

## California

THE Single Tax League has been reorganized for the 1922 campaign in California, with William DeMille as president.

The demand for Mr. DeMille's "What d'ye mean Single Tax," a collection of his ironical advertisements in leading daily papers during the campaign, continues, although the supply is exhausted. It went far in counteracting the mendacious lies told by the antis, who, being much alarmed, could neither keep silent or tell the truth.

The biggest thing on record is the offer of Mr. George A. Briggs to tour California, as organizer and lecturer. His greatest need was an automobile, and his friend, Mr. James A. Bell, of Elkhart, Ind., maker of the Elcar, promptly shipped a new car, freight prepaid, for the sole use of Mr. Briggs for this work. If the Elcar is advertised by the noise, no Single Taxer ought to be sorry.

Mr. Briggs began his touring about January 1. He asks no pay for his work, and says he is having the time of his young life; is inclined to pay for the privilege rather than to accept a salary. Outside of the office, the League pays no salaries. Dues and contributions, we expect, will pay Mr. Briggs' expenses, and for needed literature.

The office of the Great Adventure here was closed, to reopen in San Francisco. With the G. A. in the North, and our League in the South, the same cooperation, on the same Amendment, is expected for 1922.—C. F. HUNT.

## Colorado

THE Lower Rent League of Denver has submitted to the voters of that city a measure as follows, amending the charter of the City and County of Denver:

BE IT ENACTED by the people of the City and County of Denver:

That to encourage building and thereby to lower rents, Section 212 of the Charter of the City and County of Denver, adopted on the 29th day of March, 1904, shall be and the same hereby is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 212. Land and all interest in land including franchises in public roads, streets and alleys shall be listed, valued and assessed each year separate and apart from personal property and improvements on land; said assessments shall be made by the manager of the Department of Revenue.

(a) The Council shall levy state, county and school taxes as provided by general law. The Council shall also, after deducting the amount collectible from other sources, levy upon taxable property within the limits of the City and County of Denver the amount of taxes for municipal purposes necessary to provide for the payment during the ensuing fiscal year of all properly authorized demands upon the treasury;. Said taxes for municipal purposes shall be levied, regardless of any limitation on the tax rate, in the manner following and not otherwise:

(b) Each year the Council shall fix and determine

the tax rate to be levied for municipal purposes upon the assessed value of land and franchises in public ways, and shall also fix and determine the tax rate to be levied for said purposes on personal property and improvements on land, but the tax rate for municipal purposes, on personal property and improvements on land, shall not exceed one-half of the tax rate levied for municipal purposes on land franchises in public ways."

This is a very moderate measure, but it offers a talking point for the more radical presentation of our philosophy which Mr. Barney Haughey, who has charge of the work of popularizing the proposal has not neglected. In the *Denver Labor Bulletin* he relates his experience with an opponent from which we quote:

"I contended, that unless there was a demand for the land it would have no value, and as it is the presence and activities of all the people that creates the demand, the people have a perfect moral right to take as much of the rent as they want as soon as they get ready to vote for it. 'Oh, I know the people can take it by voting for it,' he wrathfully exclaimed, 'but tell me where the people ever got the moral right or the legal right to take a man's property away from him.' 'Property in land,' I said, 'is the gigantic wrong of the centuries. A man can have property only in things he produces or in things he renders an equivalent for; but the only right any one can have in land is the right to exclude others from it. That right the owner can and must have. But when the people give land owners exclusive rights in land they at the same time give them notice that there is no limit to the tax that may at any time be laid on those rights. In Denver, where the people have home rule in taxation, they can increase the tax on exclusive rights to land at any time by a majority vote. The increase provided for in our amendment is about six mills on a dollar, and if the land is assessed as low as it was last year the total increase in taxes on Denver land will be about \$1,250,000 a year. A little figuring will show that a yearly tax of that amount on Denver rent will reduce the selling value of the land to about \$280,000,000, or \$20,000,000 less than it is now"

Three thousand seven hundred signatures are required to get this proposed amendment on the ballot at the regular city election on May 17. Two thousand signatures have already been secured, and the forces of the Lower Rent League are confident that they will have the required number in time to file the petition with the city clerk thirty days before election. The labor unions are friendly to the measure, but have yet offered no financial support.

A pamphlet has been issued for distribution to the voters explaining the measure and giving the history of land value taxation in various countries.

## Michigan

THE people of Michigan are apparently, by an overwhelming majority, in a state of unbounded ignorance regarding true principles of taxation. The situation in this state would be highly amusing if it were not so serious.

Producers and consumers alike, in common with those of other states, are the intended victims of those who are searching for new sources from which can be extracted