

BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER.

By THE EDITOR.

Perhaps the progress of the movement, the slow, steady but irresistible pressure that Single Tax forces of the country are exerting on public thought, was never more in evidence. It is not such as to justify an optimism as to the early triumph of our cause anywhere. But one cannot contemplate the prevailing unrest without recognizing that it is accompanied, for the first time perhaps, by an eager questioning that seeks a remedy. The questioners come more and more from the higher walks of life. Nor will the stereotyped answers any more suffice. Poverty is no longer, or by no means to the same degree, regarded as the offspring of vice, intemperance, heredity. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, poverty has come to be looked upon as institutional by thousands upon thousands to whom the philosophy of Samuel Smiles' "Thrift" and "Self Help" at one time furnished the all-sufficient answers.

As events serving as signs of progress Single Taxers will note the re-election by a vote of 5,659 to 1,963 of J. J. Pastoriza as Land and Tax Commissioner of Houston, Texas. Mr. Pastoriza stood for re-election on the system of limited Single Tax which he began four years ago in Houston.

The well-informed on the Houston experiment are aware that it was begun without constitutional or legislative warrant. The House Committee of the State legislature seek now to remedy this omission in the fundamental law of the State by allowing all incorporated cities to elect their own system of taxation.

Another important proposal in the State of Texas is an amendment to the constitution to be voted on in the autumn of 1916 exempting all improvements outside of incorporated cities, and is sweeping in its provisions.

Single Taxers of California, not at all disheartened by the recent temporary set back, are again urging the passage of the bill permitting local option, the same bill introduced in the legislature two years ago.

Colorado Springs, Colorado, is an active storm center where our friends are seeking the necessary signatures under the Initiative and Referendum for a Single Tax amendment to the city charter, to be voted on April 6.

In Canada, in spite of the all-engrossing war preparations, the fight for economic justice that would render wars impossible, goes on. Mr. Sydenham Thompson, secretary of the Ontario Single Tax Society, has addressed an earnest letter to the Dominion legislature urging the taxation of land values as furnishing "a particularly suitable subject for a tax in support of a war in defence of those principles of freedom for which the Empire stands," and on this letter the *Toronto Globe* comments approvingly.

The farmers of Ontario have now lined up with their western brethren

in the demand for free trade and direct taxation. These are the unequivocal demands of resolutions passed at their recent convention in Toronto.

South Dakota is fortunate in possessing a governor who knows the truth and seeing dare assert. In a recent message condemning the general property tax he says:

"Land, which was not created by and does not exist because of the labor of any of us, and the value of which is increased and, it may be said, largely created, by virtue of improvement resulting from the labor and enterprise of the entire community, might wisely be taxed on a different basis than some other classes of property, the creation and use of which may be a special benefit and service to the community, adding, perchance, to the value of all the property and especially to that of unused land nearby."

An event of importance to our cause, if seized and improved as an opportunity, are the public hearings of the Federal Relations Commission at Dallas, Texas, beginning March 15, such hearings to consist of an inquiry into the American Land question.

INSPIRATIONAL PROPAGANDA OF THE SINGLE TAX.

(*For the Review*).

By **MARION MILLS MILLER, Litt. D.**

[Dr. Marion Mills Miller has for the past decade devoted himself to the compilation of important literary, political and economic works, in which, as a devoted follower of Henry George, he has seized every legitimate opportunity for presenting the Single Tax philosophy. Proof of the high value of this propaganda is afforded by the entire lack of adverse criticism of his position by reviewers and readers, and by the frequent praise accorded him, particularly by educators, for his clear presentation of the basic principles of democracy. As editor of a comprehensive compilation of translations entitled "The Greek and Latin Classics," he was commended by leading classic scholars for introducing for the first time to English readers Dio Chrysostom, a Greek Single Taxer of the first Christian era. In his "Life and Works of Abraham Lincoln" he showed more clearly than any other biographer of the "Great Emancipator" the close parallel and interrelation existing between chattel and industrial slavery, and so received commendation from the reviewers for presenting Lincoln as a living influence in the political and economic thought of the present day. In his masterpiece, "Great Debates in American History," in preparing which he ransacked Colonial documents and the records of Congress from Washington to Wilson, Dr. Miller emphasized the land question as the fundamental problem of our Government, and traced to the incompleteness of its solution the complications arising in the treatment of all other issues. In rescuing from the dusty files of official documents and making available for reading and ready reference speeches of early advocates of "land for the people," such as Senator Benton and Representatives Andrew Johnson and Galusha A. Grow, and expositions of the Single Tax philosophy by later statesmen, such as Tom L. Johnson, Jerry Simpson and Henry George, Jr., Dr. Miller has rendered a service to the cause only less valuable than that of these spokesmen themselves.

Recently Dr. Miller spoke to the Manhattan Single Tax Club on the subject of