

not all perfect; but taken as a whole, they come as near to being the salt of the earth as any group of persons anywhere on its surface. Community of purpose in such a cause as ours must bring out the best that is in us. We may at times have the friction which proves that we are alive and full of individual energy; but in the big thing which we are doing, we are as one.

My next trip will start with the Conference at Syracuse on November 11, which will be history by the time these lines are read. The balance of November will be spent mainly in Albany district, and December in the eastern part of the State, including a week or two in and about Utica, where several engagements seem probable. After a return to New York about Christmas, I shall proceed to the western part of the State. January 8 to 22 are scheduled for Chautauqua County, where several engagements have already been made. After that, I shall spend about a fortnight in Cattaraugus County. The remainder of February and the first half of March are not fully arranged for, except that I expect to spend a fortnight in Rochester during some part of that time. As usual, I shall be very glad to hear from Single Taxers in any part of the territory to be visited, relative to either lectures or personal calls when in their vicinity, and will do my best to comply with all requests. I expect to spend the Spring months mainly in Erie and Niagara Counties, of which I shall write later. But I shall be very glad to hear from Single Taxers in any of the other western or central counties as to visits or lectures, as I can arrange to reach practically any community from which I hear promptly, at some time during my winter trip. Don't wait for me or for the other fellow to take the initiative. You can get a church, grange, high school, chamber of commerce, womens' club, labor union or some other organization to open its doors to a Single Tax lecture just as easily as others have done in scores of towns no different in their essential nature from your own. All you need is a little "gumption" and enough interest in the Single Tax to make the effort.

I do not believe there is a single village in the State of New York in which a really live Single Taxer cannot find some group of persons or some organization which would be glad to arrange for a lecture, if the subject were brought before them. Try it, and see. All letters on the subject should be addressed to me at 68 William St., New York City, and they will be promptly forwarded to me, wherever I may be.—
JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

CALIFORNIA SINGLE TAX GETS HUGE VOTE

The returns are coming in very slowly and it is impossible to surmise the result at this time beyond the fact that Proposition Number Five is beaten, by two, or perhaps three, to one. That, however, is not a discouraging result, as it means a vote of three hundred thousand, which is more than any similar measure has ever received in this or any other State. Certainly more than any straight Single Tax bill; for be it remembered that the campaigns in California have so far been for Home Rule in Taxation which is a very different thing from Single Tax. Even if we had polled a smaller vote than the last time, it would have been so much more new ground broken.

This is as much as we could well do in the circumstances, which were of the most discouraging nature, as the history of the campaign shows, of which the following is a brief summary:

Following the Home Rule campaign of 1914 a good deal of dissatisfaction arose in the minds of many ardent Single Taxers as to the efficacy of further efforts along that line. We saw that it was not getting us anywhere, for while our vote increased that of the opposition increased faster, and even though we carried a Home Rule measure it would prove a barren victory, as the experience in other States, and of similar movements — notably Prohibition — has shown.

I am not going into the details of the pros and cons of the question, as these are no doubt familiar to the readers of the REVIEW,

but content myself with a brief resume of the events.

The Los Angeles Single Tax League, from which the movement for a Statewide measure emanated, proposed a conference for its discussion or a referendum vote, but both these propositions were refused by the executive officers of the Home Rule League of San Francisco; so that we found ourselves compelled to proceed independently and a statewide bill was formulated. At the eleventh hour, however, through the efforts of J. Stitt Wilson, a compromise measure was tentatively adopted at a conference in Los Angeles, but it was summarily rejected by the San Francisco organization; so that no alternative remained to us but to go ahead with a statewide measure which we felt would embody the views of real Single Taxers. After some delay caused by some Home Rulers in our own ranks this was done in the form of the present bill which was put up for petitions.

It was uphill work from the start—an empty treasury and few—very few, workers. Then things began to happen. One thousand dollars came from Henry Bool, of England, through the agency of Herman Kuehn who had been won over to our cause by the magnificent idea emanating from Luke North and Edgcomb Pinchon to unite all radicals in an effort for the establishment of conditions that will make for overthrowing the barriers to a Free Earth. This they called The Great Adventure—to restore the land of California to its people on equal terms, and to do it Now—and its clarion call for a rally to a great cause, stirred the hearts of men and women all over the land—aye, even over the seas. A small but determined force headed by that beloved veteran of many a fight, Lona Ingham Robinson, set to work and got results. Funds were raised to the extent of \$2500 which sum was duplicated by the Fels Fund, and our measure was put before the people.

Meanwhile the Home Rulers were circulating a petition of their own to which we did not object, as it seemed understood that whichever side failed to get on the

ballot would support the other. The prospect of either side succeeding seemed very slim at one time, but the unexpected happened, and after a whirlwind campaign we secured the required number of signatures and an excess of some 14,000—piling up the 2nd largest petition ever registered in California.

We thought it would be plain sailing from that point. But in this we were disappointed. The Home Rulers very generally helped us—but a few of their number sent a resolution (purporting to have emanated from their organization) to the Niagara Falls Conference, advising against our measure and giving the impression that there was a division among Single Taxers of the State. While this was promptly turned down by the Conference, it had the effect nevertheless of depriving us of much financial support that would otherwise have come to us, and that was greatly needed in view of the terrific onslaught made on us by the opposition. All the powers of darkness combined for our overthrow, and the means employed unspeakable. The hirelings of the united plutocratic press covering every large newspaper and most of the small ones, were directed to lie and villify to the limit—and beyond. Socialism, union labor and I. W. W. never encountered such united opposition or such methods.

Of pamphlets we distributed more than a million. We held as many meetings as our speakers could cover, and I made a short auto tour rendered possible by the loan of a car from a devoted Single Taxer.

This tour proved most valuable and instructive, showing beyond a doubt that with enough work of this kind supplementing distribution of literature, an organization can be built up that will assure victory in the near future. It is toward this end that we are going to devote our energies, realizing that, as in other States, it is the farmers who are hardest to convert. Yet nowhere is the discrepancy between improved and unimproved farm land greater than in California, and when once the benefits that will accrue through

the operation of our reform are made clear to the farmer, the battle is won.

And won it must and will be—right here in California, the home of Henry George, and along lines laid down by him. No Home Rule, Franchise Tax or other substitute, but a straight clean-cut fight for a free earth on which special privilege taxation, monopoly and their attendant horror—involuntary poverty—shall once and for all time be abolished—CHARLES JAMES.

OHIO

The following members of the Cleveland Single Tax Club were successful in the recent election:

For Congress—Robert Crosser and William Gordan.

For county clerk—Edmund B. Haserodt.

For county auditor—John A. Zangerle.

For county recorder—Hosea Paul.

For county surveyor—W. A. Stinchcomb

For State senator—Wm. Agnew and Howell Wright.

Mr. Stinchcomb had the largest vote ever given a candidate in this county. He ran 8,000 ahead of President Wilson, who received a plurality of more than 20,000 in the county. The county surveyor is the engineer and advisor on all county work. His popularity has caused much talk about Mr. Stinchcomb as a Democratic party candidate for mayor of Cleveland next year.

A Democratic legislature of Ohio made a ridiculously partisan gerrymander. In this county in that way two districts were made solidly Democratic, and one was fixed in a way to bunch Republican strongholds. Had three districts been made in a reasonable way, the chances are that we would have elected Stephen M. Young to Congress also, for Crosser and Gorden could well have spared some votes. Young is a member of the Cleveland Single Tax Club.

Both Republican and Democratic parties in Ohio stand for the general property tax and for a low tax rate fixed by law. Not much is to be hoped for tax reform in this

State from either party for some time to come. The next governor, James M. Cox, is on record as favoring classification of property for purposes of taxation, but he doesn't work at it.

The condition of city, village and school district treasuries is desperate. Unless the next Legislature gives some relief, the city of Cleveland will have at least \$600,000 less next year to spend than this year, and it may be \$1,200,000 less, according as the State supreme court may decide. Mr. Zangerle, as the assessing officer of this county, raised assessments on down-town land more than \$60,000,000 and this is being fought in the courts. The city has already borrowed on short-time notes all that the law permits, and is facing a huge deficit. The city parks which Tom Johnson improved, are going to ruin for lack of money.

So bad is the condition of the pavements that the people voted \$3,500,000 bonds for repaving purposes—H. M. HOLMES.

CALIFORNIANS HONOR HENRY GEORGE'S BIRTHDAY

The newly formed California Single Tax League (a corporation) with headquarters in Los Angeles, started its official career with a dinner, on September 15th, to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Henry George. The dinner was given at the Clark Hotel, Los Angeles. In the main parlors of the hotel an informal reception was tendered to Anna George De Mille, W. C. De Mille and Charles Johnson Post, during the hour preceding the dinner, and many of the old-time friends of Henry George gladly availed themselves of the opportunity to greet his daughter, who is now living in Los Angeles.

Robert L. Hubbard, the president, explained that the California Single Tax League came into being in answer to the urgent need of an organization in this State which would keep clearly before the public the Single Tax as set forth by Henry George.

W. J. Ford, former Assistant District Attorney, and one of this city's foremost