

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

OREGON.

MR. BOWERMAN THINKS THE CHANCES EVEN THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL CARRY—THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING AN OUT AND OUT SINGLE TAX FIGHT—PRIVILEGE ALARMED AND ITS FRIENDS FEAR TO DEBATE WITH SINGLE TAXERS.

With financial assistance, I feel certain that we could win this fight hands down. The special interests are fearing that it will carry. They are appealing to the unenlightened. We find when the question is explained it is readily accepted and it is to get speakers before the people that funds are needed. The bold avowal of the Single Tax has proved of great value. Maguire in California and Bucklin in Colorado lost because of the effort to conceal the Single Tax. In both those cases the energy of the movement was dissipated in denial and concealment. The *Oregonian* dubbed our amendment the "Single Tax Amendment" and we openly accepted the challenge as men who fear not the truth and believe that honesty is the most expedient of all policies. This furnished us with the opportunity to use the full length argument. It has eliminated quibble and qualification, enabling us to drive the full truth home with a power of conviction otherwise impossible.

There are only two real antagonists of any note, the *Oregonian* which is rapidly losing favor, having opposed every measure of interest to the people and boldly espoused the cause of special privilege; the other is Mr. Dixon who carries little weight, as he is a weak man. Of course we cannot be assured of success without the funds for a strenuous campaign. I do not believe we could fail if we had the money for a speakers campaign. We open up to-morrow evening in Portland. The readiness with which the Single Tax logic is absorbed is shown by the results of my speech at Albany. Opposition had been strong through ignorance. The morning after the streets were alive with discussions and I am informed that the city is now favorable to the amendment. Mr. E. J. S. McAlister is the only one of

us who feels pessimistic and even he says that if we could secure five thousand dollars the measure could be won. The Single Taxers in the East do not seem to realize the conditions in this State. The Initiative and Referendum seems to be viewed theoretically. They do not seem to appreciate that the constitution of our state is safely in the hands of the people and that they alone by the Initiative and Referendum can amend without let or hindrance. Principle is the sole issue and if we can carry the amendment monopoly will be mired so deep that it will be neighbor to the fossil mastadons that lie beneath our soil. The sons of liberty, the apostles of Henry George, have a great opportunity, if they understood the prospects of winning, I believe they would give with a spendthrift's ease and sit back confident that on the 3rd of June, 1908, the fight here for liberty would be won.

Some of our workers believe the amendment will carry two to one. I cannot agree with them; I would rather be conservative. I think it is an even chance. If we lose it will be a crime against ourselves, a ghost that will not down but will rise at every future "love feast" to frighten mirth and rebuke each soul with the dark memory of a neglected opportunity.

With sufficient funds the chances are greatly in our favor; in this all agree. If won here the tide cannot be changed. This is evident; if carried it cannot be declared "unconstitutional". We have no parties to fight; enlightenment of the people is alone necessary.

We have issued challenges all over the state to debate. No one will accept. This has a great moral effect. We are continually called on to elucidate the measure. This shows the interest.

We have the state pamphlet before the people in which our argument is printed. We have filled two pages of the *Oregon Daily Journal* with Single Tax matter which has gone by ordinary circulation through the State. We will distribute 50,000 more copies. We are continually contributing to the papers and have got out some literature in leaflet form. If any one thing has helped us it is the fact that we have boldly and above board

declared our complete intention. Our bold and fearless attitude has knocked the wind out of the monopolists. They cannot successfully oppose the Single Tax. They might have hoped to quibble on the partial amendment. Their serpentine intentions all coiled and prepared were brained on the rock of fundamental principle and never got a chance to bite. The tail is still wriggling, but with the power of appeal the sun of its dying life will go down and the morrow will see another sun radiant with truth—glorious with justice.

Mr. U'Ren, who perhaps knows the pulse of the people better than any other man in the state, says that if the amendment had been a pure Single Tax amendment it would have gained greater headway and been certain to carry. He advocated and drew up a pure Single Tax amendment which I supported, but the majority turned down for the proposed amendment. The fight is progressing and from now until June 1st, the great work must be done. Next week the cart tail campaign begins in Portland and if we can obtain the funds, the rest of this State will see the most strenuous campaigning in all her history. Principle is at stake and it is principle that moves man to mighty effort.

Our hearts are pumping with the joyous vigor of conflict.

The eager desire is hard to hold in check and zeal will not abate until the world has heard the consequence of our struggle.

LOUIS BOWERMAN.

PORTLAND, Oregon.

RHODE ISLAND.

THE MOVEMENT PROGRESSING QUIETLY
IN RHODE ISLAND—ADDRESSES BEFORE
THE LEGISLATURE—GOVERNOR GARVIN,
C. H. MERRIMAN AND C. B. FILLEBROWN
HEARD.

In Rhode Island the movement for Tax Reform is progressing quietly. The bill which was introduced in the legislature and referred to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has not yet been reported by the Committee whether it will be is a problem. The

Committee gave a hearing on the bill, however, on March 20th. A large number attended the hearing, several speakers being heard on each side of the question. Among those who favored the bill, were former Governor Garvin; Mr. C. H. Merriman, Treasurer of the Manville Co. a large cotton manufacturing concern; Mr. D. B. Fraser of Fraser Bros., Wholesale Teas & Coffees; Hon. Thomas F. Kearney, Business Agent of the Carpenter's Union and a Representative in the General Assembly; Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, of Boston and others. Those appearing in opposition were the Assistant City Solicitor and two of the Tax Assessors of the City of Providence and a gentleman from Bristol. The latter said he opposed the bill because, in his opinion, it is unconstitutional. As the gentleman is neither a member of the bar nor the Supreme Court, perhaps those in favor of the measure will decline to accept his opinion as final. The other speakers in opposition based their objections on the alleged fact that the measure would tend to induce undue activity in the building trades with the result that there would be many tenements with no tenants to occupy them and thus our last condition would be worse than the first. In other words, to adopt such a measure would in their opinion be a case of jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. When asked if exemption of machinery and improvements from taxation would not be likely to attract manufacturers to build factories and help to occupy the tenements no answer was vouchsafed.

For the bill Mr. Merriman said in part: "The present system of taxation seems to be about as bad as human beings can devise and I believe any change for the better will be welcome. Philadelphia under a tax system practically as we wish to have, has grown immensely and I will say that a great part is due to their system of taxation. I believe in local option on every question that it is possible to give it. Each one knows his own desires best. If you sat here all day you couldn't devise a worse or more unjust system than the one we have at present."

Representative Kearney informed the committee that the "bill has the unani-