

the Conference, we have held several meetings and formulated the following program for your consideration:

First: To enroll every Single Taxer in the country so far as possible. These have been estimated at a quarter of a million, and we would ask you to start now and assist us, as this work will all be a favor to us and the cause. This is preparatory to organization in each state. Enclosed are enrollment blanks.

Second: To co-operate with press bureaus (a) by supplying editorial matter to favorable papers, and (b) a general proofsheet service; all under expert management.

Third: To procure and circulate through every channel, popular Single Tax literature especially tracts and cheap editions in co-operation with Mr. E. B. Swinney's work, also *The Land Question*, *Social Problems*, etc.

Fourth: A unique neighborhood library plan.

Fifth: Extension of lecture courses.

Sixth: When found practicable to concentrate our energies on some one State so as to get the Single Tax into operation.

We do not intend to dictate a program; that would be forced and unnatural;—the great body of us land value taxationists must continue to do the work. Your officers can only get our people into mutual communication. We wish to know where we should help and what efforts should have organized help.

We solicit first, suggestions regarding any phase of the work; second, volunteers for publication work or other service; and third such subscriptions as you can afford.

JOHN J. MURPHY  
Secretary.

"ONE must concede that the sort of educational work which the Single Tax League has been doing in recent years is highly commendable. The president has devoted himself particularly to the task of securing definitions and statements of fundamental economic principles underlying the science of taxation that would commend the authoritative approval of economic experts, and of promoting popular recognition and understanding of them. Such work, in so far as it is successful, helps to furnish a needed basis for discussion and legislation."—*Boston Transcript*.

## HOW TO OPPOSE SOCIALISM.

I read an editorial on socialism in reply to W. Bross Lloyd some time ago, and was much interested in it; was considerably impressed with the fact that both sides are incomplete and superficial. Now, the facts are that socialism is up for discussion in America, and it must be discussed fairly and fully. It will not do to say they are dreamers; that may be, and doubtless is true of most of them, but it is no reply to their argument.

Socialism is rapidly becoming of such political consequence that it cannot be flouted in a country whose political institutions rest upon manhood suffrage. Nor can they be answered by pooh-poohs, nor by calling them hard names. Socialism has its antidote, as has every other false doctrine: but not until the primary cause of socialism is attacked and destroyed will socialism itself disappear. For, after all is said, the socialist propaganda is the legitimate fruit of social injustice, buttressed by custom and fortified by the fact that great financial interests are at stake, and are not likely to give up a tithe of their advantage until an awakened social conscience compels obedience to the law of simple justice; the most used and least understood term in the English language. Now, the real cause of social unrest is the fact that we have established privilege in America under the forms of a democratic government. We have abolished the forms of tyranny but retained the substance, and privilege is here and everywhere the denial of equal rights. This is supposed to be a government of equal rights; it is a government of special privilege, it is neither democratic nor socialistic. It is not socialistic because, while it creates the unemployed, it does not take care of them, as the socialist government would do, and it is not democratic because it does not permit the unemployed to take care of themselves.

We have, however, in operation a species of perverted socialism which is called a "Protective Tariff," which is paternalism gone to seed; an institution which makes one class rich at the expense of another, and then keeps them so, and there is such a large and influential class of people who have and will strenuously oppose any effort

to lessen this evil, yet clamor against the other species which would include as its beneficiaries the people who are so mercilessly fleeced by these very respectable socialists at the top of American society. The socialist never tires of railing against competition, but in so doing he is simply following the lead of American plutocracy, which for forty years has not only been preaching against it in its republican party newspaper throughout the land, but has been dealing it all kinds of blows below the belt, as it were. Every monopolist is against it, in fact monopoly is the negative of competition; where one is, the other is not, and at no time in our history as a nation has monopoly been so universal and its profits so great as at present. Here is the real cause of socialism.

There is another remarkable similarity between socialists and plutocrats. They are both excessively "class conscious." Plutocracy practices it with great persistency, prompted by a common interest, but does not preach it because it is dangerous doctrine; at least it is dangerous to privilege. Socialists both preach and practice it as far as possible. In fact, in the political arena there are but three kinds of men; Plutocrats, Socialists and Democrats or Single Taxers. The plutocrat believes in monopoly and the private ownership of public property. The socialist also believes in monopoly (but would extend its boundaries) and the public ownership of private property. The democrat believes in neither of these vicious doctrines, and I am a democrat in the sense that Lincoln and Jefferson were both democrats, and believed as I believe in the private ownership of private property, and the public ownership of public property, and drew the line where the surveyor drew it when he laid out the streets and highways of our common country.

If you wish to attack socialism you must attack the causes which give it birth. The fortified fortunes of the rich are not due to the genius of the rich, but to the economic ignorance of the poor, a condition which newspapers in general do very little to correct. The trouble is not individual, it is social; it is not the man, but the law that piles wealth up in gigantic heaps. Back of the law is government, and govern-

ment is sustained by taxation, and the power to tax is the power to destroy. It is simply a question of changing the incidence of taxation so that those who get the vast benefits of government shall sustain its vast burdens, and those who get small benefits at the hands of government (there are many such) shall not be taxed for the support of government out of all proportion to the benefits they receive. The only cure for socialism then is a square deal all around, and the basis of a square deal is equal opportunity; and the basis of all opportunity is land, and land speculation is the basis of all industrial unrest, for as the price of land rises the price of men falls; and if by speculation the price is raised abnormally high, rent will soon soar, and labor will have to organize trade unions to resist the downward tendency of wages. This will leave a "Labor Question," this in turn a "Social Question" and this is the parent of socialism, anarchy and all the rest of the isms.

Political socialism is a cry of economic distress; it is the unscientific protest of the dissatisfied; it cannot be smothered, it must be cured; it is an economic disease.

HENRY H. HARDINGE.

GEORGE P. HAMPTON, former editor of the *National Single Taxer*, was a delegate last October to the Chicago Conference on trusts from the National Grange. Mr. Hampton is doing much quiet but effective work for the Single Tax. Nor is Mrs. Hampton idle. On Wednesday evening there is always a gathering of some of the friends of the movement, and very enjoyable, too, are these occasions at her hospitable home.

GEO. J. KNAPP, of Rock Island, writes us that there is a newspaper there that is giving almost unlimited space to Single Tax communications. He adds: "Stir up the Single Taxers, for now is the time to get the Single Tax into the papers."

AMONG papers received is the *Caldwell Imprint*, edited by J. L. Caldwell, of Amarillo, Texas. It is a four page leaflet which appears semi-occasionally. It is full of biting little Single Tax paragraphs which this old and experienced newspaper man knows so well how to write.