

American Single Tax League and make the Commission or Board of Trustees, whichever may be agreeable to those present at the conference, an elective one or at least appointed by the President, who himself is elected by such conference. Such Board of Trustees or Commission should do the work the present Fels Fund Commission is attempting to do, or at least should have restricted itself to—to carry on a campaign in Rhode Island, Oregon, or wherever at the moment it seems most advisable—leave local work to the local organization, and impress upon contributors that contributions to the Commission does not relieve them from helping in so far as their means will allow, the work of the local bodies.

N. Y. CITY. WM. LUSTGARTEN.

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#### THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FELS COMMISSION REPLIES

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:—

Lloyd George in his speech on the Budget made this declaration: "THIS IS A WAR BUDGET." He then proceeded to explain that he meant a war on poverty. Single Taxers over the whole world have approved and applauded this declaration. The Fels Fund is also a war budget of the same kind.

In carrying on a war of any kind those who are responsible for results, would only bring about certain failure if they published their plans or neglected to take all precautions against letting their plans become known to anyone interested in thwarting them. Of course, such precautions necessarily involve secrecy even against many entitled to confidence. A Single Taxer who utters such complaints as Mr. Lustgarten sees fit to express is about as reasonable as would be a citizen of a country at war, who would complain because the war department had not published its plans broadcast or taken him into its confidence.

Mr. Fels, as a practical and sensible man, as well as a Single Taxer who wants the Single Tax so badly that he is willing to avoid spectacular display in order to get it, realized the need of placing the control

of the fund in the hands of a body that would not be hampered too much. The selection of the members was accomplished after consultation with officials of the American Single Tax League, and as many prominent outsiders as could with prudence be consulted.

If Mr. Lustgarten's ideas should be carried out more money might possibly be raised, but the result of its expenditure would only be another failure or at most a "near victory," of which the movement has already experienced a sufficiency.

However, I am told by some who know that at the Chicago Single Tax Conference held in 1893, when about the same idea that Mr. Lustgarten is urging for the raising of funds, was adopted it resulted in a greater failure by \$12,000 to \$15,000 than that now shown by the Fels Fund Commission.

The Fels Fund Commission holds that one victory actually won even at the cost of suppressing brass bands and shouting in advance, is worth a dozen "almost wons" preceded by sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. It should not require much argument or thought to convince Single Taxers of so self-evident a truth.

DANIEL KIEFER.

CINCINNATI, Ohio.

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#### THE LAND VALUE TAX PARTY IS BORN.

A short, sharp, business like convention was that which met on Saturday at 11 o'clock in the parlors of the Women's Trade Union League, 43 East 22nd street, this city, to organize a political party for the Single Tax. The attendance comprised between 70 and 80.

Wm. F. Casey opened the convention by citing Cushing's Manual and describing in brief terms the usual mode of organizing deliberative assemblies. Jerome O'Neil was nominated for temporary chairman by Mr. Bastida.

Mr. O'Neil on assuming the chair spoke with great seriousness. "I have worked in this movement since Henry George came from San Francisco which was before the great campaign of 1886. In looking back

over the years that have passed since then I see the lost opportunities. This movement has become extinct so far as the masses of our citizens are concerned. If twenty years ago we had done what we are doing to-day we can only faintly realize the power we might have been. What an advantage we would have had now had we for 20 years been preaching the Single Tax as a gospel to be realized through the independent political action of our fellow citizens. The Single Tax would have been preached on every street corner. But even now it is not too late."

As chairman of committee on Plan and Scope, Jos. F. Darling reviewed the history of the movement for independent political action, since it was first suggested in 1903 by Edwin T. Weeks, of New Iberia, La., in the columns of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

The Committee on Permanent Organization now retired. Mr. James F. Morton reported for the Committee, recommending Hon. Geo. Wallace of Jamaica, N. Y. as chairman, and B. F. Sample, of Brooklyn, N. Y. as secretary. Mr. Wallace took the chair and opened the proceedings with an address which owing to lack of space in this issue must be held over until next number. Mr. Wallace pointed out that Single Taxers in England had really organized politically, whatever we may be told by those ill informed and opposed to the independent movement on this side. They had nominated their own men for office—notably for county councils in Liverpool and elsewhere—and in some cases had by a show of strength forced the endorsement of their nominees by both Liberal and Conservative bodies.

On motion of James F. Morton it was decided that the committees that had been at work on various divisions of the work of the convention, continue to act for the convention.

Under the head of Tactics, Mr. Morton spoke in favor of a balance of power party as against a party for straight-out nominations. He strongly deprecated the formation of an independent nominating party. Mr. Darling of New York spoke in opposition to Mr. Morton, as did Mr. Hansen of Whitestone, L. I. Mr. Kievitt, of N. J. and Mr. Casey of N. Y. and Miss

Maud Malone of N. Y., strongly supported Mr. Morton. Mrs. Ferm spoke in favor of a "middle of the road" policy, saying that whatever the suffragist movement had won was by independent political action. She doubted the practicability of Mr. Morton's plan of holding a political club over the heads of existing political parties by a non-nominating party. The independent nomination was the true political club. Mr. Wallace said that what he wanted was to get Single Tax men to vote together. There seemed no way of doing this save by giving them Single Tax candidates to vote for. Mr. Norwalk, of N. Y., said that we ought not to be obliged under all circumstances to nominate candidates.

The motion of Mr. Morton, around which this debate centered, was as follows: "That this convention constitute itself a political league not to make direct nominations save where and when desirable." To this Mr. O'Neil offered this amendment: "That this convention constitute itself a political Single Tax party to make nominations wherever possible." The amendment was carried and the original motion was defeated.

Mr. Darling reported for committee on platform. (This platform will appear in next issue of the REVIEW.) This was adopted after a committee appointed by the chair and consisting of Morton, Casey, Darling and Wallace had retired to make what seemed to a majority of those present certain desirable changes.

An animated discussion now followed on the question of name. Mr. Casey proposed the name American Single Tax Party. Mr. Wallace read a letter from Mr. Fels in which he urged the substitution of Land Value Tax for Single Tax, saying that the latter had been generally abandoned in Great Britain. The Land Value Tax Party was suggested by Mr. Wallace. Mr. O'Neil proposed the name of Social Wealth Party. Miss Charlotte Schetter, of Orange, N. J., spoke against the name of Land Value Tax party on the ground that while available for our English comrades where land values are practically untaxed it is unsuited to American conditions. The Land Values Tax Party name won, however, by a majority of *one*.

Chairman Wallace who had been suffer-

ing from a serious throat trouble, now left the convention hall, not however before Mr. Darling, of N. Y., had paid an eloquent tribute to the retiring chairman, and a hearty vote of thanks had been accorded him.

Mr. W. J. Wallace, of Newark, N. J., now read the Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the party and these were adopted as read.

It was decided on motion of Mr. Darling that the permanent officers of the convention act as provisional officers of the party, with power to add an executive committee. These officers consist of Hon. Geo. Wallace, Chairman, Freeport, L. I., N. Y.; B. F. Sample, Secretary, 13 Cranberry Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., and W. J. Wallace, Treasurer, 233 Mt. Prospect Ave, Newark N. J.

Mr. Wallace of N. J. now announced that arrangements had been completed for sending copies of the platform to a selected list of 5,000 newspaper throughout the United States.

After the passage of several resolutions the Convention adjourned, and thus was born the new Land Value Tax Party, the initial progress of which will be followed by some Single Taxers with confidence and by all with interest.

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#### THE SUPERSTITION OF A SECOND CHAMBER.

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We are glad to see the *Square Deal*, organ of the Canadian Single Taxers, coming out strongly against the theory of a second chamber. A second chamber, whether hereditary, appointive, or elective is really an anachronism in a democracy. Its origin is distrust of the popular will—it is a survival of the aristocratic theory of government. It is not a fifth wheel to a coach—a fifth wheel is a necessary thing. It is a drag merely, no matter how learnedly defended by governmental theorists and statesmen with their doctrines of “balanced powers” and “checks and counter-checks.” Away with them!

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Does the library of your city receive THE REVIEW?

#### EXTRACTS FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES SHOWING THE REMARKABLE GROWTH OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

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##### SINGLE TAX IN PART.

Every once in a while some speaker or writer says that the Single Tax is in operation in Australia, New Zealand, Alberta, Manitoba, or elsewhere. As an actual fact it is in operation in no civilized or uncivilized country on the earth. Steps toward it have been taken in various sections of the world. These steps are very definite and positive in New South Wales and New Zealand, but still this theory is fought and denounced even in these places. Alberta collects no taxes for any purposes on the live stock and improvements of the farmers. In most of the cities the taxes on improvements and personal property is done away with. Many towns in Australia collect no taxes, or very light taxes, on improvements, but the Single Tax would mean the absolute abolition of every other tax but that on land values.—Portland, (Ore.) *Labor Press*.

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##### OPPOSITION BASED ON IGNORANCE.

Henry George undertook to point out to men a route to economic justice. For hundreds of years brilliant minds had seen that the very existence of human life was dependent upon access to the soil, and that so long as this was so those who owned the land were absolute masters of all their fellows. And for hundreds of years men who thought at all had insisted that of all taxes the land tax was the fairest and best. But it remained for Henry George to point out that the rental value of land is created by all people and belongs therefore to those who created it. He proposed that the people should take to themselves that which was justly their own, by taxing land only.

Thousands of people believe that the Single Tax will do more to solve the problem of economic injustice than any other theory that has been advanced. Most of the opposition to the Single Tax is ignorance pure and abysmal.—*The Silent Part-*