

# JUDGE MAGUIRE HONORED.

TENDERED A PUBLIC DINNER UNDER  
THE AUSPICES OF SINGLE TAX  
MEN OF NEW YORK  
AND BROOKLYN.

A Thoughtful Speech by the Guest-Eminent  
Remarks by William T. Crossdale,  
Louis F. Post, W. J. Atkinson, A. J.  
Wolf, Jason Hinman, Antonio M. Molina,  
Thomas G. Shearman, John De Witt  
Warner and Charles W. Boone—Henry  
George Presides.

About one hundred gentlemen sat down to  
table at the public dinner in honor of Hon.  
James G. Maguire of San Francisco, on  
Thursday, Oct. 3. The dinner, which was  
in every particular satisfactory, was given at  
Hotel de l'Europe, 337 East 14th street. The  
speeches were substantially as follows, Mr.  
Crossdale starting off:

William T. Crossdale.

There seems to be a general disposition to  
connect Judge Maguire with feline matters  
(Laughter.) His name is not Thomas, it is  
James; and yet some man in this room wrote  
me a letter in which he states, "You bet I  
will come; I want to see the father of the  
cat." (Laughter.) He is not the father of  
any cat; his name is James, I tell you. (Re-  
newed laughter and applause.) Mr. Cross-  
dale thereupon read some more letters of re-  
gret, and said he had received many others  
of like tenor. He thus continued:

If there had been any toasts this evening I  
would have chosen for myself "Practical  
Work," simply because I did not want to  
talk of practical work, and I notice a man  
never does talk about the thing he is called  
on to speak about. (Laughter.) The thing  
that I particularly wanted to speak about  
was "Religious Enthusiasm." (Laughter.)  
You fellows do not think I am in earnest  
about that, but I believe as firmly in it as  
any one. The hope for the future of our  
cause lies in the conviction of its earnest ad-  
vocates, that through the operation of our  
principles is to come the emancipation of  
man from the thralldom into which he has  
been thrown by his own folly. I believe as  
a motive power it is absolutely essential, but I  
believe that religious enthusiasm is like  
steam in other respects. You see a train  
moving along with wonderful power—driven  
by this mighty power of steam, and then you  
see it come to a stand still. Hitherto it has  
been in rapid motion with the noise that  
comes from the whirling of a great body  
through space, but when the machine stops  
and the train comes to a stand still, then you  
hear nothing but the whizz of escaping steam.  
Religious enthusiasm, uncontrolled by com-  
mon sense, is nothing but an infernal fizz  
which does no good to its possessor or any-  
body else. (Laughter.) As a practical man  
I want to see religious enthusiasm main-  
tained, but I want to see it confined in a cylin-  
der and made to do the work, and not left to  
make an infernal fizz to merely distract the  
people that have work to do.

The Chairman—Judge Maguire has told me  
that he took two lots in trade for a fee—a five  
hundred dollar fee, and the man had only one  
hundred dollars and gave him two lots for  
the balance. Those two lots are now worth  
\$550 apiece. Mr. Post, lately of Sullivan  
county, will now give his opinion. (Laughter  
and applause.)

Louis F. Post.

I don't know what these two lots  
have to do with me. (A voice, "Lots."  
Laughter.) If Judge Maguire will introduce  
me to that client of his I shall be happy. I  
suppose what Mr. George had in mind was  
the great "land speculation" that I have been  
engaged in. I want to say frankly that I  
came here utterly unprepared to say any-  
thing. I thought the chairman would make  
an elaborate speech, and that would be re-  
sponded to by the guest of the evening, and  
if I could find something to hitch on to it—why  
I would find it. Now I have found it. I and  
those other single tax men interested with  
me are not interested in any land speculation  
at all; we have undertaken to improve a wild  
park, up there in Sullivan county, of about  
fifteen hundred acres, and every acre of it is  
occupied and in use; we have got a house or  
two and even a barn upon it, but we also have  
some of the most magnificent forest trees  
that you ever laid eyes upon, and if you stand  
on one of the ridges there you will see little  
clumps of future shade trees that we are now  
cultivating and which we expect will shade  
our children. (Laughter and applause.) And  
then we are cultivating raspberries and  
blackberries, and there is nothing that we are  
not cultivating there according to the philo-  
sophy that anyone cultivating land, however  
situated, is using it. (Laughter and ap-  
plause.)

I suppose there are a great many here who  
feel interested to know why Judge Maguire  
has come to be spoken of as the father of the  
cat. There are a number of men present here  
to-night who were present at the time when  
the judge told that story. I will tell it very  
briefly, for I know it is a great strain upon a  
man's modesty to relate a good story that he  
got off once before himself. (Laughter.) Mr.  
Post, then repeated the story of the cat  
familiar to all single tax men.

Chairman—Mr. Atkinson of Philadelphia  
will say something for Pennsylvania.

W. J. Atkinson.

Mr. Chairman, I protest for the second  
time against being called on to represent  
Pennsylvania. I am by birth a New Jersey  
man, and if any Pennsylvanian were present  
he would tell you that a Jerseyman knows as  
little about Pennsylvania as Congress about  
religion. You know when Mark Twain was  
private secretary to Senator Nye of Nevada  
a petition from certain clergymen, praying  
for the incorporation of the Methodist church  
of the state of Nevada, was given to him to  
answer. He wrote to Rev. John Halifax and  
others:

Gentlemen—You will have to go to the  
state legislature about that speculation of  
yours—congress don't know anything about  
religion. But don't be in a rush to go there,  
because this scheme in a new country isn't  
expedient—in fact, it's ridiculous. Your re-  
ligious people there are too feeble in intellect,  
in morality, in piety—in everything, pretty  
much. You can't issue stock on an incor-  
poration of that kind, anyhow, and if you  
did, the other denominations would "bull it  
and bear it," and "sell it short" and break  
it down. They would try to do just what  
they do with your mines out there—make all  
the world believe it was "wildcat." You  
should do nothing to bring a sacred thing  
into disrepute. You can't do it to yourself.  
I think you close your petition  
with the words: "And we will ever pray."  
I think you had better—you need to do it.  
Very truly, etc., MARK TWAIN,

for James W. Nye, U. S. senator.

One thing, however, I do know of Pennsylv-  
ania, there are now many men there ready  
and anxious to welcome Judge Maguire  
heartily, both for his own sake and as the  
representative of the single tax men of Cal-  
ifornia.

As for Pennsylvania's condition, it reminds  
me of two men who met over on Chestnut  
street the other day and talked about as  
follows:

"G-go-good m-m-morning, M-mr. A."  
"G-go-good m-m-morning, M-mr. B."  
"M-m-mister A-A, w-why d-don't y-you g-  
go to D-d-d-r. Q-Quick and g-g-g-g-g-get  
c-u-c-u-cured of y-your s-stammering!"  
"W-w-why, M-mr. B, is, is he g-good?"  
"G-go-good g-good! w-w-w-why h-h-he c-c-  
c-u-c-u-cured m-m-m-me!"

And so poor, patient, plodding Pennsylv-  
ania, points to protection and with stam-  
mering tongue still insists "I-it c-c-cured  
m-me!" But we have in Pennsylvania many  
men who know that as to cure stammering it  
is necessary to cut the ligature that binds  
the tongue, so to cure our halting, half  
paralyzed industries it is only necessary to  
free trade from the tariff cords that binds it.

The Chairman—I will now call upon Mr.  
Hinman, of the Reform club, for a few words.  
(Applause.)

Jason Hinman.

The work of the Reform club in the state of  
New York is not the work that you are en-  
gaged in. Whatever my own notions may  
be about the single tax, I make it my business  
now to do everything I can to induce people  
to see that a lower tariff is what they want.  
When they see that perhaps they will see the  
difference between a lower tariff and a higher  
tariff, and then perhaps they will see the dif-  
ference between a low tariff and free trade.  
After that perhaps they will see something  
else. What you teach them, then, is your  
business, none of mine. The first thing to do  
now is to get in the small end of the wedge  
and see how it works, and our business just  
now in this state is making a canvass which  
will tell us something about every voter in  
the state outside of the fifteen largest cities;  
tell us their business or occupation, their  
politics, what they think about the tariff,  
what their tariff interests are and whether  
they are men governed by the Grand Army  
machine. Then we shall know how to appeal  
to them. That work is going forward very  
rapidly, and out of the seven hundred and  
fifty thousand actual voters, we now have  
on record in our files nearly two hundred  
thousand, and we will get the remainder be-  
fore the 1st of January. We shall know how  
to appeal to them then, and can give them  
the arguments that we hope will induce them  
to cast their votes in favor of a lower tariff.  
Then we will give them an object lesson.  
Talking principles is all very well; it means  
something sometimes, but there are a great  
many men who do not care anything about  
principles to whom you cannot appeal on  
that ground at all. But give them an object  
lesson and they will grasp it at once. That  
what tariff reformers intend to do, and we  
hope you will not find fault with us for pro-  
posing to do that work in that way. I be-  
lieve that is the way it is to be done. As  
Puck says, "What fools these mortals be."  
The only way you can teach them anything  
is to make them feel it, and when these men  
feel the difference between low tariff and  
high tariff you can tell them something about  
single tax. (Applause.)

The Chairman—Now I want to call upon a  
representative of another class of workers,  
the men of the single tax club, the men who  
started the cart-tail campaign. Mr. A. J.  
Wolf, the chairman of that committee, will  
say a few words.

A. J. Wolf.

I can only say this, Mr. Chairman, that as  
a humble representative, as I am, and as late

comer to the single tax movement, I have  
been moved by a desire to do something.  
Now, we have all been talking. We all be-  
lieve in the single tax, and we all talk to  
each other. What I want to do is to talk to  
the people. (Applause and cries of "Hear,  
hear.") Now, we of the Manhattan single  
tax club have in a very modest way been  
attempting to talk to the people. We have  
been giving them object lessons. We have  
been calling for the men who are not orators,  
who are not declaimers, but who can go to  
the people on a simple statement of facts,  
who can call their attention to the deplora-  
ble condition in which they are situated,  
and show how they are descending, step by  
step, into a condition of absolute slavery.  
We take the position that this cause is just  
as sacred, is infinitely more important to the  
American people than the abolition of the  
slavery of the black man; it is the abolition  
of the slavery which is impending over the  
white man. (Applause.)

I simply wish to say, Mr. Chairman, that  
we have been met by a response on the part  
of the people, upon the part of the people  
who are supposed to be the most ignorant,  
the most degraded, the most poverty stricken,  
that is absolutely amazing. We are not a  
club of rich men, as you know, sir; we are  
all workers. Our club is a very humble or-  
ganization. We contribute but ten cents a  
week. The club has never contributed more  
than ten dollars to this organization. All  
the rest of the funds has come from volun-  
tary contributions. But in spite of that we  
have addressed in four weeks more than ten  
thousand people, and we have met with a re-  
sponse that is simply amazing. The people  
have understood the single tax. We have  
proved one thing beyond any question, and  
that is that this matter of political economy  
is not the mysterious thing which the teach-  
ers of political economy try to make it. Po-  
litical economy is a thing which any people,  
even in the humblest circumstances, can  
understand, and we are getting to them in  
exactly that spirit. We call upon a man who  
is a plasterer, a carpenter, a bricklayer, or a  
machinist to state his idea of the single tax  
from his own standpoint. We do not deal  
in highfalutin language, but are satisfied in  
going straight to the very fundamental prin-  
ciples of the whole matter.

And I say this, gentlemen, that it won't  
take much money for a concerted movement  
of this kind throughout this country. That is  
the remarkable thing about it. It costs us  
six dollars a night for each truck we send  
out. We address every night not less than  
a thousand people, and we are met with  
cheers and enthusiasm. People follow us  
from station to station. It simply shows  
that there is a responsive feeling in the  
minds of the masses. It only needs an in-  
telligent appeal to their intelligences to awaken  
it. Then we will have the peaceful revolution  
that we want. (Applause.)

The Chairman—I would like to call upon  
our good friend from whom we have not  
heard for a long time—Antonio M. Molina.

Antonio M. Molina.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—In the name  
of the Spanish Americans, I thank you for  
calling upon me to-night. Sixteen so-called  
representatives of Spanish America have  
come to this country to devise, if they can,  
a plan to fit in with that bungling protection-  
ism. I tell you, gentlemen, the Spanish  
Americans are absolutely free traders. They  
are not protectionists because they like North  
Americans, and they want to have free in-  
tercourse with them. They are not protec-  
tionists. Why should they be protectionists?  
You have goods that they want in exchange  
for goods they have and you want. They  
have commenced to exchange goods which  
you do not produce for those they do not pro-  
duce, and they do not want any custom houses  
at all. Spanish Americans are also for the  
single tax, because the land of Spanish Amer-  
ica is in the hands of a few individuals, and  
they are only beggars by reason of that in-  
equity. They want to be free. (Applause.)

The Chairman: About sixteen years ago I first  
met Judge Maguire, when, not long from the  
blacksmith's forge, he was taking his seat for  
the first time in the California legislature.  
His course since then has been onward and  
upward until there is no man on the Pacific  
coast to-day who stands firmer in public re-  
spect. One of the first of single tax men, he  
has always been a firm one, and has always  
been ready to go to the front and to do what  
he could for the cause.

I know the pleasantest thing we can do for  
our friend to-night is to tell him how the ball  
is moving with us. For my part I am free to  
say that every day, as it passes, gives me  
stronger hope that our triumph is not far off.  
(Applause.)

When Judge Maguire came east before,  
and at the Academy of Music made that mag-  
nificent speech in which he brought out the  
fact that has become so well known, we were  
engaged in an independent political move-  
ment. We resolved shortly after that to do  
what we could to help the national party  
which, in a wavering, timid way, was  
beginning to raise the issues of freedom.  
In that campaign we stood as he stood—for  
Grover Cleveland. (Cheers.) We stood as  
he stood, avowed free traders, among men  
who were a little bit afraid to utter the word  
free trade. I think we can say to him that  
the result of that action has been good; that

our cause has been progressing faster than  
ever before; that on every hand we can see  
that our ideas are permeating the minds of  
men. I think we can say that for New York  
and I want you men around this table to  
speak as far as you can of your own experi-  
ence, in your own localities, and through  
Judge Maguire, to send to our brethren on  
the Pacific a message of greeting and cheer.  
(Applause.)

James G. Maguire.

I had no idea that cat story would make  
me world famous. (Laughter and ap-  
plause.) Nor am I the father of that cat.  
I am only the boy who tied that cat's tail to  
the land monopoly's cat's tail and threw  
them both over the line (laughter and ap-  
plause), and they started to claving in ter-  
rible shape, and the way the fur has been  
flying ever since is a caution. (Laughter.)

I have been asked to say something spec-  
ially about the work in which we are en-  
gaged upon the Pacific coast, and I am pleased to  
report progress there—steady, constant,  
gratifying progress all over the Pacific coast,  
not alone in San Francisco, to which my work  
is principally confined, but in the north and  
in the south; indeed in the city of Portland  
they boast of a club and of a movement that  
rivals, if it does not excel, the San Francisco  
club, which is the oldest single tax club in  
the world. (Applause.) I helped Mr. George  
to organize it in 1877. We hold public meet-  
ings every Sunday evening in a hall that  
accommodates about three hundred visitors.  
About three evenings out of four we are  
obliged to turn people away, after the seats  
in the hall have all been filled and as many  
as public ordinances will permit are allowed  
to stand in the aisles and passages. Mr.  
Thomas G. Shearman of New York (applause)  
favored us, a few weeks ago, with a visit  
and with a magnificent address upon the  
single tax. His presence, his national rep-  
utation as a lawyer and a speaker, brought to  
us a great number of persons who are not in  
the habit of attending single tax meetings, a  
large number of lawyers especially, and  
among them I am pleased to say he made a  
most profound impression, and that we ex-  
pect soon to have some of the prominent  
lawyers of San Francisco, who were pre-  
viously against us, to unite with us in active  
labor for the cause. (Applause.)

The chairman has stated that a couple of  
town lots in San Francisco were forced upon  
me as a fee. I would much have preferred  
to have received the \$400.

I positively declare, so long as the people  
of the United States maintain a public re-  
venue system which puts a premium upon  
the purchase of and speculation in land, which  
compels men to purchase their birthright for  
a market price, and to secure for their chil-  
dren by purchase their natural share of God's  
bounty, it is the privilege, it is the duty, of  
every man, in obedience to that public policy,  
to proceed to protect himself as best he may.  
(Applause.)

I do not believe in the system which makes  
it necessary, but so long as the people, as a  
matter of public policy, uphold that system  
and give no alternative, I say to every single  
tax man: "Get your share of the bounty of  
nature as best you may, and whenever  
you can make anything within the law  
which evidences the policy adopted by  
the public, do it." At the same time,  
working for the natural rights, for the  
cause of natural justice, free to  
cause of natural justice, free to  
say I would prefer that to anything else. I  
can lay up under the present system for  
myself or children. (Applause.) I am prepared  
to surrender every foot of land which I hold  
which is not in actual and profitable use by  
me the moment that the people determine to  
adopt a system which will place my children  
securely upon a basis of absolute equality  
with respect to natural opportunities with  
every other man and woman. I would rather  
leave them that assurance, that chance in  
the world, to secure that, than to have them  
taken from them, than to have them up-  
held by millions, the possession of which  
would be an incitement to dissipation and  
squandering and idleness and worthlessness.

Before his death Charles Mackay, observ-  
ing the conditions of society in his time and  
country (England), wrote:

Great thoughts are heaving in the world's  
wide breast;

The time is laboring with a mighty birth;  
The old idols fall;

Men wander up and down in wild unrest,  
And signs of change preparing for the  
world brood over all.

Do not existing conditions verify the words  
and predictions of Mackay at that time? Do  
not all thinking men contemplate some very  
radical change in social conditions within  
the near future? Do not all the social sym-  
ptoms of the present time indicate it; the  
social discontent so universal, the organiza-  
tion of extensive trusts and combinations in  
business affairs, the organization of labor unions  
and societies with their strikes, boycotts,  
lockouts, blacklists; society dividing into  
classes, and the classes at war with each  
other, each depending largely upon superior  
organization to maintain its position against  
the other? Do not these things indicate a  
widespread dissatisfaction and widespread  
desire on the part of the masses at  
least for something which they regard as  
substantial justice? If discontent be as wide-  
spread as these symptoms would indicate, is it  
not morally certain that a social upheaval of  
some kind is sure to come within the near

future! What change shall be accepted by the people can hardly be predicted by any man of any school at this time. The desire with me and with you would naturally be father to the belief that our own remedy for the injustice which we recognize as so universal should be adopted, but there can be no certainty of that, although I believe that the times are auspicious for the adoption of the single tax as a fiscal measure of all civilized governments soon enough to avert the awful calamity to which civilization is tending with giant's strides. (Applause.)

That tendency towards centralization and combination, the elimination of the individual and the substitution of the organization in every branch and department of social and industrial life is leading with rapid strides to state socialism. I want to be understood as not cavilling at the state socialists; but I am in principle and in sentiment deeply and earnestly opposed to the whole scheme of state socialism. (Applause.)

These things are all tending towards a crisis which is much closer than most people are willing to believe, toward a time when we must determine whether individually shall continue to be preserved or whether individuals shall sink to the standard of mere automatons or machines, guided and controlled as bodies by rulers selected and not by themselves acting individually and independently in the most ordinary affairs of life. Society cannot go on as it is now constituted. It must either remove the injustice which has created all of these heart burnings and dissensions among the different classes of men, or it must be resolved entirely into the automaton system which the socialists advocate. (Applause.)

There is but one movement in the civilized world to-day that deals with these social questions rationally, and proposes by a simple method of legislation to preserve all that is good in modern civilization and eliminate all that is bad. (Applause.) That movement is the single tax movement now so happily and so rapidly growing throughout the world. And after all, what are the evils in the system? Simply that some men complain because they are not getting their fair share of the wealth which their labor applied to natural resources produces; that in a world which possesses ample resources to support in comfort a hundred times its present population, in countries with natural resources undeveloped and untaxed, men are excluded from the lands and from the opportunities for self employment which would make them self sustaining. They are driven into the market place to seek employment in competition with their fellows, helplessly bidding against them and offering to take their places for smaller and smaller shares of the products of their labor. That this condition, of helplessness, that this condition of industrial slavery is unjust and wrong and destructive, is universally appreciated, but the remedy has been pointed out only by the advocates of this particular measure. We say the present system of society is good enough if natural resources are held open to all men upon exactly the same terms at all times (applause); that the land of this world, is different from any other form of property in the world, or recognized in the world in that it is the source from which all life is drawn. That it was given equally for all men, not of any one generation, but of all generations from the beginning to the end; and that it is not a source of wealth, as the socialists demand, which is required to make our conditions perfect or satisfactory. It is simply an equality of opportunities that is wanted. (Applause.) We propose to accomplish that equality in precisely the same way the courts of equity have, from the dawn of equity jurisprudence down to the present time, been accomplishing it, upon a smaller scale, between persons equally interested in landed estates.

If an estate of ten thousand acres of land were left to ten children, and if after they had all attained their majority they should all decide to hold it in common and not to segregate, some of them desiring to use it and some of them desiring to follow occupations that would call them away from the land, justice and equity would decree that each of those co-owners occupy: the land should pay the rental value of it for use, and that, after paying the expenses incident to the administration of the estate, each member of the family having an equal right in the land, should have precisely his proportionate value of its use, and among them the users would get back their share. We propose simply to take the entire rental of land by taxation, and then no man shall live without performing his share of the service necessary to maintain him in the world, simply sitting down and collecting tribute from his brother for allowing that brother the privilege of exercising his natural right of making a living from the soil. (Applause.)

The founders of this republic believed that the very conditions existing in this country, the inexhaustibility of lands, the means of independent employment would rear, as it did rear for the first three-quarters of a century, the most magnificent and independent race of human beings on the face of the earth. They thought we might all stand forth and be called free men, with free tongues and free hands, firm feet planted firmly on the soil; but, alas our country is now rearing a class of men who regard themselves as natural serfs, and that condi-

tion can only be changed by re-establishing the natural opportunities which land monopolists, encouraged as it is by the laws of our own making and of their making, has destroyed, and which is so rapidly degrading, the institutions of our country.

The measure of justice proposed by the single tax advocates will, I believe, remedy every just complaint. It is the only thing which will produce peaceable transformation and absolute restoration of all individual rights, and which will prevent these deep and terrible contests known as strikes, which had some manifestations of violence here in 1877, and elsewhere on many other occasions; the only thing that will prevent the enactment on a broader scale of all the horrors of that carnival of fire and blood known in history as the French revolution. Although there had been symptoms manifested, they came in France suddenly, with terrible and shocking effect. Suddenly the free busters of Paris were started, they arose, they dragged the degraded purple through the town, rolled it in the dust and taught the nations near and far a mighty lesson.

But I believe that the change we expect will come peacefully. I believe that the proofs which we are calmly presenting to the world will be accepted; that there will be a disposition to reorganization of all our social institutions, to maintain the good and to cast out the bad. That Not on swords or spears will be the reliance of the coming years; Not by the cannon's mouth shall truth proclaim her mighty mission; Not in blood and flame inscribe her lessons on the book of time;

Her strongest lessons shall be words sublime; Her arms thoughts, her banners printed sheets; Her captains voices crying in the streets, "The earth is good and bountiful and fair; Her bounties are the equal share of all her children."

This will define the new era.

The Chairman—Thomas G. Shearman will be the next speaker.

Thomas G. Shearman.

Mr. Robert P. Porter, when he was still editor of the New York Press, and on the Sunday following the late presidential election, did me the honor to ask for predictions for the future. And one of the predictions that I made was that the new administration was so heavily committed that it could not stop the pension leak until it had bankrupted the treasury, but that it would take two years. Tanager has done it in two months, and before four months have passed over the president has had to choose between the secretary of the interior and the forced resignation of the commissioner of pensions. (Applause.)

And we have since made progress. Did not New England, except little Connecticut, go solid against Cleveland and clamor against a provision in a treaty which would let in a few Canadian fish free? What is New England clamoring for now? New England is just solid in favor, first, of free reciprocity in every thing on earth, Canadian fish included; and, second, against any interference with the Canadian Pacific railroad, and declaring that it must have free Canadian railroads or it will know the reason why. And that crank of cranks, Henry W. Blair, that prince of cranks has absolutely had the audacity to come out and say that New England manufacturers cannot get on without a reduction of the duty on pig iron and a reduction of the duty on coal, and that have got it. Gentlemen, does not the world move?

One of the great arguments advanced by grave men against the single tax is that the economic rent is so large that if you adopted the single tax unlimited you will be obliged to dispose of the surplus by distributing pensions. Now, gentlemen, who is teaching in the name of practical business of the people to depend upon the payment of unearned pensions? Who is putting a premium on lying and on perjury in order that pensions may be distributed? Who is withdrawing the barriers in order to get one man to swear that he hurt his big toe when his grandmother was a little baby, and cast him into a pan of oil, or before he had time to get to the war that he was hit by a rebel bullet near Canada as he was running away from the draft? Why, it is this present administration; it is this party that is in power; it is this party which is offering enormous bribes to corrupt and demoralize the poor men who either went to the war, or thought they went to the war, or who started to the war and were dishonorably discharged because they would not fight when they got there. This administration is offering to every such man a pension.

Gentlemen, if we have got one million pensions on the roll—and we are rapidly getting to it, for there are over four hundred thousand now on the roll, and there are three hundred and fifty thousand applicants waiting for pensions and seven hundred thousand more that are ready to apply as soon as you can get a bill that will fit the case—I should like to know what sort of a country we shall have! Tanagerism, not Tanager, is poisoning the morals of the people all through the north.

What we want to do in this pension system, or bribery system, is what we want to do in the tariff system—run the thing to the ground. If we could only get a general pension law

giving to every skulker and every deserter a thousand a year, do you know what would happen? Why, we would have the whole business repealed at the next congress and cut down to where it ought to be, and those who got pensions would get them because they earned them through gallantry and proper service. (Applause.)

But we not reason to congratulate ourselves on the existence of Tanager and Tanagerism? Has it not brought about a wonderful effect in a very short time? It may seem to those who look superficially, those who see only the surface of things, that this country is full of discouraging portents and full of dark clouds. But how are the heavens ever to clear if the clouds do not concentrate into a thunder storm? And so, Mr. Chairman, I see the best portents to progress for our cause. Suppose last fall instead of meeting with defeat we had achieved victory, what would have happened? The senate would have been against Grover Cleveland. New England would have been clamoring for war as she did then, and we should have made no progress in tariff reform. I tell you the Lord ordered things very well that time if He never did any other time. (Applause.) And although my heart was very much set on a different result this election, it didn't defer a single moment from believing in a special Providence and it has been easier to believe in one ever since. Our cause never was brighter, because we are getting the people to think, and that is all that we want. The difficulty always has been to get the people to think, to stir up their minds, and they are beginning to do a good deal of thinking. Like the famous parrot, if they don't do so much talking, it is because they do a good deal of thinking. (Laughter and applause.)

The Chairman—I will now call upon Mr. John DeWitt Warner.

John DeWitt Warner.

So far as I can find out there is only one thing left for me to speak on, and that is free trade. (Applause.) As there isn't anything left to talk about but principles, I might as well open up I have got one, and that is free trade. (Applause.) I conceive that this is a free government, and when I attend to my business and other citizens attend to their business, and then I see still other gentlemen not attending to their business, but at congress, or before the senate, or by some commission, in order to get special legislation passed by which gentlemen attending to their business shall be taxed to support them, it seems to me it does not leave a question for argument; it is my money they are taking, and it is their pockets they are putting it into. (Laughter and applause.) I do not have to stop to reason that out. When a man has my property and insists on keeping it, it is war between him and me; and if the government assists him it is not so big a war, and I have to give it up, because I cannot carry it on. But if I were big enough and stout enough I would do all I could to smash the custom houses and lick the government. (Laughter.) And if I failed in doing that and I could get the taxes out of the custom house, I would do it. If I found a man that had them in his pocket I would take him by the throat and choke him until he voluntarily gave them up to me. (Laughter and applause.) Now, gentlemen, those are my principles. I cannot carry them out just yet, and that casts a gloom over me.

Chairman—We have present this evening a single tax man from Illinois, who will say something for the farmers of that state—Mr. Boone of Warren.

Charles W. Boone.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I am an Illinois farmer, and I wish I was not almost alone in my county as a single taxer among the farmers. I cannot account to you why there are not more single taxers among the farmers; I cannot understand why all farmers are not single tax men. Although for a dozen years or more I was the only single taxer in my county, I am glad to say that lately our number has been increased a hundred per cent, at least (laughter), for I have induced a friend, a business man in the near east town to where I live, to become one of us, and now there are two. (Laughter and applause.) And if I am to judge from the increase in popularity and increased ability (for my friend is very popular and very clever), I should think the gain has been more than a hundred per cent. We have not yet quite organized a single tax club, but I think I may say we have organized a single tax committee. My friend, who constitutes the other half of the party being the capable and popular secretary, and I the president. (Laughter and applause.) I want to say that there is perfect harmony between the officers of our organization. (Laughter.) I have received a letter within a few days from my secretary, that he has succeeded in selling and disposing of seventeen copies of "Progress and Poverty" since we commenced our campaign (laughter and applause), and that he had just sent an order for more.

I am no public speaker—no more than a farmer should be; I feel, however, that I should declare myself, and I thought merely as a curiosity you should like to see a single taxer among the western farmers—and I am that sort of a "critter." (Laughter.) If I

could be a sort of lieutenant under the leadership of the last speaker, in smashing protectionism I should like the opportunity and fight under him against a common foe. (Applause.)

When Judge Maguire made the remark that the prevailing idea of the working class was that there was an overproduction of wealth from which they suffered, I had to say, "Hear, hear." That is the prevailing idea of the western farmers, and let me give one instance by way of illustration. Before I left my village near the Mississippi river, I knew of a neighbor who took two wagon loads of potatoes to market, for which he received the magnificent sum of twelve and a half cents per bushel. He sold the two wagon loads at twelve and a half cents a bushel, because of what? Because of this "overproduction." I had the curiosity whetted on my visit here, to make some inquiry as to the price of potatoes, and last evening in the city of Brooklyn, I asked a retail storekeeper at what price he sold his potatoes, and he told me I could get some for seven cents a quart! Now between twelve and a half cents a bushel where I had just come from and the seven cents a quart which most people here have to pay, there is a vast difference, and there is a cause for that difference and as single taxers we are bound to discover that cause and make it plain to the victimized. (Applause.)

If you workers here in the east—if you could understand the situation of the western farmer, how he begins to feel the pressure—why, he cannot even work his farm and hire men by paying the current wages. If he were to do that he would be bankrupted. I have been a farmer for thirty years in the state of Illinois and I know that the business is reduced to this: that you must own the farm and you must work long hours, and your wife and your children must work too, if you would secure a fair proportion of the comforts of living; and a man who is a mere renter and who has a mortgage on his homestead, is virtually now no better than a slave. (Applause.) And you may expect if these causes continue to operate, and I do not see why they should not, these evil results will continue to grow stronger, and what we regard as hard times now will become harder and harder. There will be spasms of improvement, but these will be followed by greater and greater depression. Property will steadily be devalued. Why, even now, if we but consider, we farmers in the west would be surprised at the small prices our property would bring if forced to immediate sale. In fact, farming property cannot be sold on the basis of present values; the only real estate sold in the west now is sold under the influence of some local booms. (Applause.)

Mr. Crossdale—Gentlemen, we have sometimes been accused of having given ourselves over to the democratic party. We single tax men are free traders, and being free traders, we are tariff reformers, because tariff reform tends toward free trade, and so far as the democratic party represents a tendency in that direction, we have been and still are willing to support it, but nevertheless we are not among those people that are mere mouthers of names, and who are led by a man who holds up his hand and says "I am a democrat." (Applause.)

I give this toast, "The party of Jefferson may the democratic party become such, and may it be defeated whenever it departs from the principles of the Declaration of Independence. I call upon Mr. Henry George to respond to that toast. (Applause.)

Mr. George—I respond briefly, but with all my heart. Because I am a democrat in principle I will do whatever I can to do out the so-called democratic party under such circumstances. For instance, in this state this year I will give the preference to the republican every time. (Applause.) I will do so because the democratic party here is in the control of a machine, I will do so because I believe that the democratic party will best advocate democratic principles when it frees itself from machine rule in its own ranks. (Applause.) The democratic principle goes deep. The doctrine of Thomas Jefferson is more than a mere party creed—it is a philosophy. It is that philosophy that it is ours to revive. The time for the true division between political parties has hardly come yet, but it is coming; the party of democratic principles, the party of equal rights, the party not of any class, but of the whole people, is in the one situation, the party of special privileges on the other.

We have had a very pleasant evening. There are many others here whom I wish could say a few words, but the hour grows late. In the name of those present and of many others, I wish you, Judge Maguire, God speed on your homeward journey. Carry to our friends on your side of the continent our earnest greetings. Between all who are imbued with these sentiments of ours, there is a bond of union. "Single tax men" means far more to-day than does "republican" or "democrat"; it means the bond of a common faith, the bond of a common hope. And that hope is brightening. A dawning world to-day I believe the heaven is working. Come what may, the future is ours. (Prolonged applause.)

A Meeting at Station Island.

New Brighton, N. Y., Oct. 7.—The next meeting of the single tax club will be held at my residence, No. 3 Carroll place, New Brighton, on Saturday evening, October 13, and all of the faithful are requested to attend.

JOHN S. COGAN,