

witnesses favoring repeal of the taxes on wealth, as to those speaking for millions of farmers and workers. The latter do not advertise.

The chairman of the Legislative Committee of the National Grange, the oldest and strongest farm organization of the country, submitted a vigorous protest against the sales tax. I was unable to find in the public library a single newspaper that published extracts from this statement, and most of the papers did not even refer to it as an item of news. The American Federation of Labor, on behalf of 4,000,000 workers, denounced the sales tax, and was accorded by most of the papers a three or four line notice. When Mr. Otto H. Kahn rehashed his taxation platitudes at Plattsburgh, the New York Times gave them more than a column.

I am not a man with a grievance, but perhaps you will allow a brief reference to my personal experience. I have been a writer on economic questions for more than thirty years, and have had many letters published in the various New York newspapers during that period. Several of the leading morning journals and one evening paper which have frequently published my letters, have refused to publish brief criticisms of the sales tax. They have printed my letters against prohibition, against a return to a high protective tariff, and on various other subjects, but have uniformly turned down all letters pointing out the real nature of the movement for tax revision that is being conducted by the so-called "tax reformers," who are willing that somebody else should pay their taxes. This is not merely a coincidence. My letters were brief and to the point. They were suppressed because they exposed the ignorance of some of our alleged banker-economists, and showed the absurdity of trying to remedy conditions of decreased buying capacity due to high taxes, by putting a new tax on all articles of general consumption.

This is merely another illustration of the fact that either consciously or unconsciously the press is controlled by what it thinks is the desire of the business, financial and real estate interests. The pretension of a "free press," is, as shown by William Marion Reedy a few years ago, wholly a myth. The newspapers publish what is pleasing to the advertisers, and suppress what is likely to offend the privileged interests. There are a few honorable exceptions, but the great majority of the eleven thousand or more publications issued throughout the country are too cowardly to publish facts or arguments that tend to interfere with the present monopolistic, profiteering regime. The most urgent need of the time is a press published in the interest of all the people that will fearlessly print the truth.

WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

UNLIKE *Cleveland Press*, we don't know what the world will be in 3,000 A. D., but land speculators are eager to take a chance on what it will be 99 years hence.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.

WHEN government fails in regulating railroads, we are skeptical of its ability to regulate babies.—H. M. H.

NEWS—DOMESTIC

California—San Francisco

THE interest shown in the meetings celebrating the birthday of Henry George in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, make it plain that the movement in California is taking on new life.

Cary Richard Colburn, secretary of the Single Tax Society of San Diego, writes that a larger crowd than usual met at a dinner to honor the memory of our great leader and thinker. Mr. Colburn informs us with much enthusiasm that the best of feeling prevailed at the dinner and that arrangements have been made to have a dinner every month hereafter.

The Los Angeles Single Tax League also had a dinner attended by a hundred and fifty and presided over by William C. DeMille. Stoughton Cooley, former editor of the *Public*, spoke, and plans were made for organizing Southern California.

The San Francisco dinner received fine reports from the papers of that city. Among the speakers were Mr. Older and John D. Barry, of the *San Francisco Call*. Mr. Barry wrote three days in succession on the speech of Lincoln Steffens made at the dinner, and described the occasion in his usual interesting style.

As a result of the dinner much new strength developed. Dr. H. Wahle, of Oakland, has enlisted for public speaking and has already begun the making of engagements. During the past two months Mr. E. Backus has distributed over 5,000 pieces of literature. The distribution of advertising matter is Mr. Backus' business but he did our work without charge.

Dr. Ethel Lynn spoke to about fifty members of the Women's Business Club of San Francisco. I answered questions when Dr. Lynn finished. The questions showed that those present were thinking.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued a warning not to allow pupils to compete for prizes offered by the Great Adventure League for the best essays on the Single Tax on the ground that the question is a partisan one. Essays may be written for prizes offered on questions more academic. Today's papers offered cash prizes for essays written by school children on the question of who was responsible for the ideas of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. The statement did not say that Jefferson cribbed his ideas from French radicals and presented it in plain English terms, but this is what seems implied.

The revised edition of Harry Willock's "Unused Democracy" is an excellent presentation of the Single Tax. The Great Adventure League is having a large quantity printed for the campaign. The Single Tax Amendment will be printed in the booklet. The prospect for a successful campaign continues to be more and more hopeful.

WILL L. ROSS.