

BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

BY THE EDITOR

Wherever we turn we find Single Tax, or issues co-related, forcing their way into politics. In the House of Representatives a bill prepared by Warren Worth Bailey, member from Pennsylvania, for the establishment of a customs' union on the Western Hemisphere, has been introduced and should find supporters, not alone in the Democratic party, but among those Republicans who cherish the memory of one of their most eminent and far-sighted statesmen, James G. Blaine, whose dream it was, protectionist though he was professedly, to unite in trade bonds all peoples of North and South America. An organization has been perfected for popularizing the measure and securing its passage. Chas. H. Ingersoll is president, and associated with him are A. B. Farquhar, W. D. George, Chas. Frederick Adams, Edmund B. Osborne and others.

We are not of those who think that Single Taxers have no interest in measures of this kind. Even if it were not true, which it is in the last analysis, that protective duties tend to enrich chiefly the owners of natural resources, the Single Tax is not a mere fiscal scheme, but a practical philosophy of freedom.

In Ohio Rev. Herbert Bigelow will work for the submission of the following initiative petition:

Be it resolved by the People of the State of Ohio:

That the constitution be amended by the addition of an article to be designated Article XIX, entitled, Old Age Pensions, and to read as follows:

An Old Age Pension, of twenty dollars a month shall be paid to persons of such age and condition as shall be determined by law.

To all such persons, residing outside of cities, the pension shall be paid by the State and shall be derived exclusively from the taxation of inheritances in excess of twenty thousand dollars and of incomes in excess of five thousand dollars per annum.

To all such persons residing in cities, the pension shall be paid by the city.

Cities are hereby granted the home rule power to levy, for old age pensions, and for municipal purposes, in addition to, or in lieu of general property taxes authorized by the constitution and laws, a tax upon the value of land within the city, exclusive of the value of improvements thereon.

We are aware of all the objections that can be urged against this amendment. Yet we prefer to forget them for the time and urge the Single Taxers of Ohio to get behind the measure. Some kind of an Old Age Pension is certain to be introduced by the labor unions in Ohio this year, and it may be possible

to secure from them the support of this measure with the Single Tax included in it. And the supporters of the amendment will be called upon to defend the principle quite as much as if the provisions of the amendment went further.

On another page will be found a report of the Texas Single Tax Conference, which resulted in the organization of a State League. But the most notable event in the State has been the *unanimous* endorsement of the Single Tax by the Texas State Federation of Labor in a resolution fathered by the Single Tax League of Texas and presented by William Black. The Socialists, too, have introduced a Single Tax plank in their platform and under the vigorous leadership of Mr. Hickey, of the *Rebel*, are carrying on a splendid programme of propaganda.

Socialists and Single Taxers are getting together very rapidly these days. Not only in Texas, but in Minnesota, Louisiana and Oklahoma, Socialists are declaring for land value taxation. Hon. J. Stitt Wilson will frame a strong plank to be submitted for the national platform of the Socialist Party.

In California two groups of Single Taxers will carry on separate contests, the one for straight Single Tax, the other for local option that will permit the adoption of such measures of exemption and land value taxation as the local electors may decide.

The Committee on Taxation appointed for this city by Mayor Mitchell have presented a majority and minority report, the latter being signed by Frederick C. Howe, Lawson Purdy, Frederick C. Leubuscher, Delos F. Wilcox, Robert S. Binkerd, F. S. Tomlin and Frederick B. Shipley. The majority report contains the name of Prof. Seligman and recommends a tax on future unearned increment, an occupation tax, a tax on salaries and a habitation tax.

GOLDEN MAXIMS.

By JAMES BELLANGEE

A small wheel is easily kept in a groove. The larger the wheel the easier to run over the bumps and obstructions.

The man who shows by borrowed light usually considers himself a shining example and does not realize that he is only a reflection on mankind.

Man shows his character in adversity and his lack of it in prosperity.

Just as soon as a person gets the idea that he is too good to work he begins to think others are not too good to work for him.

The back that is content to wear the saddle will sooner or later feel the lash.

With many people prayer is little more than a plea for the divine endorsement of human mistakes.