

no interest, and that the sufferings caused by needless and preventable poverty are a matter of indifference to them. It is somewhat pitiable that an organization professedly basing its excuse for existence on an alleged interest in the wellbeing of humanity is positively determined not to spare a single hour in the course of its entire existence in allowing its members to become even slightly informed regarding one of the leading movements of the day—a movement which exists for the sole purpose of breaking the power of special privilege and of bringing equal justice to mankind.

"We are glad, however, to be able to attest that other branches of the W. C. T. U., as well as other bodies which appeal to the public for support on the ground of work for humanity, regard their obligations in a different light, and do not proclaim themselves as unconcerned with matters of injustice and oppression.

"It is likewise well remembered that Frances E. Willard, in the days of her fullest and ripest maturity, not only took a broader view of the spirit of the W. C. T. U., but specifically endorsed the Single Tax of Henry George, which is our teaching. The organization as a whole officially recognizes the fact that there are many other evils in the world besides the single one of intemperance, and even establishes special departments to take an active part in the contest against several of them. No letter of like unfriendly tenor to yours has ever been received by us from an organization with the pretensions of the W. C. T. U., and we are glad to have the right to conclude that few if any other local unions of that body regard justice as no concern of theirs, and look with complacency on all poverty due to other causes than intemperance. Hence we shall not do the W. C. T. U. as a whole the injustice of branding it, in consequence of your letter, as the willing tool of monopolistic institutions and the concealed enemy of human right."

JAMES P. CADMAN has a splendid article in reply to Dr. A. L. Vail, in the columns of the Baptist weekly, the *Standard*, of March 31, in which Mr. Cadman discusses the nature and causes of poverty.

POLITICAL SINGLE TAX PARTY ACTIVITY

It is impossible to refuse a tribute of admiration to our friends of the Single Tax Party in New York and Philadelphia. In the first named city Hon. George Wallace heads the ticket for mayor, Antonio Bastida is candidate for comptroller and Benj. W. Burger for president of the board of aldermen. Other candidates nominated are Gaston Haxo for President Borough of Manhattan, James Dangerfield for President Borough of Brooklyn, for Sheriff of New York County, Wm. J. Lee, Jr., and for Sheriff of Kings County, Walter J. Triner.

The address of George Wallace accepting the nomination for mayor at the hands of his fellow Single Taxers who are pledged to independent political party action, is inspiring. Mr. Wallace says in part:

"As volunteers—not as conscripts—we wage relentless warfare against the private monopoly of land—the chief curse of our people, the main source of poverty, the parent of starvation. It clothes a large proportion of the people in rags before starvation ends their misery. After long study we realize that the only feasible method yet devised for fighting and destroying this monopoly monster is to levy all taxes on land values; to do away with all other taxation—except such emergency taxes as may be required to save the nation in time of war.

We deny that any person or corporation has the right to hold land out of use when others are willing to use it. Any law which confers on some the privilege to do so is abhorrent to justice and destroys liberty. The one tax on land values would prevent any from holding land out of use.

In this connection we cannot fail to note the insistent demand springing out of the great war, that idle lands be put to use in raising foodstuffs for the people. The wickedness of holding land out of use is proclaimed from the housetops. This wickedness has been and is sanctioned by our laws and constitutions. Let us hope that the people, roused by the sense of danger, will take the

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.

FROM THE FIELD

JAMES F. MORTON, JR. REPORTS HIS LECTURE WORK

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