

lesson to heart and highly resolve to wipe out the crime of land monopoly.

We denounce as a criminal violation of human rights any law which permits one person to demand ground rent from another for the mere privilege of living. The land was made for all; we cannot live without it; the value of its use should be paid to the community. This would be the result under the system known as the Single Tax."

The speech of Gaston Haxo accepting the nomination for Borough President of Manhattan closes as follows:

"I have spent the first twenty years of my life on the very spot where that other great tragedy took place—the French Revolution. Of the many episodes of that great historical drama, one particularly impressed me as a child, and that is 'The oath of the handball court' in Versailles, where, on the 20th of June, 1789, the deputies of the Third Estate took the oath not to separate until they had given France a constitution. That scene, which was immortalized by a famous painting, comes to my mind first whenever the French Revolution is mentioned; it flashes before my eyes at this very moment, and I cannot help find some similarity between that meeting in the handball court and this one. We are not here to give this country a constitution, but we are attached to principles and ideals which are, no doubt, as great as those for which those French revolutionists stood; we are animated with the very same spirit, and we, too, within our hearts make this solemn pledge: never to separate until we have accomplished our purpose, and in co-operation with our brethren of Pennsylvania, Delaware and of other States, who will soon follow our example, have given the Single Tax movement in the East a new birth, and filled its ranks with that militant spirit which will hasten the day when its adoption will bring peace and plenty to the human race."

New York and Philadelphia are not the only cities where Single Tax political parties are being born. Wilmington, Del., has wheeled into line. Samuel Melville, Single Tax candidate for mayor, received only some 200 votes for mayor, but much newspaper advertising for the cause. In the street meet-

ings that took place many new converts were made and the old days of the Delaware campaign were recalled.

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#### FROM THE FIELD

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#### JAMES F. MORTON, JR. REPORTS HIS LECTURE WORK

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As my last report carried me practically to the end of my spring trip, this letter will contain nothing of special news interest, but gives me the opportunity to reiterate the hope for full co-operation during the months that are to come. The task of carrying on systematic Single Tax propaganda through New York State will be continued with increased energy. At no time has the need for our work been more manifest. Exceptional difficulties are in our way under existing national and international conditions; but this is the time of all times to build for the future. The slightest relaxation now would be disastrous to an unexampled degree. The restoration of peace, come when it may, will bring tremendous problems, chief among them that concerning the public revenue. It is indispensable that a powerfully organized Single Tax movement should be in the field from the very start, ready to point the right way, and strong enough to be heard everywhere. On the work which is now being done will depend the degree of our influence in that psychological moment. It is no time for slackers.

My spring trip closed with a visit to Canton, where I addressed a group of the students of St. Lawrence University, receiving a very cordial welcome, and having reason to believe that no little good was accomplished. Work among the young men and women in our schools and colleges stands second to no other form of public propaganda in its promise for the future.

A largely attended meeting of the United Hatters in New York City listened closely to the presentation of the Single Tax message. The time originally allotted to the subject was extended, and many questions asked. There had been hope of a special summer trip; but circumstances prevented the arranging of the meetings by the friend who had undertaken

the task. Hence the season is being spent in home work of a preparatory nature, looking toward the field labors to begin in the fall.

So far as planned, my schedule will keep me during September, October, December and January, in the following counties: Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Columbia, Greene, Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga. As to November, I will write later. In the meantime, and as soon as possible, I shall be glad to hear from Single Taxers in the above counties, to whom I have not written, as my list of our co-workers is incomplete. Correspondence has been started with various organizations; but many dates will remain available; and I hope to meet as many as possible of our friends in the sections mentioned, and to have their co-operation in arranging for lectures before different bodies. May I request a re-reading of my letter in the May-June issue, with special reference to this co-operation? Address me at 68 William St., New York City.

—JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

#### JAMES R. BROWN IN BUFFALO

James R. Brown, who is making a lecture tour of the State, addressed the members of the Rotary Club of Buffalo on June 21. The *Buffalo Evening News* gave the following report:

"With its position at the head of fresh water navigation, the terminus of the Erie Canal, within almost a stone's throw of oil, coal and iron, and the center of the most fruitful agricultural section in the country, Buffalo ought to be a city of 2,000,000 population instead of 500,000," James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club of New York City, told the members of the Rotary Club at their luncheon at the "Statler" yesterday afternoon. "With its present method of taxation, it cannot advance at the rate nature intended that it should."

"Buffalo every year punishes industry by a fine or tax amounting to about \$6,000,000," he went on. "Then to add to the sum of its follies, it gives to land owners as a reward for idleness in the form of land values, public property to the extent of \$20,000,000. This enormous

premium on idleness results in the boosting of land values beyond the ability of labor and capital to pay the tribute.

"Buffalo requires about \$11,500,000 this year for all purposes. Your land area is 24,894 acres, and, allowing for streets, there are therefore about 312,000 lots, 25 by 100 feet. An average tax of \$40 a lot would yield \$12,480,000. And this, without taking one cent of private property nor adding one cent to the cost of living.

"This tax would grade in apportionment between your dearest lot, said to be worth \$300,000, and your cheapest lot, worth about \$100. Or if you were to abolish all taxes on improvements and personal property and levy a 5 per cent. tax on your land values, the dear lot would pay \$15,000 improved or unimproved, and the cheapest lot would pay \$5 improved or unimproved. Users of land would benefit, non-users would have to become workers and producers.

#### SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

"The Single Tax is the only tax that does not violate the rights of private property. The only tax that takes public value for public use; the only tax that does not create on the one hand unjust burdens and on the other hand, privileges. Public value for public use, private property for private enjoyment, is the true basis of honest taxation."

Mr. Brown pointed to specific examples in Buffalo as evidence of the ineffective plan of taxation in force in the State. "It was more profitable for the owners of property to let the unsightly buildings that line certain streets to remain as they are than to raise buildings that would be an ornament to the city," he said. He declared that the large modern office buildings of Buffalo were unprofitable because of the burden of taxation that was imposed on them. There was no hope for this city—nor for any other city in the land—except the Single Tax, according to his notion.

"We rob the citizen of his private property when we tax labor products and we rob society of social property, when we fail to take for social use all land values," he continued. "We raise social revenue by taking from every man who can show tangible evidence that he has done something for himself, and at the same