

other necessary expenses of an aggressive campaign, contributions are necessary from Single Taxers generally. Our headquarters will be retained during the month of November. By the first of December we ought to have such assurance of outside assistance as will enable us to man headquarters, supply it with a stereopticon for street work, resume the publication of weekly Bulletins, and pay the traveling expenses of visiting speakers.

LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

Lonsdale. Nov. 2nd, 1908.

The Comm ner's Cause is a monthly four page paper from Cincinnati advocating the Single Tax and other reforms and published by that well known exponent of our principles, John H. Meyer. The paper is full of interesting matter. It is published at 2588 Seegar Ave.

THE Boston *Evening Transcript* contained in a recent issue a column article on "Bridgeport Potato Patches." It is an account of that city's plan for vacant lot cultivation. To Mr. John W. Kelly the *Transcript* awards the honor of its origination. It speaks of him as "a socialist of the quiet sort." Mr. Kelly is a Single Taxer.

MR. EDWARD POLAK, former president of the M. S. T. C. and active Single Taxer, as well as a prominent real estate dealer in the Bronx, during the recent campaign carried on a vigorous letter writing contest with the Secretary of the Association of Bronx Real Estate Brokers respecting that gentleman's right to issue unauthorized by the association a call asking the members to participate in a Taft and Sherman parade.

The Square Deal, organ of the Canadian Single Taxers, continues to give the news of the movement in the dominion. It is published at 75 Yonge Street, Toronto.

THE *Echo* is the name of a little four page local paper published in Pittsburg by the Larkin Printing Company, advocating the Single Tax.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

DEMOCRATIC DEFEAT SIGNIFICANT OF LITTLE
—DEMOCRATIC STATES BACKWARD IN
OUR REFORMS—WORK OF THE LEAGUE
AND ITS NEEDS.

The American Single Tax League has been perforce inactive during the past two months, owing to the claims made by the Presidential Election upon the attention of many of our friends. While the principles which Single Taxers would apply to the solution of governmental problems were not even remotely represented by any of the National candidates, it is nevertheless true that, due to association and party feeling, as well as sympathy with the tendency which Mr. Bryan represented a very large proportion of our friends supported the defeated candidate.

It is admitted that no intelligent or intelligible plan of regeneration was offered to the voters. The feeble nostrums, which the Democratic platform offered for the restoration of the patient, were only slightly less inadequate than those offered by the Republicans. It was merely a difference of percentage rather than principles on which the parties divided and historians of the future will have much trouble in understanding why there should have been a contest at all.

Under these circumstances, Single Taxers may well view the outcome with complacency. They should recognize that the plan which the American Single Tax League has been urging is the only one which promises appreciable results. Let the Single Taxers utilize the instrument with which the League furnishes them to sustain such state movements as seem to promise hope of permanent results. Rhode Island, Oregon, Maine and Missouri (if the constitutional amendment permitting local option in taxation shall prove to have been carried) furnish various methods of pushing the campaign for economic education. And in these states, every effort should be made to prevent tax reform from becoming a party question. The insertion of planks in political platforms favoring Single Tax is an almost infallible method

of stopping progress. The party adopting it does so for the purpose of catching a few votes, without understanding the issues involved, while members of the opposing party are prejudiced against it because of its appearance in their opponents' platform. If men belonged to the parties with which they usually vote, on principle (which they usually don't) and not from tradition or prejudice (which they usually do) the Democratic mind would be more favorable ground for our ideas than the Republican, but as matters stand we are as likely to find adherents in one camp as in the other. The safest line of advance therefore would seem to be to urge the various steps leading to our reform dispassionately as administrative measures, rather than passionately as political war-cries. If we take the States as they now stand, we find that Republican States are more hospitable to advanced methods of giving expression to the popular will, than Democratic States, which are among the most reactionary in the Union. Taking New York as an illustration, hardly any one will deny that the election of a Democratic Governor and legislature would have eliminated all hope of a reformed ballot, official primaries, direct nominations or any of the other measures with which progressive citizenship is identified.

While the League sympathizes with all movements tending to give freer expression to the popular will, it must be evident that there is need of education to influence the popular will in the right direction when it is expressed. As to which movement should be pushed most vigorously, there can be small doubt. If the people really want to do anything they can, even with the imperfect instruments at hand, express themselves unmistakably, and the politicians will do their bidding. But can any one seriously contend that, from our standpoint, if there were no obstacles in the way of the expression of their will they would do much better than the politicians are doing for them. There was a referendum on Joe Cannon in Illinois and he has gone back to Congress with an increased majority. This illustration is urged in no partisan spirit, but merely be-

cause Cannon incarnates as much as any man in the Union the ideas which we execrate. Is it not rather obvious that as matters now stand the hope of the people is set on restriction, regulation, the interference by majorities with the rights of minorities and not in social, industrial and economic freedom.

Education of the people therefore seems the great desideratum, so that when the agencies working for the freer expression of the people will accomplish their work, we shall know what to vote for. It is to this task the American Single Tax League would devote itself. It needs, as do all such bodies, the means to do its work, and it appeals to all readers of the REVIEW for aid in carrying out its programme. The man whose limited time or opportunity affords him small chance to work for the cause will find in the League an agency which will use to the best advantage such contribution as he can afford to make. The plan of organization projected at the Conference has been delayed through lack of means to carry it out. A systematic attempt will be made soon to raise an adequate fund, but it is hoped that no one who can aid, will wait for the appeal to be issued as money is needed to undertake this work. The League devoted all its funds, over the bare cost of maintaining its office, to the furtherance of the campaign in Rhode Island, and to that extent handicapped itself in its development. It is in urgent need of money for the work which it contemplates for the Winter and hopes for a liberal response from the readers of the REVIEW. The English League for the Taxation of Land Values with the generous aid of Mr. Joseph Fels has set itself to raise a fund of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for its work for next year. Can not the United States do as much? If we can there is every reason to hope that inside of three or four years we would have somewhere in the Union a practical illustration of the blessing which would flow from the adoption of the Single Tax.

JOHN J. MURPHY, Secretary.

See that every Single Taxer you know subscribes for the REVIEW.