

# The Single Tax Review

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## Current Comment

READERS of the REVIEW are apprised in this issue of the forthcoming Second National Convention of the Single Tax Party to be held in New York City, February 8 and 9. The Call is printed elsewhere in this issue.

WE do not criticise those who remain cold and unconvinced as to party action. Our criticism is for those who sneer at and condemn the earnest minded men and women who have selected this method of popularizing the cause we have at heart. For those who are doing other work in their own way, we wish them God Speed. Wherever and in whatever way their seed is sown the party must reap, and, on the other hand, no activity of the party, and no success it may obtain, will interfere in any way with the work they are doing. This applies even to those who confine themselves to the purely fiscal side of the movement. It is not *our* fight, but that is neither here nor there. Even John Z. White's talks jar conservative minds from their moorings and make them hospitable to the doctrine that goes deeper, and which it is the office of the Single Tax party to emphasize, viz., the broad, ethical, fundamental principle that the earth is the birthright of mankind and that the rent of the land belongs to the people.

IT may not be too much to hope that those who will rally to the Convention in New York will inaugurate a new movement among the Single Taxers of the country. This Convention may sound a clarion note to which the sadly disorganized ranks will respond. Those who are now wandering in a sort of hopelessly detached way may find here a home and a refuge. Here they will meet the glad hand of fellowship and meet the men and women to whom this cause of ours is the dearest intellectual possession, and who if sometimes impatient with the halting timidity of leaders now fallen away, seek to substitute for such leadership the courage that is willing to hazard all for the success of a great principle. It is this attitude that is worthy of all respect. Those to whom the Single Tax means nothing cannot avoid being attracted by this stand which in conformity with American traditions that when men agree as to a principle to be enforced by legislative action they stand together and together formulate their demands in a political platform.

IN a review of the life of Francis A. Walker in the *New York Times Book Review*, of Nov. 4, the reviewer, Alexander Noyes, says:

In such special instances as his reply to the theories of Henry George and Edward Bellamy the polemical method was pursued with great effect; "Progress and Poverty" has perhaps never been more cogently dissected than by General Walker.

Those who remember Looking Backward will wonder why the names of the two should be coupled. Aside altogether from the soundness of Henry George's conclusions, the first named writer bears no comparison to the second. Looking Backward is a novel of Utopia, of which there have been many from Sir Thomas Moore down. Progress and Poverty is a work dealing with economic phenomena. Even those who do not accept it in its entirety regard it as a solid contribution to the discussion of many mooted points in political economy. The association of the two names therefore reveals the ineptitude of the reviewer.

It is true, however, that General Walker's criticism of Progress and Poverty remains the most serious attempt to answer Henry George. It will do no harm for Single Taxers to refer to it occasionally as an example of what can be done by an able mind to refute the doctrines we hold in contrast with the similar attempts of smaller minds.

SIX miles from Akron, Ohio, the "rubber city," is a pretty sheet of water known as Silver Lake, on the banks of which a large acreage was used as an amusement park. The landowners abandoned that enterprise some years ago, and incorporated the village of Silver Lake for lot-selling purposes, and to control the local taxes. The village now has exactly 119 inhabitants, so Silver Lake does not appear to be flourishing as a speculation. It is keeping taxes on land values low however. The financial affairs of the village have been investigated by the State Auditor, who reports that the village court has assessed fines and costs in liquor cases to the amount of nearly one third of a million dollars, of which over \$50,000 have been collected. The liquor cases are nearly all brought from the large city of Akron. These speculators, therefore, can afford to wait for a boom in the value of their land.

WE print in this issue a news letter from J. W. Graham Peace, of the Commonwealth Land Party, giving some account of the British campaign, but written too early to summarize results. The issue of Protection raised by Premier Baldwin appears to have received a temporary setback. As for the Land Question, that seems to have been wholly ignored by both Liberals and Laborites.