

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR A SINGLE TAX CONGRESS
IN 1915.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The suggestion has been made that San Francisco will be the scene of a National Single Tax Conference in 1915, during the great Panama-Pacific Exposition. In this idea I concur, but I should also like to suggest that at the same time a great International Congress of Single Taxers be held. Just think what an array we could make, with Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Switzerland, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Austria-Hungary and other countries represented by men high in the land reform movement in those countries. If an International Single Tax congress is ever to be held, 1915 is the time and San Francisco is the place. Would it not be fitting to assemble to do honor to the Prophet of San Francisco in the city where his philosophy, now gaining so rapidly throughout the world, was first brought forth? Thirty-five years after the first large edition of "Progress and Poverty" was issued, Single Taxers, not only of the United States but of the world would come together to celebrate the rapid progress of the ideas he announced and to discuss means of increasing the general interest throughout the world in land value taxation reform.

An International Single Tax Congress at San Francisco in 1915, gives us almost four years to perfect our plans. The congress would be worthy of Single Taxers, for some of the greatest minds of the world would be represented in it. The congress, in fact, could be made the greatest work of propaganda ever carried out by the land reform men and its international scope would draw attention to the cause throughout the world. Why not have, let us say, a Single Tax Week at the Exposition, with the National Single Tax Conference holding its sessions the first part of the week and the International Congress the latter part?

In this connection, let me suggest that there should be a statue of Henry George or a monument to his memory erected

either in San Francisco or the city of Berkeley, where the great philosopher first conceived the idea of the Single Tax theory. At that time, Berkeley was a small town about the campus of the University of California, and George was in the habit of riding daily through the Berkeley hills thinking out the philosophy which is destined to blot out involuntary poverty. Old residents of the city remember how he used to recline under the great oaks on the university campus and reflect long hours upon the great truths which were springing up in his mind. And it was here, too, in 1877, before "Progress and Poverty" was published, that he delivered his famous address to the students of the university on the science of political economy. So that no more fitting place for a statue of Henry George could be found than Berkeley, so intimately connected as it is with the early history of the Single Tax movement. Whether in Berkeley or San Francisco, the monument should be erected and it should be a worthy one. Why not have it ready for unveiling, with fitting ceremonies, during Single Tax Week at the Exposition? Now is the time to take up the matter.—WELLS DRURY, San Francisco, California.

FROM A LAND VALUE TAX PARTY
MAN.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

When the Apostle Paul cautioned his followers to be "as wise as serpents and harmless as doves" he was giving good advice to the propagandists of his time, and the advice has been followed by various brands of reformers since his time.

The Single Taxers have been working along these lines. We have become wise as to diseases of society, and wise as to the remedy. We also have been harmless as doves in that we have seldom appealed to party spirit, and the growth of our movement has advanced without the aid of party emblems or "middle of the road" platforms.

Although I have been an advocate of this policy for many years, it now seems to me that it would be wise for us to extend our lines in the interest of propaganda by the

cultivation of a party spirit. Too many of our members, seeing the alleged growth of what is called radicalism in the old parties, have applied for nominations and positions of influence. This does not seem to me to be the best way to further the Single Tax. These men generally make good progressive members of the old parties, but poor Single Taxers.

Every Single Taxer should interest himself in this question. How can we best promote the growth of the Single Tax? There is no denying the fact that struggling for the minor reforms such as "lessened tariff schedules," "initiative and referendum and recall," "people's rule," "reform of the currency," etc., etc., is highly commendable, but while we may look upon them with favor, there is a stronger tie that should bind us together, and another "voice that's calling" which we must recognize and obey.

The time has come for us to make a stand. In the language of the Great Teacher, we have not come to "bring peace but a sword." We have this sword of Truth; 'let us wield it as He wielded it, undauntedly and undismayed in the very faces of the entrenched hosts of Privilege.

Let us send a call to all those whom we believe "know the truth," and either make them maintain it by fighting under the banner of straight Single Tax, or else let them oppose us in the open, as the party platforms on which they stand are now opposing us, or will do when put to the test.

What business has a Single Taxer to stand on the platform of either of the parties of Privilege, or on the platform of that party which does not recognize the right of a man to himself, or to that which he produces?

The world's supply of Tom Johnsons is exceedingly limited; there is only about one man in a million that can successfully play the game of privilege politics, and come out of it unscathed. Very few of us can hobnob with the practical politician, or listen to the seductive voice of the vote getter, without having our enthusiasm for the Single Tax somewhat dulled.

Let every Single Taxer consider the proposition for the formation of a Land Value

Tax Party, as outlined by that party in New York City. Let us have one platform at least, whereupon a Single Tax propagandist can feel at home, and can stand firmly on both feet; a platform on which he can stand without being open to face charges of false pretense. Let the voter also have the proud privilege of walking away from the election booth with feelings of satisfaction and of duty well done, rather than to walk away, as I have often done, in a dazed manner, wondering whether he has or has not helped to bolster up the very system which he wishes to destroy.

I confess that this question of forming a Land Value Tax Party was a puzzling one to me, but after reading what Mr. Gustav Buscher has to say about the little republic of Switzerland in your July-August number, I now feel that it is the part of wisdom to have such a party throughout the great Republic of the United States.

Such a party ought to be a City of Refuge for the deceived, disgusted and disheartened followers of false vote-getting policies, and it will be, let us hope, like a "city set upon an hill which *cannot be hid.*"

—OLIVER MCKNIGHT, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE PARLIAMENT OF MAN.

By ROBERT CUMMING.

(Read at the banquet of the Fels Conference in Chicago.)

The nations were not born like men to die,
Nor like lone hives to swarm and multiply,
Were not designed to be like beasts of prey,
As are the mighty of the earth today.

'Tis not democracy, 'tis class-rule crime
Bestrews with nations dead the shores of
time.

Let every people rule themselves alone,
Let special favors be annulled—unknown—
Then true democracy—each people free—
Will live and flourish while the world shall
be,

And civilization like a vine spread on,
Trade weaving all the nations into one,
The Parliament and Brotherhood of Man,
The full fruition of the Social Plan—