

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

OREGON.

FATE OF THE OREGON MEASURES—THE CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED—A PERSONAL PROPAGANDA NEEDED—OREGON RIPE FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM.

Of the 32 measures submitted to the people of Oregon by the legislature and through the initiative, and one on referendum, certainly 23 and probably 25 have been defeated. Of these fully 19 deserved their fate.

The following are the measures that have been adopted:

An act authorizing the establishment of a branch insane asylum in Eastern Oregon.

A bill providing for the permanent support and maintenance of the Oregon Normal School at Monmouth.

The Home Rule amendment.

An employers' liability law.

A bill prohibiting the taking of fish from the Rogue River except by angling.

The good roads amendment.

An amendment changing judicial procedure, terms of judges, etc.

The most important measure certainly passed is the last above outlined. It is one of the Peoples' Power League measures, and the only one out of four.

The three tax amendments were defeated, although there is still some doubt at this writing as to the fate of the tax amendment proposed by organized labor which provides for county option in taxation by popular vote and the abolition of the poll tax. This measure was very progressive in a negative form, but organized labor neglected it to push through their employers' liability law. It would have placed the constitution on a basis whereby progressive steps might have been taken.*

Of the measures defeated the most vicious was that calling for a constitutional convention. The vote against it was enormous. Oregon people feel able to

do their own constitution mending and making.

Another measure intended to head off proportional representation was overwhelmingly defeated. In fact the people defeated five out of the six measures submitted by the legislature.

The measure submitted through the initiative by the Peoples' Power League, providing for proportional representation, was defeated by a small vote, leaving the provision for it now standing in the constitution awaiting a law to put it into effect. This law the last legislature refused to pass.

Why were these progressive measures defeated? It is not far to seek. They were all defeated by small votes. The totals are not known at this date, Nov. 15th. They are probably less than 1,000 on the proportional representation and tax measures.

A very able literary campaign was made and the State swamped with pamphlets. The two "Grange amendments" on taxation submitted by the legislature at the request of the Grange, were ambiguously worded. The Grange leaders were afraid of them and made no active fight for them. The personal equation was ignored in the campaign. No speeches were made, no teachers sent out on a campaign of education. The measures were supported by as fine a set of arguments and data as ever were written. The people were bewildered by questions which they could find no one coming around to answer. Not a solitary paper in the state was supporting these progressive measures save the *Labor Press*, the circulation of which lies mainly in and around the city of Portland. Here they all carried.

This is said in no spirit of criticism and fault finding. The victories won in the past by the Peoples' Power League have all been gained by this method. The house to house, and town to town campaign of earnest contact and appeal was made by the old Populist party. On the questions thus treated the people of Oregon were ready to respond. On new measures they wanted to know more, to ask more, to confer more.

It is one thing to send a man a literary gem and an economic masterpiece, but it is another thing to secure his attention and

* Later information shows the local option measure carried by about 1600.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

get him in a few weeks to change his established economic thoughts sufficiently to get his vote. That the taxation and other measures came so nearly to the victory, speaks volumes for the good sense and honest intentions of the people of Oregon.

Had some strong, virile, eloquent man gone down the state and explained some of the matters, he would have saved the day. It was not considered advisable to have this done.

The measure providing for proportional representation was coupled with several others, all good in themselves, but two distinctly unpopular. It provided for increasing the term of the legislature to six years, and it increased their pay. The people of Oregon at this same election voted down by an enormous majority, a proposition to increase the pay of a circuit judge, and in the city of Portland, two special measures intended to raise the pay of two city officials were voted down at the same time.

Oregon is ripe for the harvest of economic progress, but the reapers must go out among the rows of corn and work. The farmers of Oregon want to be shown. They want to know, and they want time to think. In two of the best agricultural counties of the state, the progressive measures got the heaviest adverse votes, yet these counties could have been easily canvassed. These counties indicated a backwardness on economic matters two years ago. It is useless to send these men literature without missionaries are sent with it.

The Oregon people voted according to their lights, honestly, fearlessly. They cannot be bullied, bribed, bulldozed, nor played for fools. Teach them. Go among them. Tell them. Sing the song of freedom to them and they will listen. Get next to their hearts, and their heads will come after.

They must be made not only sore at the present iniquities of taxation, but they must be shown the way out. Not with literature poked at them, altogether, but with the words of truth taken to them in song and story, in earnestness and faith.

The Oregon people are ready for the march to economic freedom, but no leader

from a far off can direct them. He must be among and of them.—A. D. CRIDGE, Portland, Oregon.

RHODE ISLAND.

THE REPUBLICANS FIND THEIR RECENT VICTORY NO EASY ONE—THE RHODE ISLAND INTERROGATION ASSOCIATION—51 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OUT OF 138 COMMITTED TO LOCAL OPTION IN TAXATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE.

Somewhat to the surprise of at least one member of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association, the election in this State has not been the usual walk-over for the G. O. P. Is any part of the result to be credited to the efforts of the Association? A brief outline of what we have been doing, or trying to do, from the beginning of last Spring up to the day the votes were cast, may enable the reader to form an opinion.

To begin with, the three or four speakers that the association had in the field, made a point at all the meetings held, prior to June 30th, to urge people to register. The advisability of getting on the list was the subject of letters to newspapers all over the State. But, although many of the cotton and woolen mills were running on reduced time, the registration figures for Providence and for the State at large were only slightly in excess of those of 1909, and considerably behind those of 1908. The lists were closed on the last day of June.

At all the meetings held under the auspices of the Association, the property qualification and the inequality of representation in the legislature were denounced, and direct legislation was pointed out as the only likely means of correcting these and other evils of our political system. Col. Liddell was especially emphatic upon these points, and in his condemnation of protection, and the other speakers repeatedly called attention to what was going on in Western Canada. The same course was pursued in the letters sent to the newspapers.

The Democratic platform contained several planks that were especially accept-