

obligation to the party. The party permits and requires them to continue their association with the group who have assisted them with their votes; to pose as their leaders and to encourage them with the hope of the ultimate success of their ideas. But in the meantime all that can be done is to wait for a more auspicious occasion as the time is not ripe for a movement of this kind.

So what do Single Taxers gain for Single Tax by voting with the Democratic or Republican parties?

They gain false or deluded leaders who endeavor to convince them that they should modify their demands almost to the point of extinction, or who direct their interest to other issues, usually of a palliative or supervisory character and give them hopeful assurance that ultimately they may succeed in obtaining a partial recognition of their belief through the conversion of a party which draws its financial support from privileged interests in return for favors granted in gross perversion of public rights.

They gain a deterioration of their own conscience by continued acquiescence in schemes of trickery and evasion.

They gain a distorted view of the relative importance of contemporary issues and events.

They drift away from association with one another, lose interest and hope, and apathetically retire from any active interest in the cause.

Their gain is a loss and so serious a loss that the truth we hold would have been relegated to the issues of the past if it were not for its inherent power.

A party is needed to prevent Single Taxers from voting for parties or candidates who are actively interested in hindering and preventing legislation such as we desire. It is needed to permit Single Taxers to give an honest political expression to their full views and to advocate them at the time when it is most important that they be considered during political campaigns.

A vote is the way in which we express our wishes in regard to legislation, and our views cannot be expressed, believing what we do, by a vote for any other party now on the ballot.

Success will most surely come along this line. Success cannot be gained by voting into office the opponents of our belief. Both political expediency and individual duty direct us to vote as we believe.

Our thanks to the Great Adventure. It has stimulated our hope, awakened our conscience and devoted us to fresh endeavor. May it succeed and carry the blessing of freedom around the world.

THE PROTEST ADOPTED AT ATLANTIC CITY

TO ALL SINGLE TAXERS:

The undersigned, being a minority of the persons attending a meeting called to be a National Conference of Single Taxers of the United States, held at Atlantic City, on April 13, 14 and 15, 1917, deem it their duty to pre-

sent a statement of the occurrences which have obliged them to dissociate themselves from the conclusions reached and the future action recommended by the Conference.

FIRST: As to the Call: Those of us who signed the Call declare that we were induced to sign it under representations that such a Conference, by calling attention to the fact that 260,000 votes had been cast in the late election in California for a Single Tax amendment to the State Constitution, would advance the Single Tax cause throughout the country. It was further urged that Luke North, having been an energetic worker for the Great Adventure movement, which had been a factor of great importance in the campaign, would be the best man to tell the story. We assert that we did not understand and we were not informed that only Single Taxers who approved the Great Adventure as represented by Luke North, endorsed its methods, accepted its claims and supported its leaders, would be welcome to participate.

SECOND—As to the Conference itself: The Conference assembled on Friday afternoon, William J. Wallace was elected Chairman and James H. Dix, Secretary; and committees appointed to report the same evening. On reassembling the committees presented their reports. The Rules Committee reported as the first item of business for Saturday morning the consideration of "The Single Tax work in California." The report of the Committee was never submitted to the meeting by the Chairman but he assumed the right to amend the resolution by striking out the words "Single Tax" and substituting the words "Great Adventure." He based his action on the theory that the only question before the Conference was to devise ways and means of advancing the Great Adventure movement as represented by Luke North. By his action he put the meeting in the position of having to overrule the Chair in order to act upon the report of a committee appointed by the Chairman himself. It is but just to the Chairman to say that in all his arbitrary and unusual rulings he was supported by a majority of the persons present at the meeting.

Some idea of the narrowly restricted spirit in which the Chairman ruled may be gained from the following incident: The Conference met on Jefferson's Birthday. Following a time-honored custom, the Committee on Resolutions offered appropriate resolutions laudatory of Thomas Jefferson, who said that "the land belongs in usufruct to the living." The Chairman ruled that it was not "so nominated in the bond," and refused to permit the meeting to consider the resolution.

The signers of this statement do not hesitate to affirm that they have never attended a meeting presided over by a chairman so narrow in his constructions and so arbitrary in his rulings. The impression produced upon the undersigned was that he was merely executing a predetermined policy of "riding roughshod" over all attempts at discussion. A motion to accord the representatives of the Equity Tax League the same time in which to present their case as was to be given to Luke North was voted down, whereupon

most of the signers of this protest withdrew from the Conference. At the next meeting, apparently after the leaders of the majority realized their tactical error, this action was rescinded, and a hearing given to A. Lyle de Jarnette and Agnes A. Brundin, of San Diego, Judge J. H. Ryckman and Charles James, of Los Angeles.

We hesitate to place upon Luke North the entire responsibility for proceedings which put him in such an unfavorable light, but he sat through them all without protesting but openly stating "I do not want to be fair."

We believe in the direct and uncompromising advocacy of the Single Tax by methods which commend themselves to the general sentiment of Single Taxers in the several States.

For our part, what we have heard and seen at this conference leads us to the following conclusions:

(1) That Luke North's Great Adventure propaganda, however eloquent and fervid in itself, has been of such an intolerant character as to alienate practically all of the Single Tax men and women of California who are devoted to the cause in that State and whose work has been the chief agency in bringing so large a number of voters to a knowledge of the truth.

(2) That nevertheless we concede to Luke North and his associates the same freedom of action in working for the cause that we claim for ourselves, and regard as undemocratic any attempt to place obstacles in the path of any success which he may be able to achieve. We hope that those who agree with his methods and can accept his leadership will give him their support.

(3) That if Luke North sustains any relation of leadership to and not merely accidental association with a body of 260,000 voters in California, it is clear that the movement must be self-sustaining and that outside financial aid is unnecessary.

(4) That while we do not presume to advise individuals, we do respectfully urge upon Single Tax organizations outside of California that until such time as harmony is restored in State Single Tax affairs no financial support be extended to any group in that State.

(5) That as we believe in self-government, we deem it unwise to support the group headed by Luke North as against the Equity Tax League to which all other Single Tax organizations in California have given their support.

F. H. Monroe, P. H. Cornick, Stoughton Cooley, Byron W. Holt, Harry H. Willock, John J. Murphy, William Lustgarten, Edward Polak, Henry J. Gibbons, Joseph Dana Miller, Benjamin Doblin, A. P. Potter, A. C. Pleydell, Emanuel M. Klein, Harold Sudell, August Weymann, Wesley E. Barker, William Ryan, B. F. Lindas, Joseph H. Fink, R. C. Barnum, Walter G. Stewart, Frank Kapple, Frederic Cyrus Lebuscher.

LET us not look so much to our fathers as patterns, but to our children as the realization of ideals.—JAMES BELLANGEE