Alexander Hamilton Before The Royal Commission

ADVOCATING the substitution of leasehold for freehold in the case of all provincial land and natural resources not already alienated, and the use of site values for municipal revenue, Alexander Hamilton, old-time Victoria resident, appeared before the Royal Commission on municipal affairs here yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Hamilton admitted he was taking a different viewpoint from municipal officials, and said he could see no necessity for municipalities asking assistance from the provincial government, except in so far as the government is receiving tax-free municipal services and conveniences. These services, he maintained, should not be given free.

The municipalities, he said, had always ample values within their own boundaries to liquidate their own expenses, without calling on the province for financial help. For instance, Vancouver property, in round figures was appraised at $170,000,000 over and above any taxation levied upon it. This was purely a community value, produced by the presence and activity of the community, and in no sense due to anything the title-holders have done in or on it. According to the English calculation of capitalization and rental, the title-holders of this property are reaping an annual harvest of $8,500,000. This is an absolutely unearned and untaxed income to the holders, which the city fails to draw upon. Victoria, he claimed, was in a similar position.

"Land was created for use and not for purposes of extortion," Mr. Hamilton continued, "and I think it would be an act of wisdom and prescience on the part of the provincial government to withdraw all remaining land and natural resources from sale and offer the same for lease at the annual ground rental value. This would insure a perennial and ever increasing revenue, enabling the government to reduce and ultimately eliminate all confiscatory taxation, and at the same time open up endless opportunities for the application of labor to nature's storehouse without initial cost.

"Initial cost, especially in times of inflated values, constitutes an embargo on production and causes unemployment and depressions."

Victoria (B.C.) *Daily Times.*

Roumania

I HAVE the pleasure to report that I passed two days in Odorheiu, a city of the well known little people of the Szekely, a race of original inhabitants of Transylvania. The burgomaster of the city, Dr. Imre Rety, is the leader of the political party known as the "Little Farmers of Roumania." This party was formed in April of this year and in May Dr. Rety carried a programme for the study of the Single Tax.

It is interesting to note that here in Roumania were lately formed some peasant parties under the leadership of the former Minister, Dr. Peter Groza. Another is a big peasant party occupying the territory of old Roumania under leadership of former Minister Constantine Argetoinu. I am informed that there are no great differences between the programmes of all these existing parties, and therefore all interested are endeavoring to form a big union for the whole country.

I have furnished Dr. Rety all available information about the Single Tax and its partial realization in many countries, and so he invited all the leading men of his party, to whom I delivered an address in the party hall. Among them were the baron, Akexis Ugron, manufacturer, three professors, advocates, engineers, etc. I instanced Fairhope as a useful example and was able to give full and I think accurate information about the theoretical teachings of Henry George, as well as the development of the movement in various countries in the world. It caused a vivid impression as I spoke about the unselfish manner in which the work was being carried on and our appreciation of the kindly offices of Henry George followers in London and elsewhere, who so cheerfully furnished me with information. I also spoke of the bequests of the late Joseph Fels and Robert Schalkenbach.

But it is not possible for all to be well informed through a single presentation, and so I am invited to repeat my lecture in the near future, and for this occasion there have been invited a large number of party members. Dr. Groza and Dr. Rety will try to get me an opportunity to speak in Bucharest.

The Hungarian Little Farmers Party possesses at the moment two newspapers, *Hargita* and *A Nep*. Both will publish my articles in series, the first appearance next week in the Hungarian language. Later we will also get a Roumanian newspaper for the same purpose.

Cordial greetings to all the followers of Henry George.

C. BARSONY, Arad, Roumania.

Dinner to John Dewey and Upton Sinclair

A DINNER in honor of John Dewey and Upton Sinclair was given at the Cornish Arms Hotel on Monday, Oct. 9. About 160 persons were present. Charles H. Ingersoll acted as chairman. Among the speakers were Dr. Dewey, Upton Sinclair, Richard Eyre, Walter Fairchild, Anna George de Mille, Harry Weinberger, George Lloyd, and others. The object of the dinner was to find out how far Single Taxers, Socialists and mid-way reformers could cooperate, and the meeting was a success save perhaps for the purpose for which it was called. But everybody had a good time.

THIS I do boldly affirm, that the same rule of propriety, viz., that every man should have as much as he could make use of, would hold still in the word, without straightening anybody, since there is land enough in the world to suffice double the inhabitants, had not the invention of money and the tacit agreement of men to put a value on it introduced (by consent) larger possessions and a right to them.—LOCKE, "On Civil Government," 1690.

I FIND this vast net-work, which you call property, extending over the whole planet. I cannot occupy the bleakest crag of the White Hills or the Allegheny Range, but some man or corporation steps up to me to show me that it is his.—EMERSON.