

been going on here steadily for nearly two years, should show a return in the form of effective legislation, and it may be in actual experimentation. As I have before said, with two-fifths of our State tax assessed upon the towns and cities and included in their local budgets, a municipal application of the Single Tax in Rhode Island would be the best as yet in operation. It would be superior to that of Vancouver, where there is a considerable tax upon the floor space of both mercantile and manufacturing establishments.

Our Sunday evening People's Forum, held in Tax Reform Hall, has continued to be very successful. On November 13th, Mr. John Z. White was one of the speakers, and on November 20th, Mr. Frank Stephens occupied the time for half an hour. The latter gentleman had already spoken twice before coming to the Forum, one of his addresses being at the evening service of the Beneficent Congregational Church, a leading Religious Society of Providence.

The State Tax Commission appointed nearly two years ago, has again been charged with making a report to the legislature at the coming January session. The Rhode Island Tax Reform Association has asked for a public hearing before the Report is drawn up.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, Lonsdale, R. I.

MISSOURI.

Election is over and Missouri remains wet, thanks to the initiative and referendum vote which had its first genuine try-out since its adoption last year. It has been such an educational and object lesson that the people will never surrender it. It is here to stay and will finally bring about true democratic ideals, and with the recall the people will see the machines scattered into so many scrap heaps and the power in their own hands.

One thing remains for us to secure in the working out of direct legislation, and that is the separation of elections from the vote on the referendum measures. This means the clearer understanding and consideration of these measures. In this election many of the amendments, and some of them good ones, were defeated. The

conflicting claims of rival candidates and warring political factions shut off the debate on the amendments, and thus they suffered. We are now making efforts to have the state legislature separate these amendments from the official elections.

The League meets regularly every two weeks, and there will be some interesting programmes during the coming winter. Our City Charter is being revised, and according to reports some lively times are expected when it is submitted, for we fear that they are not ready to give us what we want.

The great American Federation of Labor meets here, as you are probably aware, from the 14th of November to the 28th, and I do not think we can expect much in the way of pure economic reforms. They will probably continue to fight windmills with wooden lances and hobby horses, and methods of raising wages which cost about two dollars for every dollar increase in the rewards of labor, if it is figured out correctly. The Federation is scarcely likely to advocate any genuine economic remedy for the ills of the working masses.

Our last league meeting was very interesting, and we hope for many important developments during the coming winter.—H. SYCAMORE, St. Louis, Mo.

IN KANSAS CITY, MO.

The New Era Club has been formed in Kansas City, Mo., and though not a Single Tax organization, has adopted a forward programme as is indicated by the following declaration:

We hold that undeserved poverty, crime, enforced idleness and our various social evils are unnatural and are the results of man's injustice and not God's will, consequently they can be cured by an intelligent application of the simple principles of justice.

IN EVERETT, WASH.

A club of twenty-two men and women have organized a Single Tax Club in Everett, Wash., and a state league is soon to be formed. Walter M. Thornton is the active propagandist in that city.

WASHINGTON STATE.

We all feel strong and better for the recent visit of Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow. During his stay of a week in our City Mr. Bigelow delivered eleven lectures besides several brief talks.

His lectures on "Land Value Taxation" and "The High Cost of Living and the Primary Cause" contain the burden of Mr. Bigelow's message and are exceptionally forcible and convincing. Both of these should be put into pamphlet form, for they would make most effective propaganda matter.

There was scarcely a dry face Sunday morning in the well filled Christian Church during the delivery of his lecture on "Les Miserables, the book and its people." The discourse in the Universalist Church Sunday evening on "The More Abundant Life" was handled with equal force and effectiveness.

I am convinced that Mr. Bigelow almost persuaded some of our good church going friends to be Christians; for he surely pointed continually to the natural law, that must be socially sought out and obeyed, before the individual can be free to attain to his highest and best.

Among all the many favorable and even enthusiastic endorsements of Mr. Bigelow's work, I have heard but one criticism. This came from an ardent prohibitionist who thinks national prohibition would really solve the whole matter.

In his concluding lecture on Universal Suffrage before the Spokane Equal Suffrage League, Mr. Bigelow incidentally said he did not favor prohibition. This lecture was somewhat curtailed in order to take the 9 P. M. train for Portland, so he did not take the time to develop his position regarding temperance.

I took some pains to try to convince my friends that even a minister could consistently and conscientiously oppose the dangerous coercive principle of prohibition.

Miss Elyne Walin, a member of the faculty of Coer D'Alene College, just across the border into Northern Idaho, who was instrumental in placing Messrs. White and Bigelows' afternoon lectures before that institution, writes as follows:

"Mr. Bigelow has come and gone and everyone of us are much better for it. I told Mr. Bigelow before he left us that I considered the lecture delivered to us by Mr. John Z. White and the lecture he had just delivered to be two of the best lectures it had been my privilege to hear. I can't take it back either."—WM. MATHEWS, Spokane, Wash.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THIS YEAR MARKED BY STEADY PROGRESS—
ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT THE LAW—NOT
A SEAT LOST TO THE LIBERALS IN BY-
ELECTIONS—GREAT MEETINGS ADDRESSED
BY LORD ADVOCATE URE.

We are fast approaching the end of another year, and whatever may be the measure of success in other and worthy causes there can be no gainsaying the fact that the year 1910 has been marked by steady progress for the Taxation of Land Values. Old friends are true, and as active as ever. New friends have come along to give us a hand. Speaking at Pontypool on Oct. 24th Mr. McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, said:

"For many years the taxation of Land Values was a voice crying in the Wilderness. To-day that voice spoke with the authority of law. We look forward to a bright future. They asked for taxes on our bread. We have given them the taxation of Land Values, and the more they press us the sterner will be our reply."

This is a straw that shows the drift of the current in the highest circle of Liberal politics. Up till now we have rather reckoned (and we have some justification for so-doing) the First Lord of the Admiralty as one of the forces against our Policy. Politicians may try to get up enthusiasm for "Free Trade" (of the Harold Cox kind), or on the "Osborne Judgment," for a "stronger Navy," "Payment of Members," "House of Lords" etc., etc., but it is around the "Valuation and Taxation of Land Values" that the real fighting still takes place. What will actually occur when the Valuation is completed and efforts