

balance of one per cent. for a sinking fund, which is to pay off the principal in about forty-nine years. In the liquidation of this debt Mr. Davitt would require the Irish tenant to pay a sum of £100,000,000 whilst the remaining £50,000,000 would be paid off by the Irish community, which would thus be buying for itself an income of one-third of the rental of Ireland. This arrangement would mean that instead of a nett rental of £7,000,000 to the landlords, the tenants and the country would only be required to pay the much smaller sum of £5,000,000 annually for a period of forty-nine or fifty years. The £2,000,000 difference would be compensation to the tenants for improvements which they have effected in the soil for periods extending farther back than twenty years, for of such the Land Commission takes no account. Now, although this is a most ingenious arrangement, and one which was evidently the result of much thought, we cannot altogether agree with it. The appropriation of a third of the rental by the community is, indeed, most equitable as far as it goes but stops very far short of what justice should demand. Bearing in mind that rent is paid solely and only for the inherent productive power that is in the earth—the most valuable bounty of nature—why, we ask, should not the community, to whom undoubtedly that natural bounty belongs, take to itself the whole rental, instead of merely a third? Mr. Davitt's proposition is so far illogical, for the very fact of the State taking to itself even a third proves conclusively that the ownership of the soil does not in equity lie between two individuals—the landlord and tenant—but is the property of the whole community. This being so why should any government, by handing over the soil to the tenant class, give them an unfair advantage over other workers and members of the community, who have just as valid a claim to be considered and benefited?"

RECEPTION TO MRS. ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL.

Mrs. Eliza Stowe Twitchell of Boston was tendered a reception by the Women's Henry George League of New York, on the evening of Monday, February the twenty-third. The reception was held at the Lotus, 113 West 79th St. Mrs. Twitchell was passing several days with friends in New York and the League took this opportunity to honor a woman who has done so much for the cause. Mrs. Twitchell's writings for Single Tax have made her name known to friends of the movement throughout Massachusetts and beyond the borders of her home state. She has been for years one of the most valiant fighters in the van for Single Tax and

Eastern Single Taxers took pleasure in showing her their appreciation of what she has done. Before a well filled hall Mrs. Twitchell made an address which was received with great applause and which is well worth quoting in part here. After expressing her pleasure at meeting so many friends of the cause, and saying that she was glad to see women enlist themselves openly in so good a movement, as there was much work for Single Tax, that women might do among other women, Mrs. Twitchell went on to speak of the various ways of furthering our cause.

"We all know with what terrible earnestness the early workers of our reform attacked landlordism; how they waxed eloquent against private property in land, and demonstrated the justice and the advantages of taxing land values. I know something of the untiring labors of these early workers, and am proud to say that I had some share in their enthusiasms; indeed, so convinced was I, at one time, that all we had to do was to prove the justice of our cause, and people would rush to our ranks by the thousands, that I can remember thinking the millennium so near that possibly some of the speeches I was preparing would not be needed.

" But there is great difference between a negative and positive presentation of a truth. To attack Landlordism is revolutionary; but to say that Society is an organism that lives and grows and produces a value quite separate from the life, growth and value produced by the individual units composing it, is bringing good news to the people."

Mrs. Twitchell cited the instance of the farmer, the greatest natural conservative in the world,

"Tell an American farmer that private property in land is unjust and he thinks you will dispossess him of his land. Tell him you seek to put all taxes upon land values, and the term "land values" is so new to him, that he is alarmed at once. . . . But tell him that ground rent is a social product, and that you seek to socialize it, and so give him his share; tell him that it is ground rent upon which monopoly is feeding, taking the share that belongs to the public; tell him that whoever receives ground rent receives a social privilege, that you seek to equalize privileges and so remove tax burden then give him time to think about it, and ten to one he will work his own way to the moral side of the matter and understand at last."

Mrs. Twitchell paid tribute to the work of some of the prominent Single Taxers, mentioning Lawson Purdy, Tom Johnson, C. B. Fillebrown, and others, and ended with a hopeful outlook for the future from the general enlightenment of public opinion, and the spread of Truth and justice.