

W. N. S. T. L. HOLDS TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The tenth annual convention of the Women's National Single Tax League was held in Washington, D. C., February 6, 7, and 8. The opening session, Monday afternoon, was devoted mainly to business, including reports of officers and delegates, and a paper on "Club Work", read by Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, of Brooklyn, who spoke of the many benefits derived, both by the cause and by the worker, by uniting efforts in club work; and related how Henry George had been able through his work with the labor unions, to bring the Single Tax before the members. The Brooklyn Single Tax Club had originally met in the afternoon, but had found it advisable to change to evening meetings, thus permitting men to come.

The evening session was opened by an address of welcome by Mr. F. L. Siddons, of Washington, who complimented women on the way they were helping their brothers in the fight against land monopoly, and hoped the day was not far distant when their aid might also be permitted at the polls. England is to-day leading in the land-reform fight, but other nations are following. He declared his dissatisfaction, however, with the name "Single Tax," for a principle which was a religion as well as a fiscal policy and which was not even a tax at all.

The national president, Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, responded with an expression of appreciation for the hospitality extended the delegates and for the many interesting sights of the city, but would willingly give up sight seeing, could she but be allowed the privilege of offering Congress a few much needed suggestions on the subject of raising revenue.

Mrs. Ella M. Murray, of New York, addressed the meeting on "Single Tax and Woman's Economic Condition" in which she stated that this reform would so open up natural opportunities that women would not be obliged to work for less than men, nor marry for support. Tariffs may come and tariffs may go, but we have to eat right along, and with free land, any woman could earn her own living.

Mr. E. W. Oyster, of Washington, called attention to the inequalities in the taxation system of the District of Columbia, which had first been investigated by Tom Johnson when in Congress, and under which the poor are taxed 40% to 50% higher than the rich. If the land alone were taxed 2-3 of its real value, it would bring in half a million more dollars than the present assessment on both land and improvements. A map of the city was exhibited, showing the many "blind" alleys which Jacob Riis had declared to be worse than the slums of London or New York. Had the Single Tax been applied ten years ago, Mr. Oyster declared, no slums would disfigure the city to-day.

Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, of New York, spoke eloquently of the progress being made in foreign countries, especially Germany, where several hundred cities are raising their revenues from taxation of land values. The tax on the unearned increment was never repealed where once tried.

Vocal solos, rendered by Miss Erna Lewis, of Ft. Meyer, Va., were greatly enjoyed.

At the Tuesday session, Mrs. Nanette B. Paul, LL. D., read an instructive paper on "Women and the Law" in which she declared it could and should be made one of the noblest of the sciences. The earliest laws were those regulating religious ceremonies. The church taught humanity charity but the state should teach it justice. If to our highly organized institutions for the distribution of charity could be added an equally developed sense of justice, we should understand the causes of poverty and much of the criminality and could remove them. Religion and law are but the reverse sides of the same shield.

"How the Single Tax would Produce Markets," was the subject of a paper in which Dr. Mary D. Hussey, of New Jersey, declared the financial and philanthropic sides of the Single Tax question to be inseparable. A market is a necessity for farmers, manufacturers and merchants alike, and the great factor in the production of a market is the ability of the people to buy. Every burden on production increases the cost to the consumer and lessens the demand. Lacking

good markets, farmers secure restrictive laws, manufacturers secure protective tariffs, and merchants enter pools to keep up prices, and all of them decrease their product. Under the Single Tax, there would be no "over production," no willing and needy workers standing idle while their children toiled, no suicides caused by destitution. A good market for products means a good market for labor. Under the Single Tax, all people will have an equal opportunity to apply their industry in producing the things needed, and every seller will have a market because all can buy. When taxes are removed from the multiple forms of wealth, there will be more money to divide between buyer and seller, and when idle land is opened up for use, a market will be produced greater than the annexation of many countries would afford.

Prof. Thomas E. Will, former president of the Kansas State Agricultural College, closed the programme by an address on Conservation, pointing out the unnecessary destruction of forests, streams, soil, coal, gas, and oil; and the wastes due to bad roads, unemployment, panics, strikes, speculation, grafts, wars, famine, and plague. The history of the conservation movement had been education, agitation, legislation—until it had run up against Congress, when it became an insurgent movement resulting in a turning of the tide back toward democracy.

There was no afternoon session, but in the evening a banquet, attended by about one hundred persons, was held at the New Ebbitt, with Miss Schetter as toast-mistress. Among the speakers were Mrs. Murray, Miss Colbron, Mr. Ralston, Mr. Nesbit, Mr. Mackenzie, and Mr. Oyster.

The convention closed Wednesday morning, and was followed by a luncheon to the delegates, given at the New Ebbitt with the Washington club as hostesses. During the business session in the morning, it was decided to hold a return convention in Washington next year, and the following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLVED, That whereas no people ever before possessed such vast and rich natural resources and wasted the same on a more stupendous scale, we hail as a most hopeful

sign, the uprising of the American people to save their forests, streams, coal and other minerals, from the rapacious few, and from floods and fire, and wasteful methods of utilizing said resources.

RESOLVED, That whereas legislation is proposed to Congress to safeguard the public coal lands of Alaska against alienation, the Women's National Single Tax League urge upon Congress the adoption and enforcement of the policy of retaining in public ownership, not only the coal lands in question, but all other lands now the property of the United States, whether or not containing coal, oil, gas, forests, water power, or other valuable resources, that the same may be retained in perpetuity as the common possession of the whole people of these United States and used for the common good.

RESOLVED, That we heartily approve of the utilization of the water power of the Potomac river at the Great Falls municipal plant for supplying water and electric power for the city of Washington, and that we earnestly request Congress to insert the item of \$20,000 in the appropriation for the District of Columbia, asked for by the Commissioners, for continuing engineering investigations, preparing plans and estimates of costs to be presented to Congress at its regular session in December, 1911.

RESOLVED, That whereas the Tax Commissioner of New York city, in assessing according to law, the land of the metropolis at its full value, is having the effect of forcing vacant land into productive use, we recommend that the example set in the metropolis be followed by all other cities of our country and especially by the tax assessors of the District of Columbia, it being shown that the crowding into slums and alleys, caused by land speculation, is so great that the death rate in our beautiful capital city is exceeded by only two cities of the United States.

RESOLVED, That we recommend to the people of our own country, the example of Vancouver, which is successfully raising all its local revenue from a tax on land, thereby stimulating the growth of that city at the expense of near-by cities of the United States.

RESOLVED, That whereas all true Single

Taxers believe in free trade, we heartily approve of the efforts of President Taft to secure reciprocity between the United States and Canada.

RESOLVED, That we congratulate the women of Washington State upon being accorded the ballot by their brothers; and inasmuch as in almost every state, "popular rule" is the slogan of the hour,

RESOLVED, That we beg our brothers in the states outside of Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington, not to forget that the mother in the home and the six million women in productive industry need as much as they, the protection from economic and other exploitation, that can come only through the ballot and the intelligent use of the same.

RESOLVED, That it is a matter of great satisfaction to Single Taxers that one more of our very wealthy men has followed the example set by our honored citizen Tom L. Johnson, and therefore be it hereby

RESOLVED, That we extend to Joseph Fels our appreciation of the work he is doing in this country and abroad to bring about the social justice advocated in "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George.

The officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

Pres., Mrs. John S. Crosby, of New York City; 1st Vice Pres., Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, of Washington, D. C.; 2nd Vice Pres., Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, of New York City; 3rd Vice Pres., Dr. Mary D. Hussey, of East Orange, N. J.; 4th Vice Pres., Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan, of New York City; 5th Vice Pres., Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Gertrude E. Mackenzie, of Washington, D. C.; Cor. Sec., Miss Charlotte O. Schetter, of Orange N. J.; Treasurer, Dr. Elisabeth E. Bowen, of Newark, N. J.; Auditor, Mrs. Jane Marcellus, of Orange, N. J.; Executive committee, Mrs. Lawson Purdy and Miss Amy Hicks, both of New York.

On the Friday evening following the convention, Mr. George L. Rusby, of New Jersey, delivered a most interesting and instructive chart talk at a meeting held at the Public Library under the auspices of the Women's National Single Tax League. Mr. Monohan, of Washington, also spoke,

and selections were rendered by the Thomas Mandolin Club of Washington.

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE,
Rec. Sec.

WOMEN'S LINCOLN DINNER.

The annual Lincoln Dinner of the Women's Henry George League was held at the Cafe Boulevard on February 11th, 1911. The attendance was large, nearly one hundred, the dinner excellent and the speech-making of an unusually high order. One noticeable feature was the large attendance of outsiders, persons who had become interested in the work of the League and are beginning to be interested in the philosophy for which the League stands.

The president, Mrs. E. M. Murray, was chairman and introduced the speakers. Bolton Hall spoke of Free Acres and of Arden, the two newest Single Tax Colonies; Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett, Secretary National Suffrage Association on, "If Lincoln were here To-day," pointing out how thoroughly he would be in accord with the universal suffrage movement, and the Single Tax, if he were alive now. Mrs. Marie J. Howe followed with an anti-suffrage speech consisting of "anti" sentiments and reasons arranged in couplets that became the wittiest, most effective sort of suffrage arguments. Mrs. Theodore Roberts, under the caption "Swatting the Fly," showed how much effort was being wasted in "swatting" the wrong fly or any fly while its breeding place was left unmolested.

The one departure from usual methods in the after-dinner programme was the presentation of a popular reform, "The Children's Court," by Clerk of the Juvenile Court, Mr. Ernest K. Coulter, and Rheta Childe Dorr, of *Hampton's Magazine*.

Mr. Coulter traced the growth of the Court, its present stage and its hopes and aims. Although Mr. Coulter's presentation of the case showed that the Court was doing good work, there was no doubt that it had not yet achieved all that was possible. Mrs. Darr dealt largely with the things yet to be done—the elimination of trial of children for offences committed and the