

been told repeatedly, the way to influence legislators is through their constituents, rather than by direct appeal. This is a good time to reach the people for the reason that the prevailing high prices appear to have created a greater degree of popular discontent than did the financial depression of two years ago.

Our aim is, by means of a trolley campaign, carried on by speech-making and the distribution of literature, to reach the villages and rural districts. Most of the work heretofore has been done in the cities, where indeed the evening meetings should be continued. Again we ask and more urgently than ever before, that Single Taxers seriously consider the spending of their Summer vacations on the shores of the beautiful Narragansett Bay, which by the way is to be the centre of aviation this season.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, Lonsdale, R. I.

OREGON.

DIRECT LEGISLATION NOT AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT IN OREGON—POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE MUST BE ABRIDGED—THE THREE TAXATION AMENDMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE—AN ENDURING STRUCTURE IS BUILDING.

Because Oregon has the referendum and Initiative in full force some people wonder why the Single Taxers are not doing more in Oregon. But there are different brands of the Initiative. It has been found that the Legislature can repeal tax laws as fast as the people pass them. It is a mis-representative body, and makes use of the "emergency clause" to forestall the Referendum and to undo the work of the Initiative at one and the same time. The experience in Oregon for the past six years indicated that the often advocated modification of the Initiative to make it merely an advisory vote or resolution expressing the opinion of the people for the guidance of the Legislature is a waste of energy to talk about or work for. The people of Oregon in 1906 passed two acts putting a gross income tax on corporations, but the

Legislature repealed them with an "emergency clause." This was not found out for some time. This clause has to be amended so as to make it impossible for a bare majority to declare an emergency to exist when none confronts them. An Initiative amendment is now before the people, or will shortly be, limiting the emergency to the real thing and requiring a three-fourths vote to tack it on to any bill; also making it possible to refer to the people an emergency bill.

The Legislature also had power until after the election of 1908 to call a Constitutional convention by an ordinary act. They have called one now, but the Convention is not possible without the consent of the people, for the Initiative enabled the people to block that game. It would have been useless to pass any measure approaching the Single Tax very definitely with the power in the hands of the Legislature to repeal any tax law, or to call a Constitutional Convention in case a tax amendment made its appearance on the organic law of the State.

Before any Single Tax campaign can be made with effectiveness in Oregon the proposed Constitutional Convention must be voted down, or if it passes it must, if possible, be compelled to provide the safeguards of direct legislation. At present the proposition is not faring well at the hands of the people and is not likely to pass. The power of the Legislature must be limited in tax laws so that no law of that kind can be put in force without the consent of the people.

For these and other reasons the active Single Taxers in Oregon are working to give the people more power and to clinch down the power already in their hands. Meanwhile the leaven of economic justice is working out among the people. If when the groundwork is cleared and the foundation laid they do not care to go on with the edifice then that will be for lack of understanding, and then will be time for an educational campaign which shall be carried on from schoolhouse to schoolhouse and hearth to hearth until the people are prepared to go on. Meanwhile the foundation stones are to be hewn and dragged, and it is not such inspiring work to some

as would be the blare of battle trumpets and the waving of banners.

There will be submitted to the people at the coming election three amendments on taxation. Two do away with restrictions and limitations in the Constitution, and have been submitted by the Legislature at the petition of the Grange. The third will limit the taxation power of the Legislature and give counties power to exempt classes of property from county taxes on vote of its citizens. It has been drafted by very able men and endorsed by the State Federation of Labor. The Grange and the Federation of Labor are working in friendly harmony for a number of measures, and while the "third tax amendment," as it is called, has not been endorsed by the State Grange, as have the others, it will receive a large measure of support from progressive Grangers all over the State and may be officially endorsed. Another amendment will limit the "emergency clause," as before mentioned, and if all four pass, and no Convention is endorsed, the people will have the power to act as their intelligence directs.

The people of Oregon are not inclined to tumult and uproar. They don't enthuse. Experience has shown that they vote quietly and positively upon their convictions of right. At the last election a measure which was a decided advance toward the Single Tax was defeated because the people were uninformed as regards the principle of justice embodied in it. The force back of it was not able to properly educate the people in the few months and with the few hundred dollars at hand. The indications from that vote are that it would carry if an educational campaign was undertaken with two years to make it in, and with means sufficient to properly canvas the rural sections in which the strongest opposition exists. The people are inclined to say but little, will not turn out to rally-meetings in large numbers, and want time to think over measures. It would require more time for a campaign to secure the Single Tax in Oregon than is afforded between now and next November. It requires time for an idea to grow in the brain of an average Oregon citizen, and when other ideas have to be uprooted

before the idea of the Single Tax can take root and send out leaves, it requires still more time. When the Single Tax carries in Oregon it will stay carried. When the farmers of Oregon are given the power to enact it, and the understanding to perceive its justice and moral strength, they will go for it ten to one. Meanwhile, the Single Taxers are neither idle nor asleep, neither loafing on the job nor hunting trouble. The foundations are being laid and the quarry worked for blocks to make an enduring structure that will not rest upon sand.—A. D. Cridge.

CHICAGO.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CHICAGO SINGLE TAX CLUB—OLD WORKERS AGAIN ACTIVE IN THE FIELD—WORK AMONG THE FOREIGN BORN.

You have asked me for an outline of our methods of reorganizing The Chicago Single Tax Club and I comply because some of these may be of practical use to others who feel they can give the time and hard work necessary to organize Single Tax clubs in their own cities.

First, then, we found it necessary to pick out men with the proper mental attitude of the genuine Single Taxer. This was easy in Chicago where the Single Tax attitude of mind is widely diffused, and where we had a flourishing number of clubs at one time—about eight years ago—but which after a local political campaign, began to languish for reasons which I have never quite understood. As far as I can gather many thought the time ripe for political action and others thought differently.

While the movement was apparently dormant, nevertheless almost all the old war horses—all the men and women who understood—were at heart just as strongly convinced of the truth as before. Under these conditions—with over 5000 old Single Taxers to draw from—it only needed some impelling new influences to rekindle the old spirit. One of these is the universally growing "Economic Pressure."

Another potent influence was the econo-