

all the remaining grangers who were in doubt over to the new organization in a body. It means the beginning of the end of the old grange and the new West against the old East, with the Single Tax as the basic principle. The Single Tax will be the central if not the militant slogan of the new group. The initiative measure in Oregon will make it the militant slogan, if not this year, then in the not distant future, perhaps for other States than the one in which Mr. Hermann is making his indefatigable campaign.

Wisconsin

A FRESH and convincing view of the Single Land Value Tax is set forth in a pamphlet which is being widely distributed by its author, John Harrington, who is Inheritance Tax Counsel to the State Tax Commission. Mr. Harrington entitles his pamphlet, which has received an appreciative notice in the REVIEW, "A Tax that is not a Burden." He calls "Progress and Poverty" the greatest book ever written by an American, covering the field of economics and sociology. Mr. Harrington says:

"But in spite of criticism and hostility the teaching of Henry George is re-making the world today, and chiefly through those who do not even know that it is from him their ideas are derived."

Mr. Harrington's pamphlet is devoted to the demonstration of three propositions:

1. The value of land is created by the public and not by the owner.
2. The value of all other things than land is created by human labor.
3. Ground rent paid to private land owners is a burden on society for which no economic return is made to society, and is therefore an economic waste.

Lieutenant-Governor George F. Comings, ever since the adjournment of the legislature, has been addressing farmers' meetings in both this State and North Dakota. In his speeches he always stresses the fact that land values are different from other values and should be used for public purposes.

Edward Nordman, the State Market Commissioner, is another Wisconsin State official who has seen the cat, and never loses an opportunity to point out the distinction between earned and unearned incomes.

During the last session of the legislature a number of bills, defeated but fought for with ability, were introduced exempting from taxation improvements on real estate. Mr. Grimstad introduced a bill providing for a surtax on land values which was drawn by Prof. John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin. It provided for a surtax on the right to the use and enjoyment of land values in excess of \$10,000, and in excess of the value of improvements, preparation costs, standing timber and fertility. There were two hearings on the bill. Prof. Commons, Edward Nordman, John Harrington and other Single Taxers spoke in its favor.

CHESTER C. PLATT.

Texas

WE are indebted for two generous contributions of Single Tax literature. The Manhattan Single Tax Club has made two shipments of good things for special distribution, such as "The Crime of Poverty," and "Moses." Mr. H. H. Willock has just contributed 12,000 copies of "Unused Democracy." This may prove a hint to some other Single Taxers to contribute an edition of ten or twenty thousand copies of some good literature. We want everything that goes out to bear the imprint, "The Single Tax League of Texas."

A conference of labor men, National Farm Labor Union, Farmers' Union and Nonpartisan League, was held last month in Waco. It was an interesting all-day conference of representative men from the various organizations, looking towards political action next year. One plank in the platform adopted demands the exemption of all farm improvements and implements from taxation and definitely recites that unimproved land shall be assessed the same as improved land of like location. We did not ask for a specific declaration on exemptions of all improvements and personal property. The State Federation of Labor has for six consecutive years specifically demanded the submission of an amendment to the Constitution exempting all improvements and personal property from taxation, and placing the entire tax burden for State, county and city, on land values.

The National Farm Labor Union is a new organization. Its activities date from October, 1920, and now reports some 50,000 members in Texas. It is made up of actual farmers, men who make their living by working the land. We have not as yet asked any demand on taxation from this organization. It is following the lead of organized labor and when the proper time arrives, we believe will follow labor in its tax demands.

Our political activities in the near future will be centered on the election of members of the legislature. We submitted a Single Tax amendment to the 36th Legislature, which met in January, 1919. The Committee on Constitutional Amendments refused to report it out and it was brought out on minority report. When it came up in the House, there were only 13 votes for it, although in a previous test vote 18 votes were cast in its favor. The same amendment was submitted to the 37th Legislature last January. The Committee on Constitutional Amendments voted it out with only one dissenting vote. That does not mean that every member that voted for a favorable report endorses the Single Tax. It does mean that they are interested and wanted it debated on the floor. There was another significant situation in the House. Several revenue measures were introduced taxing business in various forms. None of these measures had any standing before the Committee on Revenues and Taxation. The House of Representatives is not ready for Single Tax but it is against any added taxes on industry.

If the 38th Legislature, that will be elected next year, will

give us 60 votes in the House and 10 votes in the Senate for submission of our amendment, the 39th Legislature that will convene January, 1925, will submit the measure.

There will be no serious contest for Governor this coming year as Texas has a well established tradition for reelecting its chief executive. The present Governor has no land policy. Early in his campaign last year he laid considerable stress on the Graduated Land Tax. As the campaign progressed he weakened on this issue and finally seemed to forget that we have a land problem in Texas. In 1924 there will be a candidate for Governor who will have a Single Tax plank both as a revenue producer and as a solution of the so-called "Land Problem." If that candidate is big enough to satisfy the people that he is fitted for the office of chief executive, his Single Tax platform will give added strength to his candidacy.

The politically wise readers of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW will understand from this report what we are doing in Texas. In addition to these political activities we are doing a great deal of "general publicity" work. More of the country press of the State are accepting Single Tax contributions than heretofore. The labor press freely print what we give them. Many trade and special journals also publish our contributions.

We have submitted Single Tax resolutions to a number of conventions. In almost every case they have been fairly considered, but no important ones passed, nor have we pressed for their passage.

At no time during the nearly six years of work has this League shown any impatience at delays or apparent indifference. The sentiment for Single Tax is growing every day and we are trying to direct it towards political action. We are going to write a Single Tax amendment into the Constitution of Texas just as soon as it is possible. It may be in five years or it may be 10 years. Whatever the period it will be done, it will be well done.

WM. A. BLACK.

The New York Mayoralty Campaign

IT was not an election—it was a census. "A Five Cent Fare" took the place of "Bread and the Circus." People have not changed much since the days of old Rome. They act in the same way where the economic pressure is the same. Socialists make rather too much of this, it is true, forgetting that there are other forms of social stimuli, perhaps in the main stronger and more enduring and much more potent when the people are deeply stirred.

TAMMANY A PATERNALISTIC ORGANIZATION

Tammany is so much closer to the voter. Its leaders, from Hylan down, are "good to the poor." The people are not self-reliant; they love to lean upon government—even though the help extended is sentimental and largely imaginary. But it is a paternalistic relationship, just the

same. Thus Tammany Hall begins every election with a big advantage in the running.

DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE USE OF THE VOTE

It is absolutely certain that the voter does not yet realize the use to which the ballot may be put. I do not refer now to the large number who vote because they want to be on the winning side. I refer to the much larger number who will not vote for an independent party because they fear to "throw away their vote." Yet that is what they do when they vote for the old parties standing for nothing but the offices. Even if success of party is the main consideration nearly fifty per cent. of the voters must throw away their votes at this year's election and nearly fifty per cent. of another set of voters take their turn at "throwing away their votes" the following year, and thus on in the never ending see-saw of municipal politics.

THE POTENCY OF THE VOTE

Perhaps the voter will some day realize the use to which his vote may be put. He can use it effectively by not voting at all, by voting for the opposition, or by voting for some independent party, all depending on circumstances. At this Fall's election every Single Taxer could have made good use of his vote by casting it for the Single Tax Party. A vote of 40,000, even 25,000, would have been potent to secure an extension of the exemption act so as to include all dwellings within the exemption. Such a vote would have meant that we were that much nearer to the taxation of land values for public purposes. And there are of course that number of Single Taxers in Greater New York and no doubt an equal number of "near Single Taxers."

THE IMPOTENCY OF THE PRESS

It is to be noted that the influence of the press is now entirely *nil*. Ten of the leading newspapers of this city—all except the Hearst papers—supported Curran. Yet so entirely impotent has become their influence that the vote cast for Curran was in inverse ratio to the newspaper support he received. A few more newspapers supporting the Republican ticket—and lo, Hylan's election might have been unanimous! The papers have been rather chary about printing Single Tax matter in their news columns and Single Tax arguments in their editorial columns. They can go right ahead now and print all they like—no one will pay any attention to them anyhow!

ADVANTAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN

At this writing no information can be given as to the Single Tax vote in this city. The official returns are not yet procurable. Hon. John J. Hopper, running on the Single Tax ticket as well as the Torrens Law Party ticket, appears to have received 18,000 in Manhattan. We can, however, do but little at this juncture in the Single Tax movement save to mark time. It is demonstrable now that small public meetings, lyceum and lecture work, are not sufficient to keep alive interest in the Single Tax. In