

those who know Michael Davitt as a single taxer, and as one who was among the first to proclaim the gospel of the land for the people, and to aid with his sympathy and encouragement the leader of that movement in the days when Henry George raised the standard in Ireland and called for volunteers.

The following, touching upon the land system of the Transvaal, will be of interest:

"No country of Europe can boast of a better land system, or of one more favorable to the chief and foundation of all industries. The system was an occupier ownership, subject to a tax by the state; not per acre, but per farm. This tax was not to exceed forty-rix dollars (rix dollar: about one shilling and sixpence) or to be less than six rix dollars and a half, annually; the amount between the extremes to be regulated according to valuation by authorized persons. Owners of farms or of ground values living outside the Transvaal were to pay double taxes. . . . The transfer and registration of land was made quite simple and involved no costly lawyer's search for title and the rest. All such sales were to be registered at the Landrost's office; the cost of the transfer and registration of a farm being less than ten shillings."

Nearly all the Boer generals were personally known to Davitt, and his estimates of them seem for the most part to have been justified by the results of their campaigns. Joubert, brilliant in defence, but lacking in those qualities that would have enabled a more pushing and resolute general to have struck a staggering blow on more than one occasion, Davitt holds in high esteem, while at the same time indicating his shortcomings. Of Cronje, much the same criticism is made. It is clear that Davitt regards Louis Botha as the ablest of the Boer generals, and the battle of Colenso as the most notable of the many Boer victories, "a day," says Davitt, "forever memorable in the annals of true military renown."

The many engagements are related with much apparent care and some spirit. Whether Davitt's criticisms will stand the test at the hands of military experts, it is impossible to say, but the battles are set forth with great circumstance of detail.

Of one general on the Boer side, now dead, single taxers will think with some tenderness. That is Joubert; we do not know if he was a single taxer himself, but he knew of Henry George and his work, and when in this country sought him out and spent some time in his company. He visited the Manhattan Single Tax Club in this city, and in the book of the club reserved for the autographs of visitors, appears in bold characters the signature of the distinguished Boer leader.

—J. D. M.

WARREN WORTH BAILEY, WHO IS LEADING THE REAL DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Warren Worth Bailey was born on a farm near the little town of New Winchester, Hendricks County, Ind., about twenty miles west of Indianapolis, January 8, 1855. His father and mother were native Kentuckians and former slave owners. Several years before the breaking out of the war, his father, the late Elisha Bailey, who took more or less interest in politics in Kentucky, tendered freedom to all his slaves, about fourteen in number, and advocated the general abolition of slavery on moral grounds. Owing to this action the elder Bailey became very unpopular in Kentucky and just at the breaking out of the war he removed to Indiana on the farm where Warren Worth Bailey was born, in the belief that in this northern state he would find himself among friends. On the contrary, he was regarded as a spy from the South and in spite of all his protestations that though he had been a slave owner he was at heart an anti-slavery man, the Union Home Guards kept him under surveillance during the entire period of the war.

About the close of the great conflict, the elder Bailey removed to a prairie farm in Edgar County, Ill., about eighteen miles north of Paris. Here for about three years Warren Worth Bailey was a cowboy, herding several hundred cattle for one or two dollars a month. About 1868 the Bailey family removed to Kansas, Ill., and there he entered the Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad telegraph office as a "plug." After serving two years in this capacity he became a full-fledged operator, and was assigned to duty in the telegraph office at Shelbyville, Ill. Later he went to the Union Stock Yards in Chicago, where he was a telegraph operator for a few months, when he was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad company to take charge of the telegraph office at Shreve, O. From there he went to Upper Sandusky, O., where he was employed when the panic of 1873 came. A ten per cent. reduction in wages induced him to tender his resignation, when he returned to Kansas, Ill., and entered the *Weekly News* office as a devil along with his brother, E. H. Bailey. Each served in this capacity three years, when they went to Carlisle, Ind., in the Wabash bottoms, and became the owners of the Carlisle *Democrat*, which was established in March, 1877. Though the editors were among the youngest in the State, the Carlisle *Democrat* soon took rank as one of the most progressive political papers in Indiana. The editorial work of Warren Worth Bailey attracted wide attention. He became a free trader in 1878.

In 1879 the Carlisle *Democrat* was removed to the historic Old Post, Vincennes, Indiana, where the Bailey Brothers bought the Vincennes *Reporter*. Consolidating the two, they changed the name of the paper to the Vincennes *News*, which was issued as a

weekly for some years. It was very aggressive along free trade lines, and attracted wide attention for its radical utterances. It was about the first paper in the United States to strongly advocate the adoption of the Australian ballot, and though the *News* was bitterly denounced through the State for its advocacy of this beneficent ballot reform, it remains to the credit of that paper that Indiana was one of the earliest States in the Union to adopt the Australian ballot. In 1887 and 1888 the *News* was published as a daily, but it went to the wall, the Bailey Brothers making an assignment.

Without a dollar in the world they found themselves in Chicago in 1888, where they soon found employment on the newspapers, W. W. securing a reportorial position on the *Chicago Evening Mail*. Some few months later he became an editorial writer on the *Chicago Evening News*. This position he held for five years, during which time he became a very strong advocate of the taxation of public franchises. Victor Lawson, the proprietor of the *News*, deprecated Mr. Bailey's insistence in pressing this question, but he managed to weave the central idea in a greater part of his editorial work on the *News* that the streets of Chicago belonged to the people and that corporations using them should be assessed the value of them. About 1890 Mr. Bailey, who had for several years been a convert to "Progress and Poverty," was chosen president of the Chicago Single Tax Club, which held meetings every week in the parlors of the Grand Pacific Hotel. This position he held for three or four successive terms and under his management of the society it grew in membership from a handful of men and women to a most pretentious and influential organization of more than one thousand very earnest men and women, many of whom were among the most prominent business and professional men in the city.

One of Mr. Bailey's policies as president of the Chicago Single Tax Club was to present at every meeting night some able talker against free trade or the single tax, and then for one hour turning the batteries of the Single Tax Club against the speaker. Many an able man went to the Chicago Single Tax Club at the invitation of Mr. Bailey, full in the conviction that he would make monkeys of the single taxes and show them the utter fallacy of the single tax, but at the close of the meeting found himself so completely routed by the logic of the single taxers that he would meekly admit to the audience that he had underestimated the virtue and strength of the single tax cause. The single tax society in Chicago became a powerful factor during this time in forcing public attention to the great question of franchises, with the result that Chicago is now irrevocably committed to public ownership of all public utilities. Though Mr. Bailey was the first to persistently keep this question before

the people of Chicago, and though he found it very difficult at that time to get his editorials in the *News* without being blue-penciled, there are few if any of the great papers of Chicago now that are not radically in favor of the principle early advocated by Mr. Bailey.

In February, 1893, Mr. Bailey and his brother became the proprietors of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, *Democrat*. It was through the late Henry George, who recognized in Mr. Bailey a writer of ability on economic questions, that he was induced to locate in Johnstown. Mr. George's son Richard was at that time a resident of Johnstown and he frequently visited there. It occurred to him that the field was a fine one for Mr. Bailey's talent, and he urged Mr. Bailey to purchase the Johnstown *Democrat*, which was at that time a losing venture. The vitality thrown into the *Democrat* by the Baileys soon attracted attention in all directions. It has since 1893 up to the present time been a most persistent advocate of the single tax, the taxation of public franchises, the abolition of all special privileges, the initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and woman suffrage.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

When Mrs. John S. Crosby, president of the Woman's National Single Tax League, let fall the gavel which opened the second conference of that body in the parlors of the Tuxedo, New York City, mingled with anxiety for the successful fruition of her labor in bringing together the largest number of regularly accredited delegates yet attained, those present glowed with pardonable pride.

There sat before her a truly representative class of women, representative of the virile land which bore them, representative of the professions, the arts, the home, and in that yet larger and greater sense, knowledge of the fact that they were economic factors bound with men to direct the destinies of this country and determined to apply their reason to the task.

Three years ago a number of single tax women formed a separate organization in Washington, D. C., not in derogation of nor antagonism to the men of the Capital City who had done wisely and well, but proceeding upon the theory that it might be possible to reach and hold members who from diffidence could not be drawn into a mixed club. Every courtesy was extended by their brothers in the faith, financial and moral support was accorded, and the open meetings enthusiastically attended. Thus encouraged, the idea suggested itself that a National Conference be called, and a National League, if possible, effected. Credit for the inception of the project lies, probably, conjointly with Helen Hartnett Mitchell, of Kansas, and Mrs. Jennie L. Monroe, of Washington, D. C.,