Belle de Revera, Amy M. Hicks, C. Schetter, Jennie L. Munroe and Grace Isabel Colbron,

and Messrs. Alfred J. Boulton, Lawson Purdy, Frank Stephens and John S. Crosby. An interesting feature of the evening was a little speech made by Mr. Th. Popp, of Elsinore, Denmark, who came to bring the greetings of the large and rapidly growing body of Danish Single Taxers.

The following Thursday morning, the last business meeting was held, at which resolutions were drawn up, pledging the League to sympathy with the efforts to illustrate the Single Tax theory now being made in Fairhope, Ala.; also showing the sympathy of the League for the various campaigns for Municipal Ownership of natural monopolies; for the campaign for equal taxation and limited franchises now going on in New Jersey; also for the governmental investigation of the trusts and railroads now being carried on. Furthermore, the League desires to state in its resolutions that it regards the successful legislation on the matter of separating land values from improvement values, as a distinct gain in the direction of just taxation; also that, as the Single Tax can be secured only by legislation, therefore, as a woman's organization the League endorses equal political rights for men and women. The League also indorses the initiative and referendum and follows with lively sympathy the progress of the Single Tax cause in other countries. The officers elected to serve during the following year were: President, Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, Brooklyn; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, Washington, D. C.; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. Florence Leigh-Jones, Brooklyn; 3d Vice-President, Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, Orange, N. J.; Rec. Secretary, Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, Brooklyn; Cor. Secretary, Miss Eva J. Turner, Brooklyn; Treasurer, Dr. Mary D. Hussey, East Orange, N. J.; Auditor, Mrs. Florence A. Burleigh, Philadelphia, Pa.; Executive Committee, Mrs. Isabelle Schindler, Fairhope, Ala., and Mrs. Augusta Pomeroy, New Haven, Conn.

The success of the Convention was undisputed, and great credit is due the hostess organization, the Brooklyn Woman's Single Tax Club, for its work in perfecting the arrangements. It was decided to hold the Convention next year in Orange, New Jersey, on the three days immediately preceding the date of this year's meetings.

Peoria, Illinois, is fortunate above other cities in possessing a right, the enjoyment of which was provided for some years ago by its governing Council. That right is the free use of the assembly room in the City Hall building, where Socialists, Single Taxers and representatives of other "isms" are accustomed to meet. Peoria also has a building owned by the city which seats 5,000 and which can be had for a merely nominal sum providing no admittance fee is charged. Why should not every city

possess a similar convenience instead of being obliged to pay an excessive rent for hall hire, or to depend upon private beneficence in the few cases where such accommodations have been so provided?

News—Foreign.

ENGLAND.

JOHN PAUL GOES TO ENGLAND TO EDIT LAND VALUES—INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLES OF LAND VALUE TAXATION FROM GERMANY.

Again I am in the happy position of being able to send good tidings of the Single Tax movement over here. In spite of the opposition of the landed interest and the prejudice of the uninitiated our cause is making headway. A leavening of the political lump is slowly but surely taking place. In the House of Commons itself there are some 300 members favorable to the taxation of land values, and of those there are at least 80 active supporters.

Mr. John Paul, the able editor of *Land Values*, is about to leave Glasgow and take up his residence in London. He will edit the paper from there, but the change really means that he will be in a position to look more closely after our interests, by keeping our Members of Parliament and politicians in closer touch with the various Leagues throughout the country. This important work is one for which Mr. Paul's tact and ability eminently fit him, and we are looking forward to the results with pleasureable anticipation. It will mean that Leagues and branches of Leagues in all directions will be able to enjoy the advantage of hearing first class speakers, and so feel themselves efficiently assisted from headquarters in the arduous, though interesting, labor of educating the public.

As showing the trend of public opinion, the *New Age*, a democratic review of Politics, Religion and Literature, in an article on municipal Government, etc., goes on to say with special reference to infant mortality that "overcrowding, stress of labor, ill-requited toil—all the result of land monopoly—are among the most efficient causes of the mischief, and there is but one effective remedy—the taxation of land values. This would cure the evil as far, at all events, as it is economic. And it would vastly help the moral reform which is necessary, too."

In another part of the same paper the following also occurs: "It is gratifying to find that the Government is making the inquiries into this subject promised early in the year by Mr. Asquith. The Colonial Secretary has asked for information from New Zealand, and presumably, Australia, also. We have no doubt the response will be highly interesting and instructive. Meanwhile information comes from another