

Miss Anita Trueman in her address on "Single Tax and the artists" brought out very clearly the sad truth that under present social conditions the painter instead of being able to give his best efforts to the world must paint unsightly signs that can be read blocks away, and the musician with the ability to compose symphonies puts "rag-time" on the market, "because there is a living in it." Mr. Alfred J. Boulton, Register of Kings County, closed the meeting with an address on "The Uses and Abuses of Trade Unions."

The convention which was voted a success in every way was brought to a close on Wednesday evening with a banquet. Addresses were made by George L. Rusby, Mr. Robert Towne, Miss Jennie A. Rogers, Henry George, Jr., Frank Stephens and Miss Grace Isabel Colbron.

MASSACHUSETTS.

NOTABLE MEETINGS IN BOSTON—THE SINGLE TAX MOVEMENT NO LONGER DISCREDITED BY THE SCHOOLS—ALICE STONE BLACKWELL ANNOUNCES HER CONVERSION.

The REVIEW asks for articles showing the progress of the movement. Two meetings have recently been held in Boston which reveal this in an interesting manner.

The Massachusetts Single Tax League, which is ever rich in fresh devices for the good of the cause, has taken a new departure. Instead of inviting prominent guests to a public dinner, and after feasting them ask them to listen while we instruct them in the three factors of production, with their laws of distribution, prominent guests were invited to dine with us and then to instruct us concerning Single Tax theory and the progress of the movement. The result was most encouraging. The public announcement that Hon. Josiah Quincy, ex-mayor of Boston, was to speak, as well as Alice Stone Blackwell, Professor Bullock of Harvard, the well-known editors of the *Transcript* and the *Watchman*, the announcement of these speakers, with others, including the name of William Lloyd Garrison, drew a fair and expectant audience.

Think of the scheme of inviting a professor of political economy and editors of the press to tell us Single Taxers—who know the whole alphabet of this science, and every wind and tide of its movement—to tell us how the Single Tax will work when put in practice, how much of it should be at once adopted, and the wonderful interest these truths are arousing in England. This last—the Single Tax movement in England—was the theme of the address by the editor of the *Transcript*, and it was not only interesting and instructive to our guests, but to Single Taxers as well. The very fact that it seems no longer necessary,

here in Boston, to tell intelligent people what the Single Tax is, reveals, strikingly, the progress of the movement.

Hon. Josiah Quincy's address revealed the fact that he was thoroughly conversant with our theories and largely in agreement with our principles. He stated his belief in the justice of taking the entire ground rent for all public uses, provided it was done gradually.

Alice Stone Blackwell for the first time publicly declared herself "a Single Taxer from conviction." Professor Bullock had time only to rejoice that we had one organization in Massachusetts that was devoting its time and energy to the study of taxation. Compare this with the objection to the Single Tax so often made by scholars only a few years ago, that Henry George was discredited by *The Schools*.

Mr. Walker, an architect, whom the present mayor of Boston has engaged to work out plans for beautifying the city, assured us that although his knowledge of the Single Tax was quite limited, he yet found himself in harmony with many of its ideas and ideals.

These speakers are by no means exceptional, but are fairly representative of a large class of intelligent and observing people who are with us at heart, yet who do not appreciate their need of being marked and ticketed with the Single Tax label.

We purpose to continue these meetings, taking up different points of interest, such as "The Selling Value of Land as an Untaxed Value," "The Agency of the Single Tax in the Distribution of Wealth," or perhaps devoting one evening to the subject, "The Power to Tax." This, it seems to me, is the most important truth to be emphasized at the present time, and here let me urge all writers and speakers to impress this point upon those whom they have the privilege of addressing. The "*de-lenda est Carthago*" of our movement. Constitutions rest the power to tax in the hands of the people, yet owing to their ignorance of the importance of this power there has ever been a privileged class. Carthage can be destroyed only by taxing privilege.

Would it not be well for every member of the Letter Writing Corps to write out a clear, brief statement of this theme, keep it "on tap," and when asked to fire at a target use it. It would save much time and labor; for, by a few introductory remarks it could be made to fit nearly every case.

If the masses could only know how they are enslaved by taxation, and how easily they could be freed by taxation the beginning of the end would appear.

The second meeting that revealed, somewhat, the progress of the movement was a smaller gathering of old time Single Taxers. At this meeting the progress of the movement, and the proposed confer-

ence in October, were discussed at length. This meeting was also representative of the larger body of Single Tax workers, nearly all of whom believe the movement to be very much alive.

With the exception of a few captious criticisms, the old time enthusiasm rang clear and strong in the interesting words of each speaker.

Some complaint is made because we are not impressing the rising generation. Are we not doing better? Have we not already converted the present generation? All, except the sheep, who follow their leaders, and the seekers after the loaves and fishes.

Again, it is said, "We have no political party." The Socialists and the Prohibitionists have political parties; yet what is their influence on political issues compared with ours? Not long ago England had no political party that took up this issue; but the schoolmaster was abroad, and when the people understood, and demanded this reform, the Liberal Party came into power pledged to carry out in some measure the wishes of the voters.

Sooner than we dream some party in this country will voice the public opinion now being created by our united and individual efforts.

True, the old time moral enthusiasm is wanting at our public meetings, because our speakers dwell chiefly upon the practical side of the subject. It was the white heat born of that holy enthusiasm that germinated the seeds of truth, scattered them round the entire world, filling all lands, and this practical discussion is now indicative of a coming harvest. When any reform is about to enter and influence practical affairs its advocates are forced to talk about its practical effects.

ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL.

CANADA.

ALDERMAN BENGOUGH WINNING RECRUITS TO THE EXEMPTION MEASURE IN THE TORONTO CITY COUNCIL—BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT COLER'S CITY BULLETIN MAY FIND AN IMITATOR IN TORONTO.

Things have been rather quiet with the Toronto Association lately, but we would assure our friends that we are still "doing business at the same old stand," and are looking forward to a period of greater activity in the near future.

Ald Bengough is soon to move in the City Council that the Council apply to the Legislature for power to pass a measure exempting dwelling houses from taxation to the extent of \$700 of their assessed value, the measure to be submitted to a referendum vote of the property owners of the city before becoming law. Several members of the City Council, who have opposed the

measure in its original form, have expressed willingness to support it if this last clause is added, and we feel confident that a majority of the property owners of the city would vote in favor of the exemption.

There is a strong sentiment in favor of public ownership of public utilities taking hold of the people of Canada. A central and five branch Public Ownership Leagues have been organized in Toronto already, and the central body, at their organization meeting, passed a resolution in favor of the initiative and referendum as far as public utilities are concerned.

A club was organized in Toronto on April 2d, the object of which is to get people who are interested in various progressive movements, to come together and exchange their views. The plan has been to have a dinner every Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock, at which an address would be given on some subject of interest, by some representative speaker, followed by three-minute speeches by any person wishing to take part. One or two solos have also been a feature of each meeting. The plan has been very successful, a membership of about a hundred having been built up in the three months the club has been in existence, not a few of whom are ladies. It is called "The Progressive Club," and, while in no sense a Single Tax organization, its membership includes quite a number of Single Taxers. We therefore regard it as a valuable medium through which to get our views before a thoughtful class of people.

The need of giving greater attention to the circulation of economic literature is being realized here, and it is the writer's purpose to submit to the Single Taxers of Canada a plan for carrying on such work somewhat on the lines followed by the Brooklyn Borough President. We believe there are great possibilities in that method of propaganda, if carried on in the right way.

D. B. WALLING,
Secretary.

Hon. George M. Fowlds, of Auckland, New Zealand, sends us the following clipping from a local paper:

"A record compiled by Mr. H. G. Ell, M. H. R., shows that since the introduction of the system of rating on unimproved lands polls have been demanded in 28 districts, with a view to adopting the system, the following being the results: Counties, 20 won, none lost; total 20. Road districts, 10 won, two lost; total 12. Town districts, two lost; total two. Cities and boroughs, 88 won, 10 lost; total 48. Grand totals, 70 won, 12 lost; total 82."

"In two places," writes Mr. Fowlds, "a vote was taken to reverse the system, but in each case it was upheld by a greater vote than had in the first instance resulted in its adoption."