

time to act is now. Partisanship should be forgotten. Pledge the candidates of all parties in writing. Support those who pledge themselves to support the measures which Labor demands, and oppose those who refuse to make such pledges, regardless of their party label. Form clubs in every District for the purpose of questioning candidates. Labor has the strength, if rightly used, to absolutely control the governments, both State and National. Why, then, does not Labor wisely use its strength?

"The Rhode Island Tax Reform Association will send a speaker or speakers on this subject to any organization that will communicate with this office. Let us get together and use the privileges that we have to secure the rights of which we are deprived."

What response the communication will elicit will develop later. Meetings are being held nightly, addressed by local speakers. The audiences are large and seemingly interested. There have also been held every Sunday, during the summer, meetings at the two leading shore resorts—Crescent Park and Rocky Point. These meetings have also been large and the auditors have listened attentively, and there have been many manifestations of approval of the doctrine set forth, which of course has been the equal right of all men to the use of the earth.

The Peoples' Forum—the Sunday name of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association—is growing to be an institution. Time was when the Monday papers used to carry an item something like this: "The audience at the meeting of the Peoples' Forum, last night, in Tax Reform Hall, comprised eleven men and two women. Mr. So-and-So, told what he knew about this-or-that," but the papers don't carry that kind of an item any more. The capacity of our room is about 100, and it is filled at every meeting, and often overflows into the corridor. I am enclosing for such use as the editor of the *REVIEW* may see fit to make of it the *Tribune* report of the meeting of Sunday, August 11th.

But what's the use? If one were to sit down and try to contemplate the wall of ignorance, indifference and prejudice that

must be demolished before the right can prevail, one would surely go insane. It isn't to be supposed that human nature differs much, but it sometimes seems that if there is anywhere under the sun a more sodden, sordid, soulless community than Rhode Island, it has yet to be discovered. Compared with it the "Man with the Hoe" is an intelligent giant. It can be described in a very few words, so that its condition will be plain to all men, and here is the description:

If United States senators were elected by the people and Nelson Aldrich were the candidate to succeed himself, he would be triumphantly returned. And Why should he not? He has faithfully represented this constituency in that body for nearly 30 years. He is a typical Rhode Islander. Need more be said?—GEORGE D. LIDDELL, Providence, R. I.

FROM EX-GOV. L. F. C. GARVIN.

In my last communication to the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* I stated that we were anticipating the coming to Rhode Island of John Z. White. Duty, however, called him West instead of East, and his time has been spent, seemingly to excellent purpose, in the embryonic states of New Mexico and Arizona.

In spite of our disappointment as to Mr. White, we have not been idle here. As was the case two years ago we were enabled to take advantage of the shore resorts during the summer outing season. So Sunday after Sunday during July and August, Col. Liddell, Mr. Chase, myself and others, spoke to the crowds at the two most popular resorts on Narragansett Bay. The meetings were better attended and the interest shown much greater than was the case in 1908.

Our evening meetings in the best location in the city of Providence, have continued every night and have proved the most successful ever held.

The Peoples' Forum, held every Sunday evening in Tax Reform Hall, to our surprise have been well attended all summer, as they were in the winter. From these meetings has sprung a movement for ques-

tioning candidates for the legislature. The State Federation of Labor, the Prohibitionists and the Tax Reform Association, have taken steps toward the putting of such questions by a committee delegated for the purpose. It is hoped that one or two influential women's organizations and possibly the State Grange, may also appoint each a delegate. We are satisfied that here, as in Missouri, one or two fundamental questions, such as direct legislation for the State and home rule for municipalities, will be answered by candidates, provided they are satisfied that there is a strong vote behind the questions.

We regard the labor organizations as the most effective force for securing reforms in this state, and with scarcely an exception when appealed to, as quite generally they have been, they indorse most willingly our petitions for local option in taxation. At the present time, however, we are making especial efforts in another direction. While many thinking men in the state accept the theory that public revenue should be derived from monopoly, rather than from production, the number of aggressive leaders in the cause is limited. We are trying, therefore, by personal interviews to awaken a deeper interest among college graduates in the economic and moral issue involved in local taxation. The field certainly needs cultivating. It is surprising how many men out of college only a few years, are at sea covering fundamental facts of political economy. It is not unusual for instance, for a lawyer or other alumnus to say that the effect of exempting personalty and improvements from taxation and increasing the rate upon land values, will merely cause the landlords to put up the rent paid by their tenants and thus recoup themselves.

It was expected that the special session of our State legislature, held in August, would enact the tax law which had passed the lower House at the regular January session. The whole matter, however, was referred to the next legislature, which is to be elected in November and to meet in January. As the House is to be composed of 100 members chosen from separate districts, instead of 72 members elected from the thirty-eight municipalities on

general tickets, a very different kind of body will deal with tax legislation in the future than in the past. It is not improbable that there may be a few representatives chosen well qualified to deal with the question of deriving public revenue in a broad and modern spirit. Indeed we are told here that the members of the Special Commission, to which the tax bills were re-committed, became convinced at the International Conference recently held in Milwaukee, that our general property tax, so far as it relates to personal property, is a blunder. We are led to hope that after further consideration, they will see that every objection which applies to tangible personalty holds against the taxation of improvements, the only difference being that the one can run away and the other can stay away.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, Providence, R. I.

OREGON.

THE INTERESTS AT WORK—SOME OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.—THE TAX PAMPHLET PREPARED BY W. G. EGGLESTON.—THE PEOPLE OF OREGON STILL IN THE SADDLE.

The campaign for better things has been much strengthened by the victories of the progressive republicans in other states.

In Oregon the "machine" element, with all its standpats, has been, and is, struggling to come back in the ring. Every Big Business has been full of business. A legislative ticket for the city, of 15 men, was carefully selected in the offices of the Portland Railway Light and Power company, and nominated by a convention of old line politicians and lawyers of the Big Interest Beast from all over the county of Multnomah, of which Portland is the chief part. Other conventions did the same in other parts of the state.

The question is, can the machine come back in Oregon? It can if its opponents, the People, are "doped" and not otherwise. The Big Interest Beast is reaching out for the supreme court of the state, four out of five of its members retiring. It is reaching out for the governor, the legis-