

H. J. CHASE TELLS OF WORK IN RHODE ISLAND.

"Facts are stubborn things." The active members of the Association realize the importance of getting before the public the facts with reference to the countries that have the law we are laboring for here in Rhode Island. The last three or four "Bulletins" in great part have been devoted to this purpose. Year-books and other official documents have been searched for pertinent matter; news items have been gleaned; every effort has been made to obtain authentic information as to how local option is working, especially in western Canada. The results of these efforts are in the "Bulletins," but they are not as abundant as we could wish.

It would be a good thing if Single Taxers in Canada and wherever else local option is in operation, would forward to the REVIEW any information of the kind we are endeavoring to secure. If we can show beyond reasonable doubt that exemption of personalty and improvements is working favorably wherever it is being tried, not only in newly settled countries, but in at least one country much older than ours, what more can we do to convince the people of this State that opportunity should be given to find out how the plan would work in Rhode Island? The odor of the pudding, if agreeable, is the strongest inducement that can be offered to its being tasted.

The writer has distributed several thousand of the later "Bulletins," making a regular canvass for that purpose in ten of the cities and towns of this State, including Providence, large portions of Pawtucket and Central Falls, and all of Newport. The presentation of each leaflet has been accompanied with remarks upon its contents, and it is believed that this has led to the great majority of them being more or less understandingly read. The writer feels confident that this is an effective method of propaganda, and there is a good deal of testimony to the same effect from the Socialists. It is their claim that their success in Milwaukee was largely due to this way of distributing their literature.

All the daily papers in the State, with

one or two exceptions, and several weeklies, have printed letters from Dr. Garvin, Col. Liddell and the present writer. It has been our aim to use this method to the extent of our opportunities, and how well we have succeeded may be inferred from the fact that since March 25th, more than 200 of our letters have been published. The papers containing them come pretty near to covering every part of this Commonwealth.

Open air meetings are being held, principally in Providence and vicinity, every evening when the weather permits. Of late the attendance at these meetings has been increasing and apparently the interest likewise. The Sunday night meetings at our headquarters continue, despite the heated season, the audiences being fairly large and the zest in discussions unabated. Prior to this year, the attempt to maintain these meetings at any season has been a failure, and therefore we feel encouraged in view of the fact that the "People's Forum" now seems to have become a permanent institution. Opportunity has been given for Sunday afternoon addresses at two of the shore resorts, Crescent Park and Rocky Point.

Our task is to overcome indifference rather than to disarm actual hostility, and in this respect there is no question but that we are making progress. Likewise there is no question but that we need all the outside help of every kind that can be afforded.—H. J. CHASE, Providence, R. I.

MISSOURI.

PETITIONING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM IN TAXATION—A NOTABLE WELCOME TO REV. HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

It has been a long time since your readers have heard from this state. But this has not been because there was nothing doing. And we are still in the thick of the fight. We are at present circulating a petition on taxation for a constitutional amendment that will provide for the separation of state and local revenues, and enable us to discontinue the state property tax and to levy taxes on other subjects of

taxation for state purposes; for local option and home rule in taxation; to abolish poll taxes and to exempt state, county and municipal bonds. This petition is circulated under the direction of the Missouri Municipal League and other organizations, by their joint Petition Committee on Taxation. We have had but a short time to appeal to the people for signatures, but we are meeting with real success, and I think we will be able to place it on the ballot at the next general election.

About fifty Single Taxers of St. Louis gathered at Lippe's cafe on June 23rd to welcome the Rev. Herbert Bigelow, of Cincinnati. Mr. Bigelow made one of the closest reasoned and most eloquent speeches which those present had listened to for many a day. He had just come from the meeting on Conservation at St. Paul, where Messrs. Pinchot and Garfield had spoken.

Addresses were made by William Preston Hill, Judge Sale, J. J. Hummell, Emil Schmied, of the *Public*, Louis Cohen, and others. William Marion Reedy, editor of the *Mirror*, was toastmaster. The theme upon which Mr. Bigelow dwelt most forcibly was the idea that "things are coming our way." He pointed to the conservation movement and said that the speeches made by Pinchot and Garfield were our doctrines almost undiluted. He said that everybody knew there was something wrong and numbers were coming to the consideration of our remedy. The close of Mr. Bigelow's speech was very effective, and I doubt if the Single Taxers of the Mound City were ever before so strongly moved even under the masterful oratory of Mr. George and Father McGlynn themselves. Among those present were numbers of the "Old Guard" who cherish the conviction that we are on the eve of a great triumph. A few of those present were K. Palmer, Gus Menger and wife, Denis Ryan, Frank K. Ryan, Prof. Leshner, Victor Gebhart, J. A. Stoll, Dr. Homan, our old reliable president, Christ Osterwitch, and a great many more whose names I cannot recall. And all of them realize that we are going ahead.—H. SYCAMORE, St. Louis, Mo.

OREGON.

THIRTY-TWO PROPOSITIONS TO BE VOTED ON—SIXTEEN OF THESE ARE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION—AN IMPORTANT PAMPHLET ON TAXATION SOON TO BE ISSUED.

On July 7th, the last initiative measure was filed with the Secretary of State in Oregon. No more can go before the people this year. There will be 32 propositions on the state ballot, of which 16 are proposed amendments to the constitution. Not all these are presented to the people by the initiative. Six of them go before the people by the resolution of the last legislature. Eight of them are county division matters of local import. Hereafter such measures will be settled by the localities interested. There is but one measure before the people by referendum, and that is of minor importance.

Among the eleven important measures are the three tax amendments, of which two were submitted by the legislature at the request of the Oregon State Grange. These two are progressive in their nature and would do away with the provisions of the present constitution regarding all classes of property being taxed equally.

The third tax measure is submitted by the Oregon State Federation of Labor. It aims to supplement the Grange amendments and to give the people sole power to affirm or veto all tax laws. It abolishes the poll tax and gives counties the right to exempt any class of property from taxation by majority vote.

The four propositions of the People's Power League were closely criticised and carefully drawn up before final filing with several thousand more than the required number of signatures. They are all of the nature of extending the power of the people. A law extending the primary law to apply to presidential electors, and also to delegates to national party conventions. This bill provides payment of expenses to such delegates, and also for an advisory expression by the people of choice for president and vice president. The next is an amendment providing for Proportional