

## Texas

THE Texas Legislature will meet in Called Session the 18th. The chief work of the Session will be to make appropriations for the next two fiscal years. This work was crowded out at the regular session at the beginning of the year. The State is hard put to it for sufficient revenues. The General Property Tax broke down in this State 15 years ago and since then has been supplemented by various Gross Receipts Taxes on certain industries. From time to time the legislature has added to the list. At the coming session many additional business taxes will be proposed; all of which is making men think seriously of the Single Tax.

We have just elected a Georgian Single Taxer to the legislature from San Antonio to fill a vacancy. Mr. E. G. Le-Sturgeon's name has stood on our letterheads and literature since the very inception of organized work in this State. We have reached the point when being a well known Single Taxer adds political strength.

The State Federation of Labor in annual convention at Galveston in May, made the 6th consecutive declaration in favor of Single Tax:

"The Texas Federation of Labor in convention assembled again urges and demands the Constitution of this State be so amended that all taxes for State, county and city be levied against the monopoly of land values and that all labor values be free from taxes in order that the ends of justice in taxation be maintained, greater opportunities for wealth production established, and the workman be enabled to retain and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

"Be it further resolved, that this be made an issue in the election of members of the legislature in order to assure the submission to vote of the people of such an amendment to the Constitution."

I was invited in April to address a district convention of the Farmers Union in Northwest Texas. I am invited to address another convention of this same district in August. The leaders of the Farmers Union in that section of the State are very much interested in the Single Tax.

I addressed a county convention of the Non-Partisan League in May in another section of the State where this movement is active and aggressive. I am expected to address eight or nine other similar county conventions this Summer and Fall. The Non-Partisan League is concentrating its work in a few counties that lie in the triangle formed by Waco, Houston and San Antonio.

The National Farm-Labor Union is an organization working in Northeast Texas and Southeast Oklahoma. Its plan of organization is that of the Labor Union. Its membership is made up of "dirt" farmers, whether owners, renters or farm laborers. The president reported, in May, a membership of 40,000, two-thirds of which are in Texas.

These are important forces for the Single Tax and we are cultivating them. Our proposition is listened to and talked about today as never before. Leading men can no longer ignore the necessity of a change and the Single Taxer has the only proposition that gives any hope of relief. Texas

is coming along and will probably be the first State in the Union to adopt the Single Tax principle. We are not asking that all rental value be taken for taxes; we are asking that all needed revenues for the State, county and city be taken from the rental value of lands, and that all improvements and personal property be specifically exempted from taxation. Our proposition is easily understood and applied.

WM. R. BLACK.

## The Washington Single Tax Conference

WE have received from Mr. William Hallenkamp, secretary of the Ohio Site Value League, a copy of his report of the Washington Conference of the National Single Tax League, submitted by him to his organization which he represented at the conference.

There has been so much misapprehension as to what was disclosed at that conference as to the actual condition of the National Single Tax League, purporting to represent the movement before the country, that we give Mr. Hallenkamp's conclusions as those of a shrewd observer who went to Washington with no prejudices or prepossessions.

"The attendance was a disappointment. Not more than fifty people attended any session of the conference, and the attendance would not have been this much but for the presence of a dozen or so residents of Washington and the immediate vicinity. So far as I could learn, only eight States were represented, as follows: New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Oklahoma, Oregon and Ohio.

"Most of the members of the National Committee which called the conference were absent; and of the few members of the committee who were present at the opening of the conference, most of them left before it ended. The absence of the Chairman, Treasurer and so many members of the committee with the others deserting the conference at their first opportunity, was another disappointment.

"The National Committee seemed to have had no specific purpose in calling the conference and had no programme to present. Mr. Frank Stephens, secretary of the National Committee, informed the conference that the Committee had been reorganized about seventeen months ago; that during this time about 85,000 copies of the *Bulletin* had been mailed to Single Taxers; that a press bureau had mailed press bulletins to about 1,000 newspapers; that an office had been opened and correspondence looked after; and that about \$8,900 had been raised, the most of which had been paid in on \$200 and \$500 subscriptions by a few Single Taxers who had underwritten the budget, only a small part of the sum coming from the balance of the Single Taxers in the country.

"He also advised that because so many Single Taxers were working for Single Tax in so many different ways, that the National Committee had no programme and that it planned to provide merely 'a clearing house' which would send bulletins to newspapers and gather reports of Single Tax activity and keep Single Taxers informed thereon.

"He concluded his brief report by asking us what we wanted to do about the *Bulletin* and the press bureau. This question of what to do with the *Bulletin* and press bureau was the only proposition submitted by the National Committee and the only excuse given for calling the conference.

"So many groups of Single Taxers working in so many different ways is not only the result of having no comprehensive national programme to which Single Taxers could rally, but it is evidence of a widespread desire for action, and it would seem that this would have encouraged the National Committee to attempt some programme for co-ordinating activities, or, at least, to supply literature. But all the Committee did was to ask us if we wanted to continue the *Bulletin* and the press bureau and permit the National Single Tax League to act as 'a clearing house' for Single Tax activity!

"When subscriptions to a fund for this purpose were asked for, those present were reluctant to subscribe even small amounts. Those present seemed to doubt if the circumstances warranted generous financial support. This doubt is justified by an analysis of the situation. Since the SINGLE TAX REVIEW publishes reports of Single Tax activities in this and other countries, there is no necessity for a *Bulletin* to duplicate this work.

"Appeals were made for support of the Single Tax amendments campaign in California and Oregon. California had no representative at the conference, but Mr. Bolton Hall, of New York, spoke for the Great Adventure League and informed us that another amendment had been filed for a campaign this year. The representative from Oregon pleaded for support of the work in his State, telling us that they have been doing Single Tax work in that State now for thirty years; that it requires only 20,000 signatures to put an amendment on the Oregon ballot; that last year they had an amendment campaign at a cost of about \$2,600.

"Oregon is the State upon which the Fels Fund concentrated for a number of years, and after years of Single Tax propaganda in that State, during which they have had several amendment campaigns, it is indeed significant when they cannot or do not raise \$2,600 for Single Tax work within the State. Figures as to how much of the funds used in the California work is raised within the State were not available at the conference and have never been published to my knowledge. But this is a question which should be considered in all these State campaigns and financial support should be withheld until the Single Taxers within a State manifest enough interest to raise a sum equal to what is asked from the outside; for if Single Tax organizations in these States cannot support their own work after a number of campaigns such as they have had in California and Oregon, it is very evident that little progress is made by such work and that outside support has the effect of charity in pauperizing those State organizations.

"In this connection it afforded me some satisfaction to have been able to report to the conference that in Ohio we had built up our financial support from about \$2,500 for the first year to about \$7,000 for last year, and that, with the

exception of about \$600, all of it was raised within the State. Our total for last year almost equals the sum raised during seventeen months by the National League in the entire country.

"Advocates of the Single Tax Party, the Farmer-Labor Party, and the Committee of 48, presented the platforms and explained the purposes of each. The Committee of 48 was represented by Mr. Frank Stephens, the secretary of the conference, who explained that this party demands taxation of land values and government ownership—not necessarily operation—of the public utilities. Mr. Western Starr spoke for the Farmer-Labor Party and presented what impressed me as a fly-catching platform, with just enough Single Tax in it to afford them an excuse for seeking Single tax support. The Single Tax Party's programme was presented by Mr. James Robinson, of Philadelphia, who pointed out that their platform contained but one plank—the Single Tax, and that the Party stood for individualism as against the Socialism of all the other parties.

"The most important action taken by the conference was the adoption of a resolution endorsing the Single Tax Party. The fact that the National Single Tax League had no programme and was proposing to do nothing, while the Party has a programme and is out working and building up State organizations wherever possible, contributed to the sentiment in favor of the Party and to the adoption of the resolution."

WM. P. HALLENKAMP, Secretary.  
Ohio Site Value Taxation League.

## George P. Hampton

THE death of George P. Hampton was briefly chronicled in our last issue. Our readers will want to learn more of the man who has ceased from his labors and who for so many years devoted himself to the cause. For a long time closely associated with him, we had rare opportunity of observing the self-sacrificing devotion with which he sought to keep alive the truth. He wore himself out, for his constitution was not strong, and he died in his armor. Not at all times did it seem to us that his chosen work was the one best calculated to advance the cause. But in this we may have been wrong; at all events, that is a matter for debate, for none of us can be sure that our own way is the best. Such self-congratulation belongs to those who have a monopoly of all wisdom; we are not among those who pretend to such omniscience.

Mr. Hampton was born in Portsmouth, England, July 4th, 1859. He was the son of H. W. Hampton, Naval Constructor in the British Admiralty service, and was educated in private schools and the Portsmouth Naval Engineering School. In his twentieth year he came to America and travelled extensively for five years in Canada and the Northwest.

He was consulting engineer in Minneapolis from 1885 to 1892, and during these years wrote much on engineering subjects. It was at this time that he became interested in