

Popular Interest in Constitutional Revision and Tax Reform Is Growing

THE name of Judge John R. Fuchs of Texas should be included wherever those are mentioned who are determined campaigners for a Constitutional amendment granting local option to taxation units similar to that in Pennsylvania. Next time he plans to start about six months before the Legislature meets and will ask Texas Georgists to help. He will send booklets to the 31 Senators and 150 House members. The Judge attracted attention in the New Braunfels Herald in May with a totally new approach. In an article boldly addressed "To all realtors," he asked "give me land, lots of land, don't fence me in!"

Judge Fuchs is one of twelve members of the Committee for First U.S. City to Untax Buildings, of which Sidney G. Evans of San Diego is chairman and treasurer. This is just what its name implies and is a heartening attempt to back up the Henry George Foundation of America whose activities in Pennsylvania have attracted world-wide attention. Send your contributions to Mr. Evans, P.O. Box 721, San Diego 12, California.

The Committee on Land Value Taxation which originated in Michigan as a result of activity by S. James Clarkson, then a State Representative, has completed its report.

Couched in the reticent language common to such documents, the report nevertheless seems to betray more enthusiasm than this subject has heretofore elicited. While it closes with a recommendation of further study, it seems to point with satisfaction to the fact that California and the Senate of Canada held similar hearings concurrently with Michigan's pilot study. The opinions of the committee members following a two-day meeting in Pittsburgh where the Golden Triangle was a focal point, had a pleasantly affirmative tone.

The enthusiasm of "Jim" Clarkson inspired Carl Shaw to try for election as a Constitutional Convention Delegate. He has drawn his platform and it starts right off with "annual 100 per cent tax on land values." He even tells "how to calculate tax under land value taxation," and says "state and local taxes would be equal to about 6 per cent of the current selling price."

Martha Kohte, encouraged by the two just named, is also collecting nominating petitions to enable her to run for delegate representing her district at the same Constitution (revision) Convention in October. Michigan readers will be especially interested in these two on July 25th when the primary election is held.

Life Magazine printed a letter from a New York faculty member and French journalist, Edgar L. Trier. The closing sentence stated, "if all land would be taxed the same way, properly used or not, holding on to slum property would become unprofitable."

The Real Estate Salesman's Handbook published in Chicago, in arousing interest and enthusiasm for selling, lists comments by "men of wealth and great leaders of all time." The list of 16 great leaders begins with Henry George. He is quoted as saying that "land can exist without labor, but labor cannot exist without land."

"We need Henry George," according to a headline in The Carolina Israelite published by Harry Golden, "almost as badly as we need Benjamin Franklin." He then delivers himself "of a fairly simple lesson on the Philosophy of Henry George."