

Campaign Tour Of William J. Wallace

NOMINEE TELLS OF HIS RECEPTION
IN MANY CITIES

DURING the closing days of the campaign I visited the Single Taxers in some of the cities of the central states. In several cities I was given the opportunity of addressing audiences and presenting to them the claims of the Commonwealth Land Party for their votes. These addresses were made at the Liberal Club, Chicago; Lions Club, South Chicago; Young Men's Hebrew Association, St. Louis; City Club and Single Tax Club dinner, Cleveland; Kiwanis Club, Youngstown; Henry George Club and Irene Kaufman Settlement; Pittsburgh. I also visited Springfield and Peoria, Illinois.

It was very pleasant to meet the Single Taxers in these cities and to feel their interest in the efforts of the party to make the Single Tax a campaign issue.

One of the questions asked at the meetings was, "What do you hope to accomplish by the party?" The reply was that we hoped to create a sentiment in favor of the public appropriation of land rent that would enable politicians to appeal successfully to the people on this issue.

It is a present day question that cannot be postponed without grave danger to civilization and to our democratic institutions. These are the advances from barbarism made by our fathers through ages of struggle which must be preserved by going forward to a complete recognition of justice in the public administration of the land.

The candidates of the Commonwealth Land Party were the only nominees who were permitted by their party associations to discuss the land question. This greatest, most urgent and most vital question was deliberately ignored by the Republican, Democratic and Progressive parties. The Commonwealth Land Party was the only one whose candidates were speaking the truth and it was refreshing to see the attention and the enthusiasm with which it was received, not only by those who glory in the name of Single Taxers but by the business men who listened to the addresses.

Our philosophy is a great promise of hope to them. It condemns the income and inheritance taxes, from which they suffer, as being oppressive and unjust. It shows the right way of preventing concentrated wealth and the evils that attend it. Wealth should not be unjustly obtained and its attainment should be prevented by making it impossible to divert publicly-created land values into private pockets. Our philosophy also shows business men how rents can be reduced by stopping land speculation, and how the wages of labor will be increased to many times their average present value. It shows that trade unions and legislative interferences with economic

freedom are both unnecessary and unwise. It shows how land mortgages can be utterly eliminated so that they will no longer be a burden to farmers, home owners or business men.

We must keep this great issue before business men and all others until they recognize its importance and become interested in its success. From my personal experience I believe that they will readily learn if it is presented to them at the proper time and in the proper way, which is to reserve nothing, conceal nothing and let them see it as Henry George showed it to us.

There has been too much timidity, evasion and concealment in the attempt to interest business men in this idea. Its advocates have protected themselves from criticism by befogging and belittling the issue, and escaped to the seclusion of other parties at every election.

The newspapers in many of the cities published interviews and gave quite full reports of the meetings, treating the visit of the candidate as an event of political interest. In this way the Single Tax, broadly stated, was brought to the attention of millions of people at a time when they were willing to give consideration to its claims.

I was favored with the company of the National Organizer of the party, Mr. James A. Robinson, for part of the time. In connection with the state organizations, he has done most effective work in carrying out the program of the national convention which was held in New York on February 8th and 9th of this year. We are most fortunate in having the services of such a devoted friend of the cause. He carries on his work with a cheerful and persistent activity which is the expression of his own earnest desire to secure the acceptance of our principles by the people and to have them enacted into law. It was with regret that I left him a few days before election so that he could return to Los Angeles and rejoin his family whom he had not seen for almost a year.

To those Single Taxers whom I met in all the cities I visited I wish to express my grateful appreciation of the kindness of their reception and the courtesies they extended to me. It was refreshing to meet them and to see their interest in our common cause. I hope, with them, that success will crown the efforts of those who have learned the truth and who are willing to work and pray for it.

WILLIAM J. WALLACE.

A PORTRAIT of General Gorgas appears on the cover of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico* (Official Organ of the Argentine Single Tax League) for the month of August. Four pages are devoted to an appreciative biographical sketch and a reproduction in Spanish of his address before the Business Men's Club of Cincinnati, September 1914. The *Review* contains 36 pages, of which five and one half are taken up with paid advertisements. The latter indicate practical support by the business community.