

Single Taxers would unite at the polls the cause would soon win its way into the hearts of the people, and land value taxation would be adopted in the laws of the land.

A party hastily formed may not be perfect in its organization. It will necessarily do some crude things and make some efforts which do not succeed. But the Land Value Tax Party is facing in the right direction; it is enlisted in the cause of humanity. It has pleased me by its staying powers under adverse conditions, and by the interest it has stirred up in the cause, which is now under discussion more than at any time during the past twenty years. It is clear that such an organization was necessary; that it has done good work and still has a great work to do. There may be modifications in its methods of work, but it must continue to teach Single Taxers the lesson that votes have more influence than speeches; that they will have much more good effect than any other work that can be done for the cause.

GEORGE WALLACE.

NECESSITY FOR PARTY ORGANIZATION.

BY W. J. WALLACE.

On May 21, 1910, the Land Value Tax Party was organized at 43 E. 22nd St., New York, and it has abundantly justified its formation in its history from that date to the present time. Those who belong to it have the feeling of solidarity, of absolute trust and confidence in each other and in their devotion to the common aim, that so far as I know exceeds the mutual relations created by any similar organization.

The reason for this is not difficult to discover. The nature of the organization prevents any from becoming attached to it but those who are thoroughly convinced that the community should take all ground rents, and who publicly advocate this doctrine. This eliminates those who see in this idea only a fiscal reform, an improved method of taxation. It eliminates those who, while they are personally convinced that the community is entitled to all the ground rent, do not wish to take this stand before their acquaintances or the public for vari-

ous reasons which it is not necessary to state.

It eliminates all those who believe that the children of light are more subtle than the children of darkness and that it is possible for the first to "put one over" on the second while they are not looking.

It eliminates those who become attached to notoriously corrupt political bosses in order to feed upon the crumbs which fall from their table.

It eliminates those who do not see or do not wish to see the common ownership of ground rent as a living issue in the present and not as an issue whose consideration is to be postponed to some indefinite date in the future.

It eliminates those who have attained a vision of the truth, but are satisfied to fritter away their time on all other makeshift devices, which are usually restrictive of liberty, rather than to educate the people to know and to demand their rights.

The elimination of these undesirable elements results in mutual confidence among the members of the party and united and harmonious support of its principles and candidates.

We decline to throw away our vote and such personal influence as we may have in the support of parties which repudiate the truth and deliberately sell their influence and power to special privilege and monopoly.

An illuminating illustration of this is contained in a news item appearing in the *New York World* of August 25 of this year consisting of an extract from a letter by Benj. C. Marsh addressed to the New York County Committee of the National Progressive Party, reading as follows:

"The Progressive Party in this State (New York) is occupied in sucking the teats of privilege and just damning monopoly out of the corner of its mouth. The action of the City Convention in refusing to let the delegates to the convention decide whether or not to have a municipal plank submitting to a referendum vote the proposal to secure more of the ground rent for the expenses of the city showed that the party is controlled by land speculators. I am aware that many of Mr. Roosevelt's relatives are making money by land specula-

tion and also the relatives of the State Chairman, as also Mr. Timothy L. Woodruff.

I decline, however, since I have my self-respect to maintain, to be a party to fooling the people under the name of the Progressive Party."

The members of the Land Value Tax Party refuse to vote for the candidates of other parties for the following reasons:

No other party recognizes the principle that ground rent should be collected by the nation for the use of the people.

All other parties are actively opposed to this principle, owing to the ignorance of their voters, the opposition of interested and influential members and the general desire to be in the fashion in their ideas as well as in their dress and manners.

All other parties are misleading the voters by advocating a variety of restrictive laws all designed to improve the condition of a part of the people at the expense of all the people, by restricting their liberty, sacrificing their independence and making them wards of the State.

The spirit of Socialism has permeated the thought of the vast majority of the people and it is revealed in the general acceptance of and acquiescence in these restrictive laws, such as tariffs, income tax laws, child labor laws, minimum wage laws, hours of labor laws, etc., all designed to partially counteract conditions which are falsely charged to a competitive system, instead of to the robbery and exploitation of the workers by landlords and monopolists.

The confusion of thought which these conditions show is seriously affecting the minds of even those who profess to be earnest advocates of the Single Tax, as witness their general approval of the proposed income tax. This tax will not inquire into the source of any income except to hunt it out and tax it. It proposes to validate all methods of absorbing wealth and to quiet the public conscience, which is becoming somewhat sensitive on this subject, by taking a small part of all incomes, whether honestly or dishonestly obtained. Thus chloroforming the rising protest against the effects of monopoly, and unjustly taxing the results of honest effort.

This tax in England is recognized as the most serious obstacle in the path of the increased taxation of land values, owing to its confusing and misleading effect on the public mind.

There is need of a party devoted to the cause of human liberty and economic justice. There is need of a party whose principles are founded on a rock and will not be blown about with every wind of public fancy. If those who have been favored with a knowledge of the truth neglect it and do not carry its inspiration into their political life what immediate hope is there of its influence permeating the thought of mankind?

A vote is the expression of man's personality in the affairs of the nation. It should represent his conscience, his will, and should not be cast for any party or candidate not conforming to his convictions of right and wrong.

As Single Taxers we believe that there is but one way to permanently improve the condition of men and to bring them into just relation with each other, and that all efforts along economic lines which ignore the remedy we propose, are utterly unavailing in any permanent benefit to mankind. Such a belief as this should force a separation of Single Taxers from any party that does not recognize and approve of their ideas, for to vote with such parties and give them the approval of our interest and influence is to reject the truth so far as it has any bearing on our political life.

This is apparent to the people and they expect us to carry our principles to the polls. The public do not understand how it is possible to explain to them our beliefs without obligating ourselves to vote as we believe, and they appreciate a vote which reflects our thoughts and which is not cast for policy's sake or as a choice of evils. What an utter renunciation of the truth it would appear to them if we should vote in New York this fall for the candidates of Tammany Hall, the candidates of the Fusion combination made up of Republican, Progressive and Independence League parties, all bitterly hostile to land reform.

The vision of a new civilization which we have held up for their encouragement and hope would fade from their eyes and they

would say that if it was not important enough for us, its professed advocates, to vote for, we did not believe what we professed.

Land reform will not come until the people want it, and the people cannot be taught to want it by the methods now so popular with Single Taxers.

These methods consist chiefly of outwitting the devil. But he must indeed have a long spoon who sups with him.

Let us forsake these childish methods and take an honest and open stand for our principles as we profess them.

OBJECTIONS TO JOINING THE L. V. T. PARTY.

BY ANTONIO BASTIDA.

It may be of interest to the readers of the REVIEW to know the two principal objections given by Single Taxers for not joining our party; these are given below together with a little comment.

1st. Because the Party contains only a small number of people and has no chance in an election.

What answer can you give to a moral coward? Shall you enumerate the names dear to history which personate noble fights for liberty at the risk of banishment, torture or death? No, it is useless; his overweening pride and self esteem are too great to stand alone for a principle against ridicule; he must be bolstered up by many followers.

When numbers are attained *he* will not be needed; let him join us when success is in sight along with the political thugs and camp followers of other parties who will then flock in as his equally meritorious associates. In the meantime his presence would be a source of weakness as he would certainly desert in the first skirmish.

2nd. Because some one or other of the big parties has declared in favor of some minor reform which the objector claims is a step in our direction.

This is a more subtle objection in that it implies that the objector is striving to forward our cause, even though indirectly. Now, unfortunately for the cause we have at heart, the great mass of honest Single Taxers believe in this objection, yet it does

not ring true, as is easily shown by the following analysis.

THE TARIFF.—This is a federal issue to be determined at Washington; entirely unrelated to the taxation of land values, which is a State matter and must in this State be sought at Albany. Further, there is no doubt that should the Tariff be abrogated entirely—which is not even thought of—it would be succeeded by a Federal income tax which here, as in England, would serve as a bulwark eventually against the Single Tax in the national field.

With this issue we find Single Taxers trying to ride to Congress and none striving to go to Albany to work for a tax on land values; is it not natural then to inquire whence arises this abandonment of principle for the furtherance of a stupidly inadequate policy. For, while we agree that free-trade—not tariff reform—is just, yet we deny that it per se has anything to do with our fight to regain the common right to the earth; nevertheless this issue, whether erroneously begun twenty-six years ago or now criminally followed, has been in the past and now is used to distract the attention of Single Taxers from the land question. Under its baleful influence Single Tax leaders have so degenerated that besides forgetting their own cause they no longer have the courage to demand free trade, but in obedience to their party bosses slavishly argue and vote for percentage reductions in protective bills.

THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.—These issues constitute a much stronger excuse for deserting the cause, in that first they are more particularly State issues, and secondly that if obtained they might be used to bring our cause before the people.

Now we grant the justice and value of these issues and their possible use, but we strenuously urge all honest Single Taxers to consider that these so-called tools for advancing our cause must first have earnest and forceful workers educated in how to use them for our purpose; and we submit that in the States now using the Initiative and Referendum it has been found that the crop of Single Taxers to use these tools was woefully wanting. Plainly then the Land Value Tax Party must urge all Single Taxers to direct their whole atten-