

Denver

THE so-called Lower Rent amendment to the city charter (see March-April SINGLE TAX REVIEW, p. 47), was defeated in the May elections by a vote of 7,400 in favor, to 32,038 opposed.

The campaign resulted in educating many people at small expense, for it cost but \$250 and six months of the secretary's time.

It may be indicated here that a measure of more far-reaching importance—say one that made a direct demand for the taxation of the rent of land—would in all probability have received quite as many votes, and might have received many more. For all the opposition, along with the usual misrepresentation, that is brought into play to defeat any measure looking in our direction, was used in this campaign.

Nor did Mr. Barney Haughey and those associated with him evade the issue. Not for a minute were they permitted, even had they so desired, to shirk responsibility for the doctrine that would take one hundred per cent. of the value of land for the use of the community.

The privileged interests fought the measure with page "ads" in the newspapers. The vote is evidence that much education is still needed in Denver.

The Civic League of Denver in opposing the amendment said that the Single Tax was tried in Pueblo and failed. Mr. Edwin B. Haver, of Pueblo, nailed this lie in the *Denver Express*, the only paper in Denver supporting the amendment, by pointing out that while the charter amendment of Pueblo allowed a fifty per cent. exemption of improvements, the assessor disregarded the permissive feature of the amendment by raising the valuation of improvements. Mr. Haver concluded his letter by saying:

"This was anything but Single Tax. In fact it was the very opposite; increased taxation on improved property and lower taxes on the very valuable property in the downtown section, where lots are never sold for taxes."

As much was made of the failure of the Pueblo experiment at a debate by the students of the State University, Mr. Haver's trenchant denial was timely.

New Jersey

THE Manufacturers and Merchants Taxation League, of which Alfred N. Chandler is the active and efficient secretary, has addressed the following Questionnaire to the 700 tax officials of the State and to 700 officers of the Granges of the State:

Do you favor repeal of taxes on personal property?

Do you favor a State income tax?

Either an increase of the tax on land values or a tax on \$1,000 incomes will likely be enacted. Which do you prefer in place of the present tax on personal property?

Of the tax officials replying 72 per cent. favor repeal of the personal property tax.

31 per cent. favor State income tax; 69 per cent. are opposed. To the third question 15 per cent. of tax officials

are non-committal, 27 per cent. prefer an income tax, but all the others favor an increased tax on land.

Of the officials of the Granges replying 80 per cent. prefer an increased tax on land values, though the sentiment on the repeal of the personal property tax seems about equally divided for and against.

New York

IN this city the little group of workers are by no means idle. The Wednesday night lectures at the Single Tax Party headquarters, 32 East 13th street, at which Mr. Oscar Geiger acts as teacher, continue to be fairly well attended.

Two addresses of Mr. Geiger were delivered in this city during the month of May, one before 150 members of the School of Accountants and another at the Alumni of Speyer's School.

Morris VanVeen addressed the congregation of the Labor Temple, about three hundred in number, in May. The Temple is situated at 14th street and Second avenue, in this city, and the pastor expressed himself as pleased at the lecture and promises another opportunity for Mr. VanVeen or some other Single Taxer to be heard later in the year.

Mr. Robert C. Macauley made a splendid address at the Church of the Ascension, 10th street and Fifth avenue. This church has been made famous by its People's Forum. The well known Rev. Percy Stickney Grant is the pastor.

Another address which we failed to chronicle in recent issues was one delivered by Hon. John J. Murphy before the Osteopathic Society in this city at the instance of Dr. Brill, a well known Osteopath and old time Single Taxer.

An incident worth mentioning is one in which Mr. George Lloyd figures. Mr. Lloyd spoke for six hours and a half at an out-door meeting on the corner of 96th street and Broadway. This is probably a record for out-door speaking unless William Everett Hicks holds the palm for a speech made some years ago in the city of Cleveland during one of Tom Johnson's campaigns. At all events, it breaks all records for these parts.

The presence in this city of Messrs. Macauley and Robinson has put life into the movement here, and the political situation, about which we hope to be able to say something definite in next issue, is taking shape. A candidate for the mayoralty on a platform that would feature the Single Tax, even though presenting other issues, might result in a combination of political groups that would be really formidable.

AN EARLY SINGLE TAXER

Mencius was first of all a Taoist, but later he became one of the most brilliant exponents of Confucianism. He advocated many means of reform and, interesting to state, had conceived the Single Tax theory a thousand years before Henry George.

—"The Wisdom of the Chinese," *New York Times*.