

with absolute truths, with axioms as you do in mathematics, and he went on to an inevitable conclusion, and no man has ever answered his arguments."

SOME INTERESTING EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB. 1886-1892.

(For the Review.)

By **BENJAMIN DOBLIN.**

What follows in this article are chronological notes for the most part gathered from only partially preserved records and presented here without any attempt at elaboration. It is hoped, however, that they may lead to a full and complete history of the club whose work has been so valuable a part of the great propaganda. Mr. Doblin would therefore request all those who read this article and can add anything to the recollections of events not fully covered, or recall something that has been omitted, to communicate such information so that complete data may be available for the writing of a real history of the Manhattan Single Tax Club.—Editor SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

Searching through records, reading minutes and fragments of reports, many of them missing, is disheartening to one whose memories are revived by the search. The dominating glow of enthusiasm, the unselfishness members constantly displayed, are lost in the dry details of club administration.

Oh, we were a serious lot! The responsibility of establishing a just social order was too absorbing to leave room for the frivolous fancies of life.

The movement began as a crusade. Henry George infused that spirit into his disciples and they went forth to destroy a monster iniquity.

Understood! No. We did not stop to care. Our task was to let light into dark places; to educate a people long trained to believe that governments were instituted to apportion privileges. Often we stumbled, tripped by the teachings, traditions and customs of our environment.

At best this can only be a partial account of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. Its location in the Metropolis, where Henry George lived, afforded it the opportunity of participating in all the earlier activities. New York City was the theatre of epoch-making events. Here was born the Anti-Poverty Society, headed by the Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn. His fame as the people's priest—the "Sogarth Aroon" as he was affectionately called—was already established when his open public advocacy of Henry George's philosophy finally brought him into conflict with his ecclesiastical superiors, who punished him with immortality. Here Rev. Dr. Heber Newton, an Episcopal minister, espoused the cause of George at the risk of his pulpit. Dr. John W. Kramer, his assistant, ably seconded him. William T. Croasdale, editor of the *New York Star*, supported Henry George editorially and told the owners when they objected to find another boy. Croasdale, the Quaker

in whom the suppressed fighting blood of generations came to the surface, had a peculiar manner of speech—he tasted each word as he uttered it and seemed to like it.

It is not easy to recall the names of half of those who were leaders in this crusade.

Professor Scott, of the College of the City of New York, father of William B. Scott, a member of the staff of Henry George's paper, *The Standard*, and the Rev. Dr. John F. Scott, now of Mt. Vernon, still fired with youthful enthusiasm for the cause—was a staunch Georgeite to the end. August Lewis, the merchant, a sweet soul whom Tom Johnson declared was the best Jew since Christ—and Johnson achieved his pecuniary success in life because of his ability to judge characters. Louis F. Post, even then a keen observer and convincing expositor on the platform, unbeaten in written or oral controversy, close intimate of Henry George—and so memory conjures up the names. William McCabe, Jerome O'Neill, Charles Frederick Adams, A. M. Molina, A. J. Steers, all of the latter still with us. This is not the place in my narrative to mention more of the active men of the earlier days. Detailing events in their sequence, I hope to recall many of them, some since acclaimed important.

The Manhattan Single Tax Club sometimes unofficially participated in a variety of related activities. Members congregated in the club rooms where talk centered on its mission, initiating propaganda out of informal exchange of views. Henry George, named for mayor of New York City by popular acclamation in 1886, contested the election with Abram S. Hewitt, the candidate of the fused factions of the Democratic party, and Theodore Roosevelt, candidate of the Republican party. Election methods were confessedly crude, affording much scope for corruption and the falsifying of results. It was a well known secret at the time, since reasonably confirmed, that the operators of the election machinery were not particularly nice as to methods. They declared Hewitt elected, George a close second and Roosevelt a lagging third.

Out of the loosely woven organization developed by that campaign, the United Labor party was formed. A State convention was held in Syracuse, August 17th, 18th, 19th, 1887, where Henry George was prevailed upon to head the ticket as candidate for Secretary of State. Subsequently, President Cleveland sent his famous tariff message to Congress. Henry George, for himself and those in agreement, decided to support Grover Cleveland on the tariff issue.

In August, 1888, a meeting was held in the small hall of Cooper Union to devise means for conducting our part of the National campaign. Reluctantly, those present agreed to the policy of supporting the Democratic candidate for president. This determination was reached after earnest discussion without dissent at the conclusion. Then some enthusiastic member jumped up and yelled, "I give three cheers and a tiger for Grover Cleveland"—a painful silence. After a pause, somebody timidly said, "I second the

motion"—more silence. Seriously, and in proper parliamentary order, Louis F. Post, presiding officer, put the motion, the "ayes" got it by a few votes, but there was stolid silence from the others. The chairman announced the result and then some members arose and meekly said, "Hurrah—Tiger." We had endorsed the Democratic ticket! Nevertheless, we worked like Trojans during the campaign.

September 19th, 1888, the 10th Assembly District of the United Labor Party, became the 9th Congressional Free Trade Club. After the election, on December 9th, it was again re-organized into the Manhattan Single Tax Club, 105 Second Avenue, William Faulhaber, President. The idea then was that we should build up a compact central organization and when strong enough, organize branches throughout the city. There were at the time other Single Tax Clubs in the city. The Yorkville Single Tax club, Arthur Fiegel, President; Harlem Single Tax Club, John J. Hopper, President; West Side Single Tax Club, Dr. Wark, President. At intervals, these clubs affiliated with the Manhattan Single Tax Club.

On December 4, 1888, a committee of five, Doblin, Silbernik, Girner, Paul and Spahr were appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. The name, "Manhattan Single Tax Club" first occurs in the minutes of December 18, 1888. My recollection is that the name "Manhatttan Single Tax Club" was the happy suggestion of Joseph Silbernik.

December 8 Wm. T. Croasdale projected the Congressional petition, and on December 13 was elected a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, which began its career with William H. Faulhaber as President, Jos. McDonough, Vice President, Charles P. Kelly, Recording Secretary, Paul Boesig, Financial Secretary, William Spahr, Treasurer.

On December 11th, the club organized a "Spread the Light Club" to carry on propaganda. It proposed to insert in the books by Henry George, circulated by the Club a form as follows:—

"SPREAD THE LIGHT CLUB.

"This book is entrusted to the reader with the request of the donors that after reading as promptly as possible, name, address and opinion be written on the first vacant place below.

		Approve,	
1	Yes,		No.
2			
3			
4			
5			

The last reader is requested to mail this blank to Secretary, M. S. T. C., N. Y. C., and retain the book with the compliments of the donors.

If you accept the doctrines expounded in this book and wish to aid in spreading the light, kindly notify Secretary, M. S. T. C., N. Y. C."

We were having an experience meeting on December 17th, when Mr. Steers came into the Club rooms during the last speaker's remarks. He was called upon for a speech, but instead of making one, stated that he had just left Henry George's house where a large party of friends were gathered to welcome him home. A member of the Club arose and said that here were over a hundred of Mr. George's friends assembled, and though the hour was late (10:15) he moved that the Club go up in a body to congratulate Mr. George on his safe return to us. The motion was carried unanimously and the members marched up the wet pavements of Second Avenue to 19th Street where Henry George lived, and where they were cordially greeted.

The return of Henry George aroused a general desire among Single Tax people to give him such a welcome as he had received abroad.

Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, presided while the list of vice-presidents embraced the names of prominent Single Tax advocates in all parts of the country.

The meeting was a magnificent success. Cooper Union was filled with an intelligent and enthusiastic audience that greeted Mr. George with a very remarkable demonstration. When the audience obtained the first glimpse of him as he stepped on the platform a mighty cheer arose, and for several minutes there followed round after round of applause, the whole audience finally rising and giving cheer until Mr. George arose and bowed his acknowledgment. The reception given to Mr. Johnson hardly fell short of that given to Mr. George himself.

This was probably the first important public address that Johnson ever made and he was bathed in perspiration of nervous excitement when he made it:

MR. JOHNSON'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel deeply the sense of honor conferred upon me tonight by your committee in permitting me to preside at this meeting. I think you may have some cause to complain of your committee when you find that I am in no sense a speaker.

This is a gathering of Single Tax people from all parts of this country. We have with us tonight representatives from almost every section. Indeed you may say that this is the first national gathering of the friends of this movement. The occasion is the return of Mr. Henry George (great applause) from a trip to England, where he was most handsomely received. We have every evidence that his trip abroad was a grand success, and that he made many friends on that side of the water. They on that side are engaged in the same good work that we are on this, and that work is the emancipation of men from the bondage of industrial slavery. (Applause) Here we are known by many names. Not long ago we were called a band of cranks. (Laughter) We are called free traders, Single Tax men, anti-povertyites, Georgeites; and over in England they are called liberals and democrats. But we all have one aim, one end in view, and that is the obliteration of poverty. (Applause)

They say that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Is it true of our prophet, he who has led us out of the wilderness? I think not. (Applause) If Mr. George could have known when he wrote "Progress and Poverty" (applause) how quickly this movement would have been on its feet, and how the people would become enthused in its cause, he never would have written those beautiful lines, "Scant jus-

tice may be done him long after the clods have rattled on his coffin lid." He did not have to wait so long.

We have today it is safe to say, in the United States a hundred thousand intelligent, earnest believers in the cause of the Single Tax. (Applause) Eight years or nine at most have elapsed since that book was written. Has ever a book been so widely read in so short a time? Think of it. It has been translated into many languages, and millions of copies have been printed, and people have been taught to think on a question that interests every man whether he be a laborer or a capitalist—for the very rich are as much interested in abolishing poverty as the very poor.

SINCE TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO.

There are many bright spots in this campaign of thought to look back to with pride and pleasure. There are many things that all of you can recall; but there are some few incidents that perhaps some of you are not familiar with. About two and a half years ago there was a meeting of eighteen men gathered in Twenty-fifth street, all believing in the same thing, and yet with their minds in a blank state as to what should be done. The question was, how to bring into practical politics this question in which we are all interested. That was the beginning of the movement, for it seemed as if by a miracle that a way opened at once; then came that great race for mayor. There were a good many honest people who looked at it with horror. They said, here is a man getting 68,000 votes who proposes to uproot society and to turn things upside down. But a change has taken place. To-day all parties recognize us as at least in earnest; and the press of this city condescends to say we ought at least to be heard (laughter and applause).

THE NEW POLITICS.

We must win in the end. Ignorance and money may win in a skirmish line, but battles they cannot win. When people begin to think superstition must go (applause). Whoever lost the fight, or whoever won, the real victory was with the free traders of this country (applause) for it was the free traders who made the strongest, boldest, hardest fight. It was the free traders who were listened to most earnestly. It was the free traders who educated the people and dissipated from their minds the dread of the thought that we might possibly have free trade. They at least said "What of it. It is a good thing" (applause.)

There are all grades of free traders, almost as many as the colors of peoples' hair. There is the moderate free trader, who sees only as his aim the reduction of the surplus. There is another kind that goes a little farther, and thinks that the piling up of the surplus in the treasury piles up a greater surplus in the pockets of the few. There is a class that want to wipe out all protective tariffs. There is still another kind of free traders who would not only take the tariff off commerce but would lift all burdens from protection, and go further and ask how the products of labor are distributed among the workers (applause). I confess that I belong to the last kind (applause), and I have not much doubt that most of you do (applause).

Politics has been run for many years in this country on the question of men, a question of who is the best fellow, and who is the best looking man, and how he stands with his neighbors, and whether there is any scandal about him. But on this last race was that the fight that was made? It was not, Who is the man? But what does the man stand for? and what was the kind of a political fight that had to come to educate a whole people.

On December 29th, 1888, a Dinner was tendered to Henry George at the Hotel Hungaria. The speakers were Henry T. Terry, Major A. R. Calhoun, Col. Donn Piatt, John DeWitt Warner, L. F. Post, Thomas G. Shearman, W. J. Atkinson, W. B. Estell and Henry George.

1889.

January 3rd. Henry George was elected to membership.

January 4th. The club moved to larger quarters, 8 St. Marks Pl. There was no moving expense. The members dragged the chairs and other property around to the new quarters; some of them had previously scrubbed the floors and cleaned the windows. Of course, there is nothing remarkable about this, except that it indicates the spirit of the members. Here was introduced the holding of "Commers," free and easy Saturday evening affairs where beer, sandwiches, pretzels, radishes, etc. were bountifully spread and you helped yourself with comfortable informality.

January 19. J. L. Dunham, Geo. St. J. Leavens, J. H. Scully, A. J. Wolff, Wm. Britigan and E. B. Swinney were elected members.

January 25th. The following notice was sent to many other organizations.

January 25, 1889.

Dear Sir:

There is a project on foot for the organization of a Mock Congress. You are invited to attend a preliminary meeting which is to be held at the residence of Mr. Oliver Sumner Teall, No. 252 Lexington Avenue, corner of 35th street, on Monday evening, January 27th at 8:30 o'clock. Your attendance is particularly requested, as the preliminary meeting will be composed of five representatives only, and it is necessary for us to have full expression of opinion.

Very respectfully yours,
 Manhattan Single Tax Club,
 Benjamin Doblin.

REPUBLICAN VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION—OLIVER SUMNER TEALL.

This project died aborning. Some of the conferees were afraid to have the Congress come to a vote upon debated questions or even take up and discuss matters then pending in the Legislature. It was feared the project was loaded, and so to the regret of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, it had to be abandoned. Oliver Sumner Teall who figured in this project was a real Society swell. He was the efficient executive of the Ballot Reform League which under his direction was preparing a petition in favor of ballot reform. Had I the time, I could tell an interesting story of the introduction of that petition in the Assembly at Albany when "blue-eyed Billy Sheehan" literally got the petition "in the neck." Mr. Teall was also the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican Volunteer Association, the names of officers and members reading like a list of the guests present at an international wedding in Grace Church. The work of the Single Taxers so impressed him that he decided to learn by reading *Progress and Poverty* what there was in that book to fire so many admirable enthusiasts, so on a visit to his mother in central New York, he stuck the book in his pocket and when he returned to the City, he called some of us aside to tell us the joke on himself. After telling us of his intention to read the book, he said, "When I got to my home, the first thing my mother said to me was that I should read *Progress and Poverty* before I read another book." She had been converted by Bishop Huntington.

January 26th. A class established for the study of Progress and Poverty. F. C. Leubuscher and Louis F. Post joined the Club. Every Sunday evening public meetings were held and well attended. One of the many notable addresses was delivered by Professor Thos. Davidson on "Savonarola." This was his first public address in America.

February 2nd. R. F. George, J. T. McKechnie, Thomas B. Preston, W. B. DuBois and Jerome O'Neill were elected members. Post, Croasdale, August Lewis and A. B. Van Dusen were elected delegates to the Chicago Tariff Reform Conference held February 19.

The strike of the surface car men called for resolutions transmitted to D. A. 226, to Mayor Grant, the Police Commissioner and to the members of the Legislature.

February 9th. August Lewis, Edward Polak, E. N. Vallandingham and Dr. H. A. Rundlett were elected members.

February 21st. Itinery truck campaign first suggested. This simple statement of less than ten words fails to tell the story of the reception our speakers received. We collected some of the testimonials and arranged them on the mantel shelf in the Club. Stones, potatoes, and various odd substances; liquids and abuse we could not preserve. The eggs were over-preserved and too diffused in the presentation to be displayed except as personal adornment. Upon our return to the Club rooms we were regaled with a prepared lunch served by Wm. D. Williams, who was popularly known as Prince Williams on account of his striking resemblance to the then living Prince of Wales. Here it was obligatory to tell a story, sing a song or make a speech.

On March 1st, accompanied by Beggs' Single Tax band dressed in Single Tax uniform, we marched to the steamer to bid Henry George good-bye on a trip to Europe. The band gave a concert on the pier before the departure of the steamer.

March 21st. Letter-writing club organized. J. J. Murphy introduced to the club as a newly elected member. What he said on that occasion is unhappily lost, but it may have been something about the efficient administration he would give if ever he was charged with the duty of conducting the Tenement House Department which was not then in existence. Constitution revised, name re-adopted and the motto adopted, "Free Trade, Free Land and Free Men."

March 28th. The club resolves to participate in the Centennial Inaugural Celebration.

Every Monday evening a large class read and discuss Progress and Poverty in the Club rooms.

Cooper Union Hall in the near vicinity, was the scene of nightly meetings devoted to all sorts of purposes. The members would stack up with Single Tax tracts and distribute them to the audience as it came out. About this time, Henry George proposed that we celebrate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. The matter was finally referred to a committee which wrestled with the problem of the day of the birth of Jefferson (was it April 2nd or

13th?) Out of this action has been revived the celebration of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, now nationally observed.

April 2nd. The celebration of Thomas Jefferson's birthday and the decennial celebration of the publication of *Progress and Poverty*.

May 4th. The club is located at 36 Clinton Place. We had to wait until after the celebration to get into our new quarters and for three days were houseless. The first meeting here was addressed by Walter H. Page of the *Forum*, present American Ambassador to Great Britain.

May 16th. Condemned the veto of Saxton Ballot Reform Bill. Brooklyn Central Single Tax Club urged the Manhattan Single Tax Club to join in calling a New York Conference: declined, but asked that they join with us in a reception to Henry George upon his return from England.

June 16th. The members resolved to join in formation of Democratic clubs of which Chauncey F. Black was president.

August 22nd. Census statistics of land tenancy and ownership proposed by St. Louis Single Tax League, endorsed and supported by M. S. T. C.

Agitate the violation of law in assessing real estate at less than full value.

Two trucks going out weekly.

Horace E. Deming, Secretary of Ballot Reform Committee of the "Reform Club" invites Manhattan Single Tax Club to appoint a committee to participate in conference. Croasdale, Everett, Qualey, Doblin, Steers and Kelley, appointed.

December 20th, 1889, Louis F. Post elected president.

December 27th. W. E. Hicks elected member.

1890.

The publication of assessment list with separate valuation of land and buildings urged. This has since been enacted into law.

The West Side Single Tax Club, David Wark, M. D., President, joins the Manhattan Single Tax Club. James R. Brown and Henry DeForest Baldwin elected to membership.

Jan. 10th. Testimonial dinner to Henry George, on his departure for Australia, at the Metropolitan Hotel. L. F. Post presided. Speakers: Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, Wheeler H. Peckham, John DeWitt Warner, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, James E. Mills, George Inness, Thomas G. Shearman, Peter Aitken, A. Augustus Healey, Daniel C. Beard and Henry George.

Jan. 16th. A. J. Wolff, Charles P. Kelley, A. J. Steers and Wm. McCabe addressed the meeting held by local assemblies Knights of Labor 2291 and 4838 on the Single Tax, Free Trade and Ballot Reform.

February 5th. A letter sent to all the clergymen of New York asking them to read an enclosed lecture by Henry George, entitled, "Thy Kingdom Come," and urging them to use the subject in their sermon.

February 22nd. Washington Day dinner in the club rooms. Among the guests was a Japanese student, Mr. Tokomoto, here to study American

law. "He considered," he said, in a very interesting address he made after the dinner, "that the most valuable present he would take home to Japan would be the truths enunciated by Henry George and set forth in *Progress and Poverty*."

February 28th. Theodore Werner and George Knight elected members. A. J. Wolff prepares a Single Tax tract for the farmers, illustrated by Dan Beard after a cartoon by J. W. Bengough. These were circulated by the thousands.

March 6th. Resolutions adopted and sent to Legislature and press denouncing Governor Hill for his veto of Ballot Reform Bill.

March 13th. Robert G. Ingersoll acknowledges receipt of specially bound copy of *Progress and Poverty*.

May 1st. Move to 73 Lexington Avenue and occupy most part of the building. Louis F. Post, president. Mr. Post congratulates the club on the final success, after four years work, for ballot reform. A senate investigating committee had been appointed by the Legislature to examine into city conditions. The Committee was known as the Fasset Committee. Wm. M. Ivins was counsel. The club committee was instructed to urge the Senate Committee to examine into existing taxing methods of assessing improved lands and to investigate whether assessors complied with the State law governing the matter of assessments. Such an inquiry was made by the Senate Committee's counsel, Wm. M. Ivins, from data supplied by the club, on October 16 and it jarred the system of favoritism in taxation. Later in the year the club proceeded to prod president Coleman of the Tax Board. The Committee prepared and presented to the editors of their respective papers, a table showing the amounts of taxation on new buildings occupied by the *New York World* and the *New York Times* from 1887 to 1890. The Committee reports plans for city and Congressional election campaign.

We organize the Workman's Tariff Reform League. Wm. J. Browne, President, T. J. Gilligan, Vice President, E. M. Klein, Secretary and Treasurer. Meets every Friday evening in Manhattan Single Tax Club rooms, 73 Lexington Avenue; active all summer enrolling and holding public meetings.

June 5. Decide to hold a National Conference of Single Taxers upon Henry George's return, to be held September 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

July 1st. Richard McGhee of Scotland attends and addresses the club.

September 3rd. Single Tax Conference concluded with dinner at Brighton Beach Hotel, Coney Island.

August 22nd. Members of the Manhattan Single Tax Club elected as delegates to the National Single Tax Conference: Henry George, J. H. Babcock, W. Britigan, Geo. Brunswick, Jas. Beggs, W. T. Croasdale, Holbrook Cushman, Daniel Cavanagh, Benjamin Doblin, J. A. B. Dilworth, G. W. Everett, W. E. Hicks, John J. Hopper, Chas. P. Kelley, August Lewis, Walter Mendelsohn, M. D., W. H. Matthews, Wm. McCabe, Thos. H. McGeoch, Jerome O'Neill, Louis F. Post, Gaston Protin, Richard Passmore,

E. J. Shriver, George Simon, A. J. Steers, J. H. Scully, Wm. F. Sherlock, W. B. Scott, L. Vinton, Morris VanVeen, A. J. Wolf, W. D. Williams, J. P. Winter.

August 27th. Geo. R. Macey elected a member.

November 5th. W. Jeffery and G. H. Atkinson elected members.

December 26th. W. J. Atkinson and A. M. Molina elected members. Members out on trucks speaking for workmen's Tariff Reform League. Out of town delegates to the Conference participate in cart tail campaign.

October. Many members very actively working in Workmen's Tariff Reform League, endeavoring to vitalize the Free Trade Issue in the coming Congressional election. Peoples' Municipal League also absorbing members' activities in purely municipal issues. John DeWitt Warner named for Congress in the 11th Congressional District and William T. Croasdale, 7th Congressional District. Warner was elected and served with marked distinction.

October 16th. Club celebrates its two years of existence with a 60c. dinner in its club rooms and issues a "Proclamation." The Thursday social meetings are postponed until after election. We are trying to elect Wm. T. Croasdale to Congress.

December 15th. Louis F. Post re-elected president for 1891.

1891.

January. Memorial presented to President of Tax Board, Michael Coleman, demanding a legal assessment of real estate for purpose of taxation.

January 22nd. Julien T. Davies addressed the Club on "The Abolition of Taxation on Personal Property;" later made into a pamphlet and two thousand copies circulated. The membership of the Union League was covered; also sent to all members of the Legislature. As a result of this literature, the *Mail and Express* devoted considerable space to discussing the impolicy of taxing personal property. Delegation appears before the Committee of the Legislature to urge favorable action on the Stein local option in taxation bill. After delegates had presented their argument for the bill, the Committee of the Legislature requested an exposition of the Single Tax. This Croasdale gave them. The Committee happened to be composed of some men of intelligence who gave every mark of approval to Croasdale's exposition. Later, the Stein Local Option Tax Bill was reported out of Committee favorably, the only tax bill so reported by that legislative Committee.

February 8th. Rev. Dr. John W. Kramer delivers a Single Tax lecture entitled "Is It Right, the Ethics of the Land Question." An individual appeal is made to all Single Tax Clubs and workers throughout the State to join in urging the Legislature to pass a bill to be introduced by the Club, providing for separate assessments of land and improvements.

March 27th. Alexander Law elected a member.

April 2nd. Free Trade meeting celebrating the birthday of Thomas Jefferson.

April 27th. Great gathering at Cooper Union, despite the worst storm of the winter. Speech by Jerry Simpson, called the "Sockless Statesman," Thos. G. Shearman and L. F. Post. As Mr. Simpson, who is well known through the country as a former Congressman from Kansas, marched to the front of the stage, he received an ovation probably never exceeded in the wilds of his own western country. He was cheered again and again until as he said, it almost made him think it was a Kansas audience then in front of him.

On April 19, Abner C. Thomas, who later became one of the Surrogates of New York, addressed the Club on "The Philosophy of Taxation." A resolution was adopted on April 19th that the club appoint five members as representatives to meet similar representatives from other clubs and associations for the purpose of forming a Committee, Association or the like to agitate for local self-government, especially regarding taxation by the counties, cities and villages of the State of New York. And on October 30th, a Home Rule in Taxation League was formed.

May 2nd. Committee appointed to promote the candidacy and re-election of Congressman in the 10th Congressional District.

Miss Anna C. George, Miss Jennie C. George, Miss Bessie MacDonald, Miss Sarah Mifflin Gay, Mrs. Mary Otis Willcox, Mrs. Mary Warton Mendelson, elected members.

August 9th. Word received at the Club that Croasdale, editor of the *Standard*, died at Merriewold Park. Funeral services were held in the Club parlor, Wednesday, August 12th, Father J. O. S. Huntington conducted the services. Poem by Joseph Dana Miller, entitled "Fallen From the Ramparts." (*Standard*, August 26th, 1891).

September 16th. A class for the study of political economy conducted by Louis F. Post started. Out of the studies of this economic class was developed the popular lecture so successfully presented throughout the United States by Mr. Post with charts and later made into a book called "Outlines of Lectures," now called "The Taxation of Land Values." This economic class was held on Wednesday and on the following Monday the members would meet and debate the lesson of the previous week.

October 16th. Club celebrates its third birthday with a dinner in its club rooms.

1892.

William McCabe, President.

January 13th. Democratic Free Trade League organized with the following declaration of purposes: We insist that the Democratic Party at its coming national convention shall put in its platform a plank containing a radical declaration in favor of tariff reform, to the point of at least placing all raw materials on the free list and making a corresponding reduction on manufactured articles into which they enter, and shall place in nomination for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency men who by their past conduct in public affairs have proved their loyalty to the cause of tariff reform.

Anti-snap convention arouses anger of radical democrats throughout the State against State machine.

February. Franchise steal: The club protests against the profligate granting of public franchises to private corporations, holding to the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privilege to none, and that where the public interests are best subserved by granting special privileges, the beneficiaries should fully recompense the community for advantages conferred. It adopted the following: "We feel a deep resentment against the supposed representatives of the people for giving away valuable public utilities without regard to the rights of their constituents, who will be obliged to pay tribute to corporations if this attempted steal be legitimized. It is most exasperating. A conquering army could not lay heavier burdens upon the people than has the legislature in its careless disregard of the people's property. It is not the people's desire that these franchises should be made prizes for party advantages and we submit that the most dangerous anarchists are now banded together in the State capital at Albany. In prostituting the powers entrusted to them by the people whose interests they are pledged to promote, they threaten the stability and peace of the State. We warn intending purchasers of these stolen privileges that it is a precarious property and that when the people in their righteous indignation revolt and cancel the obligations made in their name by a corrupt Legislature, the plea of innocent purchasers will not avail."

Protest sent to Aldermanic Committee against their consent to giving the Women's Hospital title to land with the following resolutions:

"In 1859, New York City deeded to the Women's Hospital a large block of land, bounded by 49th and 50th streets, Fourth and Lexington Avenues. As a condition of the grant, it was provided that this land should not be sold without the permission of the City. The New York Central R. R. Co. offers \$1,000,000 for the site which cost the Hospital nothing, and on which never a cent of taxes has been paid to the city. The Club contends that tax exemption for thirty odd years has been sufficient favor to show to a private enterprise over which the city exercises no control or supervision, and that the additional favor the institution now asks for is tantamount to a gift from the city of a round million dollars. A proper and just disposition of this matter would be for the city to agree to erect for the Women's Hospital a new building, to cost not to exceed \$300,000 and the present site revert to the city. That the city then proceed to rent the recovered area at 5 per cent. of its value, appraisements and renewals of leases to be made and computed in the same manner as is done by Trinity, Sailors' Snug Harbor and other estates in New York City that give ground leases." This it was shown would net the city an ever increasing revenue and certainly not less to begin with than \$50,000 per annum.

Our Home Rule Taxation Bill is defeated in the Legislature.

A GOOD BILL SNOWED UNDER.

At a night's session of the Assembly Mr. Connelly (Dem., New York,) called up his local Option Taxation Bill. This is one of the most import-

ant, as well as one of "the best bills introduced in the Legislature this year. Its sponsor said that it provided for a scheme of taxation which meets with the unqualified approval of such well known economists as David A Wells. It was much the best and simplest solution of the great taxation problem which had vexed the Legislature for a generation. If passed, it would prove of instant benefit to farming communities. It was a thorough-going home-rule measure, and should become a law."

The representatives of the farming interests, who did not seem to understand what the bill proposed to do, spoke against it, on the ground that it meant the exemption of personal property from taxation and was, therefore, against the interests of the farmers. It was also argued that it was in line with the notions advanced by Henry George. The men who opposed the bill were Messrs. Patten (Dem. Oneida), Keeler (Rep. St. Lawrence), Deyo (Rep. Madison), and Cole (Dem. Greene). The bill was snowed under by a vote of 32 to 78. Mr. Connelly will endeavor to call it up again before adjournment.

March 5th. Professor E. R. A. Seligman, addressed the club unconvincingly on "Reform in Taxation." Edward Osgood Brown, of Chicago, makes reply and the Professor promises to return the following Sunday and continue the discussion, but he side stepped, to the chagrin of the members.

May 4th. Club moves to 137 East 26th street.

June. The first banner in the State which had been ready for the event, the Committee sitting up all night waiting for the news to unfurl the first banner in favor of the candidacy of Grover Cleveland for President with the motto, "Free Trade, Free Land, Free Men," which motto irritated the tariff reformers of the State.

June 23rd. There was an unveiling of the bust of William T. Croasdale, the work of E. Stuart Hinton, Sculptor and member of the Club.

October 28th. Addressed and mailed 13,000 copies of Protection and Free Trade.

October 30th. Memorial Sent to Archbishop Corrigan on the Single Tax.

(To be continued)

TO PARAPHRASE Gambetta, but to reverse him when he said, "There is no social questions, there are social questions," let us say, "There are no social questions, there is a social question"—and that is the Land Question, however we present it; and the Single Tax is its solution.

THIS principle of economic rent applies to all the users of land, including mining, use of water power, and rights of way over or under its surface. Had this principle always been recognized, and the economic rent always been retained by the community, taxation would never have been heard of. When the economic rent is reclaimed by the community, the need of taxation will disappear.—*Chas. T. Root.*