

are not what they ought to be and that something in the way of a remedy must be adopted.

I have been very greatly interested in Frank Parson's story of New Zealand.

Other remedies are there pointed out as solutions for the problems which are of vital interest to our people here to-day, and very practical solutions, too, I think.

Mr. Parson's story tells of reforms so practical that men of ordinary intelligence can easily grasp their meaning and feel confident of the result, while with the Single Tax theory, it is not so easy to get the people to understand.

Yours for the common good.

W. A. HOWARD.

MORA, Minn.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

RHODE ISLAND.

SINGLE TAXERS SORRY FOR THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC DEFEAT—QUINCY A. LOTHROP AND WILLIAM RYAN RECENT VISITORS TO THE BATTLE GROUND.

Single Taxers are particularly sorry for the local democratic defeat, for that party went to the people in this campaign with the best declaration of principles ever presented by any political party in this State. That platform contained six pledges, any one of which should have rendered certain the election of the Democratic State ticket. These pledges were:

1. A resolution pledging the party if given power to an amendment to the constitution giving ten per centum of the voters power to propose amendments to the constitution of the State and to have the same submitted to the electorate for adoption or rejection by majority vote. This proposition is popularly known as "the constitutional initiative."
2. Local option in taxation.
3. The abolition of the property qualifications.
4. Equitable representation in the legislature.
5. A direct primary law.
6. Veto power for the governor.

The plank for local option in taxation was submitted to the State conventions of both the Republican and Democratic parties by the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association, with the request that it be endorsed in their respective platforms. The request was ignored by the republicans and granted by the democrats as indicated above.

The Tax Reform Association has continued the work begun in June up to the very eve of the election, an outdoor meeting having been held at Cathedral Square in this city on Monday evening, Nov. 2nd. Interest in these meetings has continued unabated throughout the Summer and Fall; there has never been any difficulty in securing large and attentive audiences and the various speakers are accorded earnest and respectful attention. In addition to the speakers mentioned in former letters we have had visits from Mr. Quincy A. Lothrop, of Boston, who gave an excellent address to a large audience in this city, and from Mr. William Ryan of New York, who spoke at Central Falls, at Woonsocket and in this city. Both of these gentlemen are eloquent speakers, and the wish that they may come again is frequently heard. We are doing the best we can, and shall continue to do so as our strength permits. We did hope that in view of the recognition given the local option in taxation sentiment by the Democratic party, at least a democratic house of representatives in the local legislature might be elected, but the result shows that our work is not yet done; it is hardly begun; educational work must go on.

GEORGE D. LIDDELL.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

FROM GOV. GARVIN.

Commencing early in June the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association carried on a quiet, but persistent, campaign for local option in taxation. In this work the local association has received financial assistance from Single Taxers of other States, the contributions being made at the solicitation of Bolton Hall, president of the American Single Tax League. Of the nearly three

hundred dollars received since June 1st, fifty came from the National Woman's Single Tax League.

Massachusetts Single Taxers have helped by sending the following able and convincing speakers: W. L. Crossman, Edward Doherty, Samuel Brazier, Robert B. Capen, James Carret, and Quincy A. Lothrop. A week ago, Wm. Ryan, assistant secretary of the Tax Reform Association of New York, spent two days with us, speaking in the cities of Central Falls, Woonsocket, and Providence.

It is the opinion of these gentlemen, as well as Mr. Stephens and Mr. Murphy who came earlier in the season, also of Mr. Hall and Mr. Fels, that Rhode Island is a promising field for a trial of the Single Tax.

Mr Liddell, Secretary of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association, has been indefatigable in carrying on without compensation the out door meetings. In this he has had the self-denying assistance of other local Single Taxers. The season has been a most favorable one for open air speaking, and hundreds of the citizens of Greater Providence have listened every night to expositions of the Single Tax doctrines. We believe that a decided impression has been produced, and, now that indoor meetings are in order, the effort is to be made to organize the new converts into active working clubs.

About the middle of September the State Tax Reform Association asked the two leading parties to pass at their State conventions a resolution declaring for local option in taxation. The Republican party paid no attention to this request, but the Democratic party inserted in its platform the following plank: "The Democratic party reaffirms the doctrine of home rule for the cities and towns of the State upon all local questions including the method of taxation."

In consequence of this action, from and after the middle of October our speakers advocated the election of the Democratic candidates for State offices and members of the legislature.

Now as to the future: Two months hence the new legislature assembles. Meanwhile, the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association will endeavor to reach existing or-

ganizations in the State, such as the granges, labor unions, church clubs, business men's associations, and others. At the same time as already said, we wish to form committees and eventually clubs, in each of the ten wards of Providence and in as many of the other cities and towns as possible.

Commencing with the first Tuesday in January, when the legislature begins its annual session, we shall try to secure the passage of a bill permitting local option in taxation. By a law, which has been in the statute books for more than a generation, any town or city can now exempt from taxation personal estate. An amendment of the section referred to, by the addition of the three words or on land, will give us what we want. With those words added we are confident that during the year 1900, one or more of the towns or cities of the State will exempt both personal and real estate and derive both the local revenue and the municipality share of the State revenue from land value. Such transfer of the incidence of taxation by any town or city would take at least one half of its ground rental values for public purposes. This would give a very satisfactory test of the Single Tax.

I am convinced that in any town or city not one person in twenty would be injured financially by the changed incidence of taxation. Manufacturing merchants, professional men, wage workers, homestead owners, farmers, tenants, and boarders, who were not also land speculators on a large scale, would be benefitted greatly. The problem before us is this: Can we convince the leaders of public opinion in the various walks of life of the above truth?

To make probable speedy success we need the constant presence in the State of a man possessing the two qualities of organizer and speaker.

Frank Stephens, who was with us at intervals in the early part of the year, is the right kind of a person, but he is unavailable. John J. Murphy, or John Z. White, or Raymond Robins, would fill the bill, to perfection.

Of course, the person who gives his whole time, however zealous and self-sacrificing he may be, must be assured of due compensation. And for that, as well as for the

other necessary expenses of an aggressive campaign, contributions are necessary from Single Taxers generally. Our headquarters will be retained during the month of November. By the first of December we ought to have such assurance of outside assistance as will enable us to man headquarters, supply it with a stereopticon for street work, resume the publication of weekly Bulletins, and pay the traveling expenses of visiting speakers.

LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

Lonsdale. Nov. 2nd, 1908.

The Comm ner's Cause is a monthly four page paper from Cincinnati advocating the Single Tax and other reforms and published by that well known exponent of our principles, John H. Meyer. The paper is full of interesting matter. It is published at 2588 Seegar Ave.

THE Boston *Evening Transcript* contained in a recent issue a column article on "Bridgeport Potato Patches." It is an account of that city's plan for vacant lot cultivation. To Mr. John W. Kelly the *Transcript* awards the honor of its origination. It speaks of him as "a socialist of the quiet sort." Mr. Kelly is a Single Taxer.

MR. EDWARD POLAK, former president of the M. S. T. C. and active Single Taxer, as well as a prominent real estate dealer in the Bronx, during the recent campaign carried on a vigorous letter writing contest with the Secretary of the Association of Bronx Real Estate Brokers respecting that gentleman's right to issue unauthorized by the association a call asking the members to participate in a Taft and Sherman parade.

The Square Deal, organ of the Canadian Single Taxers, continues to give the news of the movement in the dominion. It is published at 75 Yonge Street, Toronto.

THE *Echo* is the name of a little four page local paper published in Pittsburg by the Larkin Printing Company, advocating the Single Tax.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

DEMOCRATIC DEFEAT SIGNIFICANT OF LITTLE
—DEMOCRATIC STATES BACKWARD IN
OUR REFORMS—WORK OF THE LEAGUE
AND ITS NEEDS.

The American Single Tax League has been perforce inactive during the past two months, owing to the claims made by the Presidential Election upon the attention of many of our friends. While the principles which Single Taxers would apply to the solution of governmental problems were not even remotely represented by any of the National candidates, it is nevertheless true that, due to association and party feeling, as well as sympathy with the tendency which Mr. Bryan represented a very large proportion of our friends supported the defeated candidate.

It is admitted that no intelligent or intelligible plan of regeneration was offered to the voters. The feeble nostrums, which the Democratic platform offered for the restoration of the patient, were only slightly less inadequate than those offered by the Republicans. It was merely a difference of percentage rather than principles on which the parties divided and historians of the future will have much trouble in understanding why there should have been a contest at all.

Under these circumstances, Single Taxers may well view the outcome with complacency. They should recognize that the plan which the American Single Tax League has been urging is the only one which promises appreciable results. Let the Single Taxers utilize the instrument with which the League furnishes them to sustain such state movements as seem to promise hope of permanent results. Rhode Island, Oregon, Maine and Missouri (if the constitutional amendment permitting local option in taxation shall prove to have been carried) furnish various methods of pushing the campaign for economic education. And in these states, every effort should be made to prevent tax reform from becoming a party question. The insertion of planks in political platforms favoring Single Tax is an almost infallible method