

THE ATLANTIC CITY GREAT ADVENTURE CONFERENCE.

On the afternoon of April 13 those who answered the call for a conference of Single Taxers met in the parlors of the St. Charles Hotel at Atlantic City, N. J. There were at this time perhaps some fifty persons present. James A. Robinson called the conference to order. He drew attention to the fact that 260,000 votes had been cast in California for a straight-out Single Tax measure, and said that the desire of those present was to bring this fact to the people in the east. When it had been realized that over a quarter of a million votes had been cast for an uncompromising measure of Single Tax our blood ran quicker.

James A. Dix read the call for the conference.

Hon. William Riddle, former mayor of Atlantic City, described how he had attended, years ago, the meetings in Cooper Union addressed by Henry George and Dr. McGlynn. There he heard Henry George's definition of rent, as the share of "the product of labor which is taken by the landlord." Mr. Riddle profited by this definition. He made investments in land. He profited exceedingly. He had made a million dollars and had never worked a day in his life. Then came his election as assessor of Atlantic City. He had raised assessments generally. His account of his experience in land speculation and his humorous touches enlivened his presentation of a valuable lesson in political economy first learned from Henry George at a Cooper Union meeting.

Mr. Bolton Hall responded to the mayor's address. He said that people paid more attention to men who had done something or who had got something, and it didn't matter much how they had got it. Mr. Riddle ought to be on the lecture platform, telling what he had got and how he had got it in that entertaining way of his. Mr. Hall said we were all Single Taxers now-a-days. It is hard to find a man who will not admit, if you do not first begin by arousing his opposition, that he believes in the taxation of land values, purely as a fiscal proposition. But when you approach the question of the right of a man to live somewhere—that is a different matter. Mr. Hall said he was tired of being called a Single Taxer. He wanted a free earth. To secure this is a work that ought to be done, can be done, and we and the mayor are here to do it.

Mr. Robinson now introduced the temporary chairman of the conference, Mr. William L. Ross, who spoke at some length. He made a plea for uncompromising advocacy of our principles.

Mr. Robinson now moved that Mr. W. J. Wallace be made permanent chairman of the conference and Mr. Dix permanent secretary. Mr. Wallace on assuming the chair spoke of the warm human sympathy that had been injected into the California campaign. What is it that stands out most prominently

in the life and writings of Henry George? Was it not the quality of human sympathy? What was it that made the character of Dr. McGlynn so attractive to us even at this distance? Was it not the same quality of human sympathy?

Mr. Polak here introduced resolutions on the death of Edmund Burke Osborne, Single Taxer and New Jersey Senator, announcement of which had appeared in the morning papers. Mr. Polak introduced a second resolution on Thomas Jefferson, this day being the anniversary of his birth, and suggesting the creation of a national holiday. It was suggested that this resolution among others await the appointment of a committee on resolutions.

FRIDAY EVENING

Chairman Wallace called the conference to order at 8:30. Mr. Shaffer of Hamilton, Ohio, said that this conference was the most important ever held in the history of the movement and suggested as the resolutions would be presented to the press they should go out couched in the best possible English. He moved a committee to edit the resolutions, suggested Mr. Bolton Hall as chairman. The chair thereupon appointed Stanley Shaffer, Bolton Hall and William Ross as such committee.

A committee on resolutions was appointed with Mr. Robinson as chairman and a committee on rules with Mr. William Ryan as chairman.

At this session of the conference there developed a series of incidents which are partly recited in the protest printed on another page, and which resulted in the withdrawal from further participation of a number of New Yorkers, who ceased from attendance as members of the conference. One of these incidents was the decision of the chair that the Jefferson resolution introduced by Mr. Polak of New York was not germane to the business of the conference, the sole purpose of which was to endorse the Great Adventure. A number of New Yorkers announced that their names had been secured under a misapprehension of the nature of the call, and others claimed that they had not seen the call at any time in the shape in which it was sent out to the Single Taxers of the country. They had supposed that the purpose of the conference was to celebrate the 260,000 votes cast last November for the Great Adventure measure, to secure such publicity for this vote as they could in the East where the fact was not generally known, and to use this great vote, and the spirit of the campaign in California, to advertise to the world what had been done and what might be done were the same spirit aroused in the East. That it was not the intention or desire of many who signed the call that the conference should make any official declaration favoring either group or either measure, the Great Adventure or the Equity Tax proposal, is perfectly clear. It is quite true, too, that of those who approved of the resolution subsequently introduced, are men and women who cannot clearly have perceived what was in-

volved in this declaration. That many will reconsider their action in the light of calmer reflection, and when the glamour of the occasion has passed, is more than a probability. The necessary time was not allowed, nor was the super-heated atmosphere of the convention favorable to calm consideration of the two measures now being advocated, one by former Great Adventurers, Home Rulers and advocates of State wide action, and another by a very small group led by Luke North.

But these remarks carry us a little too far ahead in our story of the convention. It will be sufficient to say that the deplorable spirit of intolerance exhibited on Friday night may be illustrated by the following incident. Two representatives of the Equity Tax League and former Great Adventurers, Judge J. H. Ryckman and Charles James, had also come all the way from Los Angeles to present the merits of the Equity Tax League measure, and to ask that in the interests of harmony and future reconciliation the conference refrain from favoring either measure, but leave Californian Single Taxers to settle their own differences in their own way, surely not an unreasonable request, even to those who might think the Great Adventure measure the better of the two. There appears to be little choice from the view-point of the Single Taxer who will calmly consider both measures in the amount of land value that will be taken should either become law. And the preponderance of opinion in California among those whose judgment we have in the past held most deserving of consideration inclines with a unanimity which of itself carries great weight to the Equity Tax League proposal, holding that it has a good chance of passing and will stand the acid test that the courts are sure to apply to any successful measure that may be voted for.

Yet, when it was suggested that an hour be given to Luke North and a half hour each to Judge Ryckman and Charles James, the motion was made by Mr. Leo Marks, of Philadelphia, that no discussion be allowed, that we had come to listen to Luke North and to endorse the Great Adventure. When ever the Great Adventure was spoken of it was not the measure of 1916 that was referred to, but the measure that is proposed to submit to the people of California in 1918. That Single Taxers are now almost a unit for another measure, that it was the spirit of the Great Adventure and not the measure itself that was the important thing, did not matter. The intelligence of the greater number of those present was swayed by two strong motives amounting almost to fanaticism, devotion to the Single Tax and the absolute conviction that there was only one political expression of that principle worth while, that one the expression as embodied in the Great Adventure measure of 1917. We do not believe that the entire history of the movement reveals a conference of more curious psychology. It induced men who call themselves democrats to deny their democracy by word as well as deed—Luke North himself said that he did not want to be fair. It led men whose faith depends on the willingness and opportunity to examine the claims for opposing sides to deny to

the members of the conference that freedom of discussion without which reasonable convictions are impossible.

On this Friday night there occurred the first withdrawals of those who had attended the conference in good faith, supposing that such questions as might come before it would be freely discussed. Messrs. Doblin, Murphy, Lustgarten, of New York, and Barker of Toronto, were the first to go. They took no further part in the conference. The editor of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* stayed, still hoping for harmony and a free assembly.

The Chairman had ruled on the presentation of the Committee's report on Rules. He announced that in place of the committee's recommendation for a period in which the Single Tax affairs of California would be discussed the time would be taken up by discussing the Great Adventure. It was then that we realized what, in the language of the man in the street, we were "up against." We were committed to a programme in which we were to have no voice. Coming to the conference as a friend of the Great Adventure, the movement that secured 260,000 votes for the Single Tax in California, we were not to be permitted to listen to the three men and one woman, all former Great Adventurers and supporters of the 1916 amendment, who now desired to tell the conference why the particular form of the Great Adventure of 1917 was not in their opinion advisable at this time.

A plea for harmony from Mr. Warren, of Detroit and Miss Amy Mali Hicks, of New York, was made at this session.

SATURDAY MORNING

This session convened at 10:30. Mr. Dix read the minutes of the two sessions of Friday, and communications were read from E. B. Swinney, Daniel Kiefer, and Louis F. Post. The latter wrote that he could not endorse the Great Adventure and would not be present. A telegram was read from Geo. L. Record on the death of Senator Osborne. Mr. U'Ren wrote: "You may use my name. Exemptions of improvements in Canada and elsewhere have not materially injured land speculation." He urged the preaching of the full gospel.

Mr. Salmon wrote of the Denver situation:

By unanimous consent Mr. Leubuscher introduced a resolution to the memory of Henry George, Jr.

Mr. George Wallace, of Freeport, now addressed the conference. His subject was "Why the Chariot Dragged." Mr. Wallace indicated his disagreement with those who associate the Single Tax with free trade. He told of his experience in Freeport when he ran for the legislature and secured 700 votes as an independent. Mr. Wallace said that the useful work done in that campaign was the distribution of literature. His pamphlets went to his constituents as candidate for Member of Assembly. That is the only way to get people awake to the importance of this issue—by fighting for it at the

ballot box. We have got to hit the devil with our vote. I found I was quite respected as a Single Taxer when I got 700 votes. Mr. Wallace's speech was full of Scriptural allusions and humorous touches that furnished one of the bright and interesting hours of the conference.

Mr. Bastida now addressed the conference.

Mr. Harry Hetzel being called upon to speak excused himself.

Mr. Leubuscher spoke to his resolutions in memory of Henry George, Jr.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

We must not neglect to say that on Saturday morning there were many evidences of a changed attitude on the part of those who controlled the conference. A more friendly spirit was now in evidence. It was announced that Judge Ryckman and Charles James would be given a half hour each in which to present the claims of the Equity Tax League's proposal following the address of Luke North. Mr. Leo Marks asked for the rescinding of his motion by which such discussion had been ruled out.

We immediately got busy and urged our New York friends to re-enter the conference. In a few instances we were successful, and we left the others discussing the matter.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. James A. Dix, whose youthful face belies his age, told the conference that he had worked twenty years for the Single Tax. He said some of our Single Tax friends were like some of the people in the church who were not particularly desirous of the coming of Christianity since they would then be out of a job. Mr. Dix blamed the apathy of the Single Taxers on our failure to fight in earnest.

Mr. "Luke North" was now received with extraordinary enthusiasm. He spoke for perhaps an hour. In part he said: Our aim is to open the earth. And why? Because people are starving to death. The question is, can it be done? Mr. North told the story of the man imprisoned who tried every ingenious device to get out of prison. Out of a piece of old wire he fashioned a key with which he hoped to unlock the door. He tried to file away the bars of his prison window. He did everything he could think of. By and by he tried the door, found it unlocked and walked out! We had spent our time in the study of economics and sociology. But a new thought came to us out of the war. The speaker did not believe that war was characteristic of men. For long eras they must have lived peacefully in caves. But the value of violence had gone by when the time arrived in which man had finally subdued the beasts of the field. We come to this analysis. Why was it that after 500 years of the printing press men flew at each others' throats? Human idealism—the search for something better—is really at the bottom of this war—a distorted and mistaken idealism. "For God and my country" is the thought. But few have any country. A false ideal, an inchoate ideal, have led men to this unexampled violence. Men act in mass through their ideals

—these ideals that live in their hearts, for something bigger and better. Not through their reason do men act. It is a very big thing we are trying to put over. It is the greatest thing since Jesus faced the Roman power. Mr. North agreed with Alfred Russel Wallace that there had been little progress from the time of the building of the pyramids to the laying of the last dreadnought. But we have made progress in intelligence. The speaker did not deplore the war spirit. It is the war spirit that we need to put over the Golden Rule. We must arouse what Henry George called the motive power of human sympathy. Mr. North said that there were more people who knew the Single Tax than there are people who know the theory and practice of present taxation. When the Great Adventure fight began in California we went to the captains of the reform forces and tried to unite them in the fight for the land for the people. But we found this impossible. The thing to do was to hold up the banner so high that no one could fail to see it. Then the captains could not stay out of it.

Mr. North said that had the campaign for Home Rule been successful it would have done nothing to open a free earth. I think this conference ruled wisely in forbidding all discussion. I am in sympathy with nothing save the Great Adventure. At Niagara Falls the Great Adventure had a paltry ten minutes. But as we must reckon with psychology I am going to ask the conference to rescind its action of last night and listen to our opponents who have come across the continent to oppose the Great Adventure.

Mr. North said that we had been told not to be so impetuous. But suppose a building were on fire and your child was in that building. Suppose as you rushed forward some one should stop you and say, "now be fair." Would you not shake him off and say "This is not a symphony concert—it is a battle to get my child out of that burning building. They tell us we will destroy values, but so we will. We will destroy land values, but we will replace them with human values."

Following Mr. North's speech the conference sang with splendid spirit the song by Oliver McKnight, "God Made the Land for the People," to the tune of "Marching through Georgia."

Mr. Chas. James, of Los Angeles, representing the Equity League of California, said he was deeply gratified by the changed attitude of the conference. He said that Mr. A. Lyle de Jarnette and Miss Agnes Brundin, joint managers of the Great Adventure measure of 1916 in San Diego, were in the house and were obliged to leave before morning and asked that they be given a chance to be heard.

Mr. Leubuscher asked for a full and free discussion. Mr. de Jarnette asked what would be the effect of the resolutions on the situation in California. We in California want the movement united rather than divided. He made an appeal to Luke North for harmony. He asked that the conference bend its efforts to get the Single Taxers of California together.

Judge Ryckman, of Los Angeles, explained that Number 5 was a thing of the past. It was better than the Home Rule measure. No one in California talks now about the Home Rule proposal. We had heard some talk of our coming here to attack Luke North. He would as soon think of cutting off his right hand as of impugning the integrity of Luke North. Judge Ryckman now read the Equity measure. He explained the reason why the corporation tax had been allowed to stand. It was a popular tax. It took about twenty millions from the corporations. It had passed by an enormous majority and they thought it best not to interfere with it at this time.

Mr. Hall asked if it would not be possible for the loss of revenue caused by exemptions to be made up by a tax on franchises and other special taxes? Judge Ryckman answered: "Mr. George has taught us that if we carry on our fight for exemptions in the spirit in which the Single Taxers of California are fighting taxes on land values would follow naturally." Judge Ryckman here challenged Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, who had asserted that Single Taxers had furnished anti-Single Tax information to the *Los Angeles Times*, for the names of the guilty persons. The Judge described how they had gone to Judge Maguire after the Equity measure had been formulated and got his endorsement. Judge Maguire was physically weak, but his mind is vigorous and undimmed. Judge Maguire said after a long examination of the measure: "This is the best amendment we can get in California in 1919"

Judge Ryckman explained the operation of the two measures. The Great Adventure measure is no more unlimited Single Tax than the Equity measure. But the recommendation for the last named measure is that we do not have to go to the legislature to carry it out. Judge Ryckman said that the Great Adventure measure was an invasion of the police power, since under it not even license taxes could be raised. It would have, therefore, to go to the courts. He stated that the Socialists who had cast 100,000 votes for the Great Adventure of 1916 were now for the Equity Tax amendment. He said that the Socialists now proposed to enter into a campaign to make public service corporations public property. You cannot have the Single Tax until you have public ownership. The Equity people had pledged the support of their followers for the public ownership measure as a return for Socialist support of the Equity amendment.

Judge Ryckman said that 99 per cent. of the Great Adventure men of 1916 are united in their support of the Equity amendment.

Mr. Charles James now addressed the conference. He gave the history of the many attempts to reconcile the differences in California. He told of the failure of Mr. North to live up to his agreement, to abide by the decision of the conference that resulted in the adoption of the Equity proposal. Friends of Mr. North and supporters of the Great Adventure, like Judge Ryckman, Fay Lewis and others had urged Mr. North to live up to that agreement. But on the very day that the San Francisco conference had met for discussion

and before it had had time to take action, a bill was rushed out by the followers of Luke North. Into this conference we tried in vain to induce Luke North to enter. We are here at the last moment to do what we failed to do in California. That conference was unanimous in its support of the measure that was finally agreed upon. Only one man voted against it and his wife voted for it. Mr. James said that this was an important and fateful hour. The split in California may widen until it goes through the length and breadth of the land. I appeal to you to do nothing that will countenance such a split.

Mr. Simpson of New York here moved that the resolution endorsing the Great Adventure be amended to read, "As led by Luke North and his associates." This fell for want of seconding.

The conference soon after adjourned. In the evening a banquet was held. Frederick C. Leubuscher acted as toastmaster and addresses were made by Judge Ryckman, Mark M. Dintenfass, Stanley Shaffer, Yancey Cohen, Col. John H. Adamson, Bolton Hall and many others.

Here our report must conclude. The session of the conference which took place on Sunday morning and afternoon busied itself with the discussion of the resolution which follows and the formation of a new organization to carry forward the agitation for the Great Adventure, which in this case means the particular measure rejected by practically all the Single Taxers of California and, without exception, every organized group of Single Taxers in the State. The resolution which resulted in the withdrawal from the conference of those who signed the protest printed elsewhere, is as follows:

"Whereas, The Great Adventure Campaign in California in the autumn of 1916, at which time over 260,000 of the men and women of that State cast their votes in favor of restoring the land to all the people by the Single Tax, has aroused more enthusiasm in the movement, and instilled greater hope of early accomplishment of our great purpose than anything since the days of Henry George; therefore be it

"Resolved, that we heartily endorse the Great Adventure and enthusiastically urge all interested in the welfare of the masses to support as liberally as possible the spirit of the Great Adventure in California and all other similar movements throughout the country which have for their purpose the spreading of our cause, unobscured by other issues, and the earliest possible restoration of the land to the people by political action; be it further

"Resolved, That a national organization to carry out the spirit of this resolution be organized by this conference."

Our chief regret is that the conference neglected the opportunity within its grasp. It might have formulated a policy that would have welded together the Single Taxers of the country. It might have announced its adhesion to an uncompromising programme. It might have endorsed the spirit aroused by the Great Adventure of 1916, and declared that the time had gone by when advocacy of mere tax reform was any longer desirable. It could have helped

to purge the movement of emasculated platforms, of piece-meal claims, of timid advocacy of principles and advocacy of side issues, and of all hesitating propaganda.

Instead it chose, in pursuance of a cut and dried scheme of procedure in which even discussion was to be disallowed, (to the utter amazement of many of those present), to decide for the Single Taxers of the country that a small number of persons in a distant state, in opposition to the entire body of our believers in that State, were to be aided and abetted in their efforts to seize the leadership of the movement for a measure which the last named group think inexpedient at this time. In pursuance of this plan the merits of the Equity proposal were to be ignored and the rights of Single Taxers of the State of California to settle their own differences in their own way, were to be contemptuously set aside.

For observe, it was not and is not a question of principle that is involved. The differences in the two measures in actual operation would be that one would take about ten per cent. more land values than the other. There need not be the slightest diminution of the kind of enthusiasm which carried the great vote of 1916. The same men are now behind the Equity measure; they are opposed to the Great Adventure measure of this year; they have with them the one hundred thousand socialists of the State who voted for the Great Adventure measure of 1916. They believe that they can carry the first; they believe that the second is doomed to certain defeat. We do not pretend to know, but we know as much as the Atlantic City conference, and we do know that the Single Taxers of California are likely to know much more about it than any of those who in their splendid but mistaken enthusiasm determined at the New Jersey Conference to override all opposition even at the risk of disrupting the organized movement.

In a measure they are to be excused. The natural impatience with nearly a decade of emasculated Single Tax preaching and teaching has brought about a natural reaction. But the pendulum now swings back to what looks very much like fanaticism. Because one of these measures declares in legal form for the exemption of certain property from taxation, and because the other asks for the taxation of land values, even though neither declares nor could legally declare, in all propability, for the taking of all land value, our friends, deceived by a mere form of words, with precipitate conclusion and furious action, commit themselves a policy that should it succeed would split the movement wide apart. That this conference was in no mood to consider the respective merits of these two measures was apparent at the start. There was a programme to be carried out, there was nothing else to be discussed or considered, and those who had come long distances in good faith to what had been called a Single Tax conference found themselves from the very outset, and on the very first session of the conference, out of harmony with the proceedings. One by one the withdrawals took place. Some of those who signed the protest

printed in this issue lingered in hopes that reason might assert itself, that the conference would refrain from taking action that would be a slap in the face to the men and women in California who for a generation have upheld the banner of the cause in that State, but after repeated efforts at conciliation this was seen to be impossible and the ranks of the seceders grew with every hour.

We hesitate to impugn the motives of our friends. Indeed, the spirit that animated them was no doubt of the purest. "The light that led astray was light from heaven." But we are wondering how many of those who attended the conference and signed the call would have attended had they suspected the purpose of those most active in bringing togethether this gathering. Suppose the entire programme had been outlined to them in advance, how many would have been there? To "endorse the great adventure." That looked innocent enough. The Great Adventure had received 260,000 votes in 1916. It singnalized and typified the uncompromising preaching of the Single Tax. "And welcome Luke North." Certainly again. For was not Luke North one of the leaders in that movement? But surely we need go no further. No great Conference of Single Taxers would venture to decide the programme of action for the Single Taxers of a distant State. We have enough to do to decide our own. We might declare our preference, but in view of the overwhelming testimony of numbers, lack of acquaintance with the situation, lack of knowledge relating to the operation of the two measures, we might very well hesitate even to do this. But what we ought not out of motive of delicacy to do for ourselves, we shall do for the entire movement. We shall read out of the movement—for this is practically what the resolution does—the numerically preponderating group, practically all, of the Single Taxers of the state, advise that only one measure be supported by the financial contributions of the Single Taxers generally throughout the country, and form a great national organization to carry forward a measure supported by only a half dozen Single Taxers of California.

And who shall calculate the harm it does to Luke North? It has gone far to discredit his leadership, already under a cloud in the State from which he comes. He is distinctly an agitator, not a leader. For he, as much as those who, in line with their own aims, called the meeting and put through their plans, is responsible for the work of the Conference. Had he been a real leader he would have held his followers in line for an entirely different programme. But he sought and demanded this endorsement of the present Great Adventure measure as an endorsement of himself as the California leader. He may be all that his friends claim he is, but he could have induced the majority of the conference at any time to avoid action causing an open rupture. He could then have gone back to California with the prestige of a moral victory that would have meant more to his usefulness in the future work than this victory won from a conference of men and women whose votes in many cases must have been reluctantly or mistakenly given, and who when the full consequences have been perceived will wax indifferent in their adherence.

At least twenty of the twenty-four who signed the protest which we print went to Atlantic City the friends of the Great Adventure, though knowing little of the dispute and little of the comparative merits of the two amendments. They went as friends of Luke North. If they still remain so, it will not be because their patience with him has not been sorely tried. It is for this reason, we repeat, that a real injury has been done to the editor of *Everyman* as a leader in the California movement and an inspiration to the men and women who have been strongly influenced by his writings.

The foregoing comments express the editor's individual conclusions. It is only fair to the other side that it, too, should be heard, even at the risk of repetition. It is the office of the REVIEW to present both sides. From different points of view the same facts change their complexion, and this need give no occasion for charges of misrepresentation and unfair dealing. We shall get nowhere unless we recognize and take into account differences of opinion which are undoubtedly honest. We should strive to be fair. To be fair is quite as important as a free earth—now and here. For if we are not fair we shall not know how to accommodate ourselves to a free earth when we get it.

A great deal is made in the report printed herewith from the officers of the Great Adventure of the disappearance of the addendum to the objectionable resolution, an addendum which had been presented as a possible basis of agreement between the two factions. This cannot now be recalled in exact form, and its disappearance is of no particular consequence since it was emphatically rejected by Judge Ryckman. It was the editor of the REVIEW who declared that the particular form of this addendum would have some value, though but very little, as an amendment to the objectionable resolution, but that it had no value at all as a separate resolution. In this the protestants concurred. It is therefore not quite accurate to say, as this report says: "It was also read by Luke North, Mr. James A. Robinson, Mr. Robert C. Macauley and Mr. S. W. Simpson, all of whom were familiar with its contents and knew that it formed an agreement to which both sides to the controversy had assented." They may have thought they knew it formed an agreement satisfactory to both sides, but they surely did not know it.

Perhaps the following statement dictated by Mr. James to Mr. Leubuscher who took it down in shorthand, will clarify the reader's understanding of what took place.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES JAMES

"As a result of the repeated statements of Mr. Robinson and others assuring us that there would be an effort made to secure harmony at this conference, Mr. Robinson and myself conferred this morning as to the ways and means in which this could be done. I stated to him that we would be satisfied with a general endorsement of the Great Adventure idea provided that no action be

taken in any way interfering with the California situation, we being left to settle our own differences our own way. Mr. Robinson asked me to put such a statement in writing; which in a very hurried and temporary form I did as an addendum to the motion before the house, which I did not have before me at the time. This statement I submitted to Mr. Robinson. He said it would satisfy him, but before entering into a full agreement I said I ought to consult Judge Ryckman and the others who had been supporting us during the conference. Mr. Robinson meanwhile had consulted Luke North, who agreed to accept this addendum, at least Mr. Robinson so reported, whereupon Mr. Robinson and myself proceeded to consult the group of 24 Single Taxers as to whether they would agree to support this addendum. This group decided that before any action could be taken they would have to see the original resolution, and Mr. Robinson proceeded to procure it for us, meanwhile agreeing to hold up the action of the conference until we could discuss the matter. As we were discussing it, word was sent that the conference had already passed the original resolution, and therefore any further action on our part was abandoned. Subsequently Mr. Robinson made a demand on me for the original copy of the proposed addendum which we informed him was no longer available."

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

REPORT OF ATLANTIC CITY CONFERENCE PREPARED FOR THE REVIEW BY THE PROVISIONAL OFFICERS OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE FOR THE SINGLE TAX

When the news reached us of the remarkable vote which had been obtained in California for an amendment to the constitution of that State providing for immediately devoting to public purposes the rental value of the land, we were all thrilled by the evidence that the people of that State had responded so heartily to a bold and undiluted statement of our beliefs, and we were filled with the hope that the time would soon arrive when the rights of the people to the revenues derived from the land would be recognized by the law of that State.

Such a notable event called for endorsement by all Single Taxers who cherished the living hope of seeing their past work crowned with success. Those of us in the East who were not familiar with the California work desired to meet the California leaders who carried on the campaign and to learn from them the reasons why their work had been so successful, in order that we might learn how the conditions here could be improved.

In furtherance of this plan we sent the following telegram to Mr. Luke North: