

Other objectors to George seem to think capital must be owned by a separate class of people, and that he was the advocate of such a class. Not a word can be found to justify this view. George held that the product belongs to the laborer. Had this principle always been in force, all capital would now be owned by its producers. (p.162)

Under freedom there will be no interest except that which the borrower freely agrees to pay for the advantage he obtains. Any one desiring to lend capital for the keep of it, may do so. Those who think interest will fall or disappear under freedom, forget the relation between labor and capital, both being forms of the same thing productive power. If interest tends upward, labor will begin to produce more capital, and vice versa, so that an equilibrium will be maintained. See page 200.

We are so accustomed to associate interest with the revenue of privilege that we miss much of what Henry George wrote, and must read him repeatedly; and the more we read the fewer the objections become. Remember the man to whom Tom L. Johnson gave \$500 to search for errors in Progress and Poverty, and who finally reduced the errors to zero. A man will read very carefully for \$500; but it is worth that to know exactly what Henry George did for political economy. The "errors" of Henry George, recited in "An Interest Symposium" (May-June) will be found imaginary.

CONFERENCE OF SINGLE TAXERS AT ALBANY, JULY 4th.

A NEW YORK STATE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE IS FOUNDED.

About fifty men and women Single Taxers of long standing met at Albany in the Hotel Ten Eyck, on the morning of July 4th, in answer to a call sent out by the provisional secretary, W. E. Barker, in pursuance of a resolution adopted at an informal dinner held in New York city early in the year, mention of which was made in last number of the REVIEW (May-June, page 56.)

The Conference was called to order at 10.50 by Chairman Lustgarten, who spoke in part as follows: "It is many years since any real propaganda, or the preaching of the gospel as outlined by the great prophet of our movement, has been addressed to the people of this State, and some of us feel that the time has come when we must get together and preach the full, uncompromising doctrine, that the spark lighted by Henry George may be kept alive.

"John Stuart Mill long ago pointed out the inadequacy of minor reforms which can afford but temporary relief and are often worse than nothing. Single Taxers do not look upon their movement as a fiscal reform, but as a religion. 'Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven' We believe that it is our duty to come together in a compact body now and here, to carry on this work. For the time is coming when those who have upheld the banner

of our cause must step across the Jordan, and their places must be supplied by the younger generation. And it is for us here on Independence Day to dedicate ourselves to this great work in the Empire State."

Mr. Barker read the call for the Conference, and F. C. Leubuscher nominated Honorable John J. Murphy for Chairman. Mr. Murphy was elected by acclamation, Mr. Barker nominated Joseph Dana Miller for secretary, who declined. Mr. Barker was nominated and elected. The Secretary thereupon read the following letter from F. H. Monroe, of the Henry George Lecture Bureau;

"Hearty congratulations to Single Tax Convention. As a Single Tax propagandist of twenty-seven years experience I feel convinced the day for national, State, county and city organization has arrived. The great Empire State should set the pace in this matter."

Cablegrams from Adolph Damaschke, Berlin, and John Paul, London, were now read. Mr. Damaschke's was as follows: "German land reformers send hearty greetings, wishing success to conference."

This message from John Paul evoked loud applause: "British co-workers send greetings; cause going well here."

Sydenham Thompson, of Toronto, assistant secretary of the Single Tax League there, also wrote: "Our people in eastern Canada are closely watching the trend of events in New York State, and any victory you gain will inspire us to renewed efforts in the banner province of the Dominion."

And this letter from Henry George, who enclosed \$50. as his contribution to the League about to be formed, stirred the enthusiasm of the conference: "Please present my most hearty congratulations to the gentlemen of the Single Tax Conference at Albany. I have found so much of importance to engage my attention here in Washington that I find it impossible to leave.

I take this occasion to express my rejoicing over the commission appointed by Governor Sulzer to revise the tax laws of the State."

Mr. Murphy on taking the chair thanked the Conference for electing him as chairman and congratulated those present on the progress of the movement. He spoke of the American farmer and his opposition to the Single Tax. Mr. Murphy pointed out that this was not the case in England where some of the most notable victories had been won in the rural constituencies. He said that the work of the Manhattan Single Tax Club had been effective in that city, but in other parts of the State the movement had lagged. It is this work to which such a State league as is now contemplated may and should address itself.

Mr. Murphy spoke of the \$3,000 exemption bill and the measure for halving the tax on buildings. Measures like these would not be smothered in committee if there had been organized agitation in their favor in other parts of the State.

Mr. Murphy spoke of the traditional out-look of the European peasant who comes to America, and made a plea for the affirmative preaching of the common rights to land. These masses of the disinherited who come to our

shores are not looking our way for relief, and this may be due to our methods of presentment.

Chairman Murphy now suggested the selection of committees on Constitution, one on Resolutions, and another on Permanent Organization. Moved by Mr. Lustgarten and seconded by Mr. Fuller, of Middletown, that these committees retire and the convention take a recess. This Motion being carried, it was moved by Hon. Robt. Baker, of Brooklyn, "that a committee of five on Resolutions be appointed and that all resolutions be referred to such committee without debate, except that any resolution can be called up by a majority vote at any time." This motion was carried, whereupon chairman Murphy appointed as committee on resolutions: Hon. Robt. Baker, chairman, James Macgregor, Byron W. Holt, M. W. Norwalk and Miss Evanetta Hare.

The committee on Constitution and By-Laws were J. E. Ward, chairman, Benjamin Doblin, August Weymann, Amy Mali Hicks and C. H. Fuller.

Committee on Permanent Resolutions comprised Alfred Bishop Mason, F. C. Leubuscher, Z. K. Green, Hyman Levine, and Mrs. Lustgarten.

In the time intervening before recess and the retirement of these committees chairman Murphy announced that the conference would listen to short addresses, and called on Alfred Bishop Mason, of the Manhattan Single Tax Club.

Mr. Mason spoke on the work before us, urged the need of local clubs, told of the work done by the banner club of New York city, and closed with an eloquent peroration.

Mr. J. E. Ward addressed the Conference on the subject of organization.

Mr. Leubuscher paid Mr. Lustgarten a deserved tribute, and told that a bequest of \$1,000 having been left by will to Mr. Lustgarten by a client to be devoted to Single Tax work had suggested to him that no better use of this money could be made than to use it for placing a State league upon its feet, this league having for its purpose a State-wide education in the principles we hold dear. Mr. Leubuscher spoke of Single Taxers who had achieved office and had forgotten their old associates and the truth they once boldly avowed. "But," he added, turning to chairman Murphy, who is present Tenement House Commissioner of the city of New York, "there are men to-day high in political life who are not afraid to come here and proclaim the truth they cherish, and in our honored chairman we have one conspicuous example of an office holder who has not forgotten his religion."

Mr. Monroe, of Saratoga Springs, spoke briefly of the attitude of the farmer toward the Single Tax. Mr. M. W. Norwalk urged the value of the petition for the straight Single Tax that is now being widely circulated in this State, and Mr. Doblin spoke of the necessity of educational propaganda.

SECOND SESSION.

The afternoon session of the Conference was called to order by Chairman Murphy at 2.40.

Mr. Ward reported for the committee on Constitution, Mr. Mason for the committee on Permanent Organization and Mr. Baker for the committee on Resolutions.

Mr. Lustgarten made his report as treasurer, and told of the bequest of \$1,000 placed in his keeping which he would now turn over to the newly formed State League.

There was quite a long discussion as to the name the new organization should adopt. The committee had suggested the name, Progress and Poverty League. The discussion as to the name was participated in by Chas. James, Amy Mali Hicks, M. W. Norwalk, Benj. Doblin, Emanuel Klein, Herman Levine, Joseph Dana Miller and others. This discussion was indicative of the desire that many have to get away from the name Single Tax because of its limitations, and the arguments of those that represented the Committees' desire for such change were conceded by most of those who still believe that we should confine ourselves to the name the movement has come to be known by, and to which as one of the members of the conference said, we are "wedded for better or worse." The name New York Single Tax League was finally adopted. The constitution of the new organization is printed at the end of this report, and has the great merit of brevity and elasticity.

Election of officers being now in order Mr. Geiger, of New York, placed Henry George in nomination for the office of president. Mr. Geiger withdrew the name on intimation from Mr. Murphy that Mr. George would not accept the office, whereupon Horace E. Sague, of Poughkeepsie, was placed in nomination and elected by acclamation. The new president took the chair and was greeted with the applause of the Conference. Following are the remainder of the official board of the new League:

Vice presidents, Kate E. Bradley, Olean; Robert Baker of Brooklyn, Professor William L. Drew of Ithaca, Byron Holt of New York, Professor F. W. Howe of Syracuse, Dr. Frederick C. Howe of People's Institute of New York, Amy Mali Hicks of New York, Thomas Mott Osborne of Albany, C. B. Mathews of Buffalo, the Rev. J. F. Scott of Mount Vernon, Robert Schalkenbach of New York, George Foster Peabody of Lake George, Christine Ross Barker of New York, and John J. Murphy of New York; general secretary, Wesley E. Barker; assistant secretaries, William Ryan and Joseph Dana Miller of New York; treasurer, Benjamin Doblin of New York.

The Conference, after a mildly exciting debate over the resolutions presented by the Resolutions committee, which resulted in their rejection chiefly because they could not at the time be made verbally satisfactory to the members, each of whom desired to express the terms of our philosophy in his own way, adjourned to meet at a time and place to be set by President Sague,

Thus ended an interesting Conference. The afternoon session was exceedingly trying to those present because of the excessive heat of the day; good temper and enthusiasm prevailed among the hot and tired delegates. It would convey a wrong impression, interesting and important as this Conference was as the initial movement in what should result in the organization

of a powerful State League, to conceal our disappointment at the small western New York representation. New York city and Brooklyn furnished the majority of those present. Middletown was represented in the persons of Messrs. Green and Fuller, Schenectady sent that old war horse Andrew Hulton, and Poughkeepsie. Albany and Troy contributed each its quota. But Buffalo, with a large number of active Single Taxers, sent no delegate, and other cities where news of the Conference had been sent, were without representation. But if those interested in these cities will now move in the direction of getting every one of the faithful to become a member of the State League, and to organize their own localities as branches of the League for work throughout the State, their failure to attend the Conference will be overlooked.

Following is the new constitution and by-laws of the new organization:

1. The name of this organization shall be the New York State Single Tax League.
2. Its purpose shall be to propagate the truths expounded by Henry George in Progress and Poverty.
3. The League shall consist of residents of the State or New York who shall subscribe to a declaration of belief in the Single Tax.
4. The officers shall be a president; not less than ten nor more than fifteen vice presidents; a general secretary, two secretaries and a treasurer. There shall also be not less than fifteen members appointed by the president who together with the officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.
5. The officers shall be elected at an annual convention by a majority vote of all members of the League in good standing.
6. The Executive Committee shall have full authority and shall be charged with the duty of directing and energizing the League.
7. The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of the president.
8. The membership dues shall be one dollar a year.
9. The executive committee shall have power to receive and expend donations and bequests for the benefit of the League
10. This constitution may be amended by a majority of the members in good standing at any regular meeting of the League.

A TAX on land values would compel those who had been holding land out of use to bring it into cultivation; those who had been putting land to a poor use, to use it more productively. A great amount of land would thus be forced into the market, and there would be competition among landowners to find users for their land. The result of this competition would, of course, be a fall in rents.

REMEMBER the Special British Number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW can be had in quantities of ten or more for 10 cents a copy.