

have also addressed meetings for the League are Miss Amy Hicks, Mrs. Florence A. Burleigh, Chas. Fredk. Adams, John S. Crosby, Haines D. Albright, Bolton Hall, Gustav W. Thompson and H. B. Maurer.

The Ex Board extends a cordial invitation to Single Tax women and men and all who are interested in this reform, especially women in cities where there are no Single Tax organizations, to attend the next conference. A number of short papers showing the effect the Single Tax will bring along different lines will be read by members of the organization; an evening meeting, with an address by some one prominent in the work, and a banquet, will be features of the meeting. Any information desired may be obtained by addressing Dr. Mary D. Hussey, 142 N. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N. J., or Mrs. Minnie Rogers Ryan, 485 Hancock St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### SHALL A WORLD CONVENTION OF SINGLE TAXERS BE HELD HERE IN OCTOBER?

On October 29th a decade will have passed since Henry George met his death in the midst of a struggle for the realization of his ideas. Many of his companions have since then trodden the same road and a new generation which knows him not, is arising about us. Boys who were too young to apprehend the importance of his teaching are now exercising their functions as citizens, and to but few of these outside the families of Single Taxers has the message been brought. And yet it is to youth we must look for that fervor of idealism, and that worship of justice which impel men to give their lives to our sacred cause.

The commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of Henry George's death in a becoming manner might be made the starting point of a new crusade which would enlist in its ranks the generous and impetuous youth of the nation, as a generation ago the campaign of '86 did for those of us who enjoyed the supreme distinction of being Henry George's companions in arms.

I therefore appeal to the Single Taxers throughout the world, through the columns of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, to make the coming anniversary an event of such significance, as to assure the doubting Thomases, who question whether the ideas of Henry George are marching on or falling into oblivion.

Let a world convention of Single Taxers be held in New York to show the world that there is one school of economic thought that knows no political or racial boundaries and that holds that the same truth is good for all the nations. In order to make such a move effective steps would have to be taken at once to organize a national committee, funds would have to be raised and a plan of conference decided upon. If the work is taken up early enough and earnestly

enough, it can be made a great impetus to the work of spreading the light everywhere. Communications may be addressed to the REVIEW by those who approve the idea and a local committee will be organized to do the preliminary work of convening the larger committee. Let us hear as little as possible of obstacles. Obstacles only exist for those who recognize them. If in this work we refuse to admit the possibility of failure, which can only come through our own apathy, we shall succeed greatly.

JOHN J. MURPHY.

#### LETTER TO BOSTON'S MAYOR.

FROM C. B. FILLEBROWN, WHICH APPEARED  
IN ALL THE BOSTON PAPERS.

Dear Sir—Every thoughtful citizen of Boston must rejoice that your Honor, in the proposed measure for the extension of Hamilton Place, has struck the true key-note to the "bigger and busier" Boston symphony by asking the Legislature to determine (1) whether the sovereign power of eminent domain resides in the individual landowner or in the people; (2) whether, in view of the recognized fact that all rights in public franchises do not vest in the owning corporation, is it not equally true that all the rights in land do not vest in the landowner; (3) whether, if railroads may be regulated by the government at a loss to their stockholders, a city may not have sufficient sovereign domain to enable it to improve its own land to the profit of both the owner and the public. A recent Winter Street example must be fresh in the minds of those interested in real estate, where the right of individual domain by advancing the price of land from \$100 to \$200 per sq. foot, compassed the ignominious defeat of a million dollar plan for supplying the urgent needs of business.

If Boston is not as busy as she might be one reason is that she largely expends her taxes, exactly as she is asked to do by the abutters on Hamilton Place at the recent State House hearing, for the benefit of the landowner, instead of the agraudizement of her own business interests. Boston's taxes are heavy partly for the reason that in our congested districts taxes are out of proportion to business accommodation and facilities.

If legislation will put the landowner in the same class with the business man, and with the municipality itself, instead of in a preferred class by himself; if it will make the rights of the living storekeeper and the living customer equal to, and in harmony, instead of in conflict with the right of the dead landowner, there will cease to be occasion for his Honor the Mayor to reproach business men with lack of cooperation. This Hamilton Place battle has got to be fought out by public agitation and by an appeal to the minds of those few intelligent and public

spirited men of affairs whose wise counsels are in the long run apt to prevail. There has never been so close a field or so sharp an issue presented before as now appears in this Hamilton Place Object Lesson.

If your Honor will amend your measure, and the Legislature will pass your measure so amended, as to provide that if the abutters prefer to sell rather than pay for their own betterment the city may purchase at an appraised value, improve and re-sell, Boston may take its first lesson in the course of instruction taken by the City of Paris a generation ago.

One of the pregnant possibilities of the situation ought to command unanimous support. A complete reorganization of Hamilton Place would open the way to give Boston a single inexpensive object lesson of a five hundred foot street fitted with every modern improvement and perfection of appointment, inferior to none other in the world.

The execution of such a plan in its perfection is easily possible without the slightest injury or injustice to the landowner, but rather leaving to him by far the best end of the bargain, as against the 599,999 other inhabitants of the City of Boston.

C. B. FILLEBROWN.

#### FROM JOHN B. HOWARTH'S RECENT ADDRESS IN DETROIT.

(From the *Informers*.)

"The Puritans came to this country in 1620 to secure religious liberty. They were successful. You may worship God after the dictates of your own conscience, or you need not worship at all in this country. So, also, have we secured personal liberty by the abolition of chattel slavery. Then we have secured in this country political liberty. Under the law every man is equal to another; but there is yet another goal to reach, and that is industrial liberty. I may start to swim across a stream and succeed in swimming three-fourths the distance and come within a few feet of reaching the other side and then give out and drown. I am really no better off than if I gave out close to the shore from which I started. So with this question of liberty. We must add industrial liberty to our achievements or our civilization will prove a failure.

#### THE SINGLE TAX.

This is what the Single Tax would do. It would give us industrial liberty. The weight of the whole world could not crush an egg-shell if there was nothing behind it to crush it against. Neither could greedy employers crush labor if the natural opportunity for one's self-employment were open to it. There are two factors in the production of all wealth—Land and Labor—and when land is as free to labor as water and sunshine, industrial liberty will have been attained. The single tax will absorb the rental or interest value of land, that is to

say the speculative value, and the tax on industry and personal property will be removed.

By taking the rental value of land in taxes there will be no profit in speculating in land, and landowners would be forced to use their land by building more houses, which would cheapen rents, or they would of necessity sell or abandon their vacant holdings so those who were seeking locations could purchase reasonably or enter them.

Father Bundy, Walter H. Stowers, President Chas. S. Webb and others asked several questions of the speaker, one of which was to know "if the Single Tax would really cure social ills," to which the speaker replied that "if he did not believe that the Single Tax would cure involuntary poverty and thereby greatly lessen crime and immorality, that he would not be there expounding the doctrine that evening."

The "reformer" taught the doctrine of brotherly love, of fraternity, the Golden Rule, equality. But Jesus did not die upon the cross. His principles still live. Henry George pointed out the way to industrial liberty—and through it to mental and moral freedom—and while he was performing this great service, one of the greatest that man has ever performed, he was left in his obscurity, neglected and despised—save by a few faithful followers. Such popular heroes as Grover Cleveland, Tom Platt, Chauncey M. Depew and Addicks held the public ear and were lifted up to exalted places. Henry George "died in the harness," fighting for his principles—for justice.

JAMES A. LOGSDON,  
In the *Worker's Advocate*,  
Chicago, Ill.

#### CAUSE OF HIGHER RENTS.

Noting the increase of rents in New York an exchange attributes it to increase in the price of house-building material. That is doubtless an element. But the last assessment of the Borough of Manhattan discloses another. The site values alone of Manhattan have increased \$180,000,000 in two years. This increase in the cost of house sites goes far to parallel the increase in the cost of building materials. It is enough to build 1,800 houses costing \$100,000 each.—The *Public*.

This is the way you are stumped in argument by the wise opponents of the Single Tax. Get them to agree that equality of opportunity is desirable no matter what inequalities of capacity may exist. You may be able to get them to admit as much. But then they say that, of course, inequality of capacity constitutes inequality of opportunity. Why so it does. Then cannot we perceive that equality of opportunity is a dream? Why, of course. How stupid of us not to have seen it before. And the cheerful idiot goes away satisfied and happy