

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

In the last number of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* I presented various objections to the recently adopted constitution of the National Single Tax League. Since that time it has developed that many active and well-known Single Taxers feel that the machinery provided in that constitution is ineffective and leaves too much power in the hands of a few men.

It has also been suggested that a constitution should be drawn up that that would be democratic, workable, simple, and in line with customary procedure in organization.

Acting upon various suggestions, and having in mind the discussions at Niagara Falls and the recent meeting of the Provisional Committee, I have drawn up a proposed constitution for the League, and submit the same herewith for further discussion.

This constitution reconciles two points of view, that of those who demand a democratic organization, and the opposing viewpoint that such organization is unwieldy and results can only be accomplished by a small executive group.

The constitution provides for such an executive group, while retaining democratic control on a basis of geographic representation. The increased representation on the National Committee for each additional 100 members will encourage members of the League to enlarge its membership. Perhaps later on when the League grows larger, a direct election of the President may be preferable to having him selected by the National Committee.

The procedure for elections is not expensive or complicated and does give an equal voice to every member of the organization, no matter how remote he may be from others. And in addition to providing a frame of government, it enacts a bill of rights which insures that those at any time in charge of the affairs of the League shall not autocratically divert any of its activities.—WILLIAM RYAN.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

(1) The name of this organization shall be the National Single Tax League of the United States.

(2) Its objects shall be the advancement of the Single Tax.

(3) Any person in sympathy with its objects shall be eligible to membership in the League.

(4) The annual membership dues shall be one dollar, payable at time of joining and on the first day of each January in advance. No member in arrears shall be entitled to vote at the annual election. The League may receive additional contributions.

(5) The word "State" in this Constitution shall mean also the District of Columbia.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

(6) The governing body of the League shall be a National Committee,

composed of one member from each State, and an additional member for each one hundred members of the League in excess of the first one hundred in any State. The members of the Committee shall hold office for a term of one year from the first day of April and until their successors are elected.

ELECTIONS

(7) The members of the National Committee shall be elected annually by the members of the League residing in the respective States by preferential three-choice voting. On or before the first day of December the Secretary shall send to each member of the League a list of the members of the League, classified by States.

Any member of the League desiring to stand for election in any State shall file with the Secretary on or before the first day of January, a nomination endorsed by three members of the League from that State. The Secretary shall prepare ballots for each State containing names of all persons so nominated, and shall send one to each member in the State on or before the first day of February. Any voter may write in the names of any other members. Where the State is entitled to only one member of the National Committee, each member shall vote for one person as first choice, and any other one person as second choice, and for as many other persons as third choice as he or she prefers. The person receiving a majority of first choice votes shall be elected. If no person have a majority then the person having the majority of the first and second choice votes added together shall be elected. If no person have a majority of first and second choices, then the person receiving the highest number of first, second and third choice votes shall be elected.

Where any State is entitled to more than one member in the National Committee, each member shall vote for as many persons on the first and second choice as the State is entitled to members. The person or persons receiving a number of first choice votes equal to a majority of the members casting votes shall be elected. If a vacancy remain, then the first and second choice votes for the remaining candidates shall be added together, and the person or persons receiving the highest number, if equal to a majority of twice the total number of votes cast, shall be elected. If a vacancy still remains, then the first, second and third choice votes for the remaining candidates shall be added together and the person or persons receiving the highest number shall be deemed elected.

All ballots shall be mailed to the Secretary on or before the first day of March, and the Secretary shall announce and certify the results of the election of members of the Committee and shall prepare a tabulation by States of all votes cast as soon thereafter as possible.

If a vacancy shall occur from death or resignation during the year, the ballots shall be retabulated, omitting the name of the member who has vacated the office, and the member then having the majority or highest number of

votes determined as hereinbefore provided, shall be declared elected for the unexpired term.

The votes, and tabulations pertaining thereto, shall be preserved and be open to the inspection of any member for the period of one year after each election. After such period they may be destroyed.

PRESIDENT

(8) On or before the first of April the Secretary shall send to the members of the National Committee elected to serve for the ensuing year a ballot containing the names of all such members of the Committee, and they shall elect therefrom a President of the League in the manner provided in this Constitution for elections. Such votes shall be mailed to the Secretary on or before April 20th, and the result shall be certified by the Secretary to all members of the Committee on or before May first. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of President, the Executive Committee shall designate a temporary President, and if such vacancy occur prior to January 1st, a new election shall be held. The President shall have the general direction of the affairs of the League.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(9) There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President and four members of the National Committee to be designated by the President. The Executive Committee shall carry into effect all policies adopted by the National Committee, and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the League.

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Treasurer who shall serve until his successor shall be appointed.

(10) The President and Executive Committee shall hold office for the term of one year from the first day of May, and until their successors take office.

SECRETARY

(11) The President shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, employ a Secretary. The Secretary shall execute all actions of the National Committee and the Executive Committee and shall be the custodian of the records of the League. He shall keep a record of all decisions of the National and Executive Committees, and all matters pertaining to membership and elections.

POWERS AND DUTIES

(12) The National Committee, except as herein provided, shall have full power to carry into effect the objects of the League.

(13) No salaries shall be paid to any officer or member of a committee, except the Secretary. Members of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to receive their necessary traveling expenses in going to and returning from

meetings of the Committee, but not to exceed four meetings annually, unless with the approval of two-thirds of the National Committee.

(14) The President or Executive Committee shall submit from time to time to the National Committee statements of proposed expenditures, itemized as to purpose, which may be approved or disapproved as to items, and no expenditures shall be made without authorization of the National Committee except such as may be necessary to conduct an election or referendum and to maintain the usual offices pending the result thereof.

(15) No indebtedness shall be contracted on behalf of the League in excess of funds on hand.

(16) The National Committee, after providing for the expenses of the League, may expend the balance of the funds for such general Single Tax activities as they deem advisable, but no funds shall be expended or solicited in support of any candidacy for political office. This provision shall not prevent the National Committee from supplying standard Single Tax literature for distribution by candidates.

(17) The amount expended in any one State (except such money as is specifically contributed) shall not exceed the receipts from that State unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee.

(18) The National Committee may issue general appeals for funds to be expended for specified Single Tax activities, or may recommend such activities to Single Taxers for their support. Except when received in response to such appeal, no contribution shall be accepted under any pledge or agreement that it shall be used for any particular activity.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

(19) Upon the written request of any member of the National Committee the Secretary shall within thirty days submit any matter or proposal to the members of the National Committee for their decision. The Executive Committee shall be notified immediately of such proposal and may submit a statement to be sent out with it.

(20) Upon the written request of ten members of the National Committee, any decision of the Committee shall within thirty days be submitted by the Secretary to the members of the League, for their decision, together with brief statements pro and con. Votes shall be mailed to the Secretary within 20 days, and tabulated after 30 days, from the time sent out, and the majority of votes cast shall be conclusive.

AMENDMENTS

(21) Any fifty members of the League may propose amendments to this Constitution by filing same with the Secretary on or before the first day of January, and may submit a statement in favor thereof not exceeding 500 words. The Secretary shall submit such amendments to the executive committee who

may prepare a statement thereon not exceeding 500 words. The Secretary shall send such amendments and statements to the members of the League together with the ballots for members of the National Committee. The National Committee may submit amendments at any time, but if the vote of the Committee is not unanimous, statements pro and con may be submitted and shall be sent out with the amendment ballot. If a majority of the votes cast by members of the League upon any proposed amendment shall be affirmative, such amendment shall be part of this Constitution.

SCHEDULE

The first election under this Constitution shall be held at such time after its adoption, not exceeding six months, as may be set by the Committee in charge of the affairs of the League, and all procedure for elections herein provided shall be followed as near as may be, but without regard to the specific dates prescribed. Such provisional committee shall exercise the powers herein given to the National Committee until the members of such National Committee shall be elected. The first officers and committeemen elected shall hold office for one full year and until the subsequent April first and May first, thereafter, and no further election shall be held pursuant to the provisions of this constitution, except to fill vacancies, until after the expiration of one year from its adoption.

LAND OWNING UNDER SINGLE TAX

(For the Review)

By C. J. BUELL.

In the strict, legal sense, just what do you get when you buy land? What do you really buy?

Just what your title deed says—nothing more—the right to have, to hold, to possess and enjoy. That is all.

Of course whatever right you have legally bought, that you may legally sell, convey, lease, etc.

Many people think they also buy the legal right to the ground rent, or land value; but this is a mistake. They buy nothing of the kind. The former owner could not legally sell nor guarantee any right to the ground rent, or land value. All he guarantees is your right to possess and enjoy. And even this right to possess and enjoy is limited by the superior right of "eminent domain," under which all the people may even dispossess you, if your land is needed for a public purpose, such as a park or playground, the site for a public building, the location of a public highway of any kind or