

Convention disclosed the fact that Tom Johnson is now in almost unquestioned control of the party. His popularity is growing. This is not so much by reason of the man's engaging personality as because of the principles which he advocates and which are finding firm roots in the politics of the State. Our readers know the history of that convention—its adoption of a platform in accord with the views of Mayor Johnson on taxation (views that have now become those of the democracy of the State), and the nomination of Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine street Congregational Church of Cincinnati, as candidate for secretary of state.

Since then a wonderfully energetic, and to the voters of the State, a novel campaign has been in progress. Mayor Johnson is making a tour of the State in an automobile, and with tents. Enthusiastic meetings are being held everywhere. The question of taxation is the one uppermost at these meetings.

At one meeting in Lima a question was put by the editor of the Republican *Gazette*, of that place, evidently with the idea of putting the Mayor "in a hole:"

"Do you believe in the Henry George theory of a tax on land only?"

"I do not believe in a tax on land," replied the mayor.

"Do you believe in the doctrines of Henry George?" persisted the questioner.

"To that question with all my heart I answer," replied the mayor with great force. "The doctrines of Henry George are the moving spirit of whatever I do, whether as mayor of Cleveland or in this tent or in any other field of activity. Henry George did not advocate a tax on land but on land values. This, instead of increasing the burden of the farmer, as you seem to assume, would greatly lessen it. I believe in Mr. George's proposition to abolish customs houses, to take away the taxes which fall upon houses and improvements which are created by labor, taxes which are therefore in the last analysis, taxes upon labor, and to place these taxes upon monopoly and privilege. I believe this to be the solution of the one great question, the labor question. This question is the rock upon which the nation may yet be reared. The solution of this question is, simply, to take the burdens of taxation from labor and place them upon monopoly and privilege."

Nothing illustrates the rapid advance of the single tax principle more notably than the nominations of single tax men to prominent offices. In California, the Democratic candidate for governor, Franklin K. Lane, is a believer in our doctrines, and a firm consistent friend of democratic principles. His utterances are bold and radical, and if elected we can be certain that industrial emancipation in the State of California is brought measurably nearer.

The nomination of F. D. Larabie for attorney general of Minnesota is also a victory for the single tax cause. Rossing, the Democratic candidate for governor in that State, has evidently absorbed something of those principles for which his running mate, Larabie, stands, for in a speech delivered at Minneapolis the Democratic candidate for governor said:

"The resources of nature, as developed by labor, are the foundation of all wealth. The first element is the gift of a benign Creator to all mankind. Labor is the effort of each individual, the fruits of which he alone is entitled to."

In Beaver, Pennsylvania, Charles R. Eckert has been nominated by the Democrats for Congress. He is the editor of the Rochester *Commoner*, and is a Henry George-Tom Johnson Democrat. R. F. Powell, single taxer, is a Democratic candidate for the legislature in Philadelphia.

In Rhode Island, Lucius F. C. Garvin, the leading single taxer of that State, is the Democratic candidate for governor. Dr. Garvin has been actively identified with the single tax movement for many years. He has been a member of the Rhode Island legislature, and is a man of much force. Rhode Island is not an "easy" state to make a fight for the single tax and democratic prin-

ciples, and Dr. Garvin has been almost alone in the years past. But the ranks are growing, and other hands are now holding up his.

In Brooklyn, our old friend Robert Baker is a candidate for Congress. It is said he was the especial choice of Bird S. Coler, Democratic nominee for governor. No man has worked harder for the cause in years past, and he is possessed of real brains and a world of nervous energy.

Is it not an amazing situation? Here are eighty millions of people, with votes, helpless before a combination of a half-dozen men. Here is a President, elected by the votes of these eighty millions, asking the six if they cannot do something to relieve the situation. And the controversy concerns a material planted in the earth and warmed by the solar heat of centuries—the prisoned sunbeams which must be released to warm the bodies of men and to urge the wheels of industry. And it is asserted by Mr. Baer, in terms at least implied, that as God's trustees the six—less or more—composing the combination are the sole owners of the product of fallen branch and bark and root and solar heat. And the able journals tell the eighty millions that they have actually no remedy, that they can really do nothing—these eighty million people with votes!

And then a great political party puts as a plank in its platform a demand for the government ownership and operation of these mines, as the only possible solution presenting itself to these sapient political philosophers hunting for votes. "Go," said Oxenstierna to his son, "and learn with what little wisdom the world is governed."

To whom does the coal in the earth and the country's highways belong? Until that question is answered once and for all time there can be no solution. In the absence of a consideration of this question all is darkness and perplexity. And how simple is the solution. If these coal lands in the anthracite region instead of being assessed at \$2.50 per acre were assessed at their actual value, which is nearer \$1,000 per acre, and if the coal-carrying roads as well as all other roads were the property of the people, there would be no coal question. But neither would there be any Mr. Baer, whom the subordination of the masses has impressed with the notion that he is the special anointed of the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. For this absurd idea in the mind of a perhaps otherwise amiable and estimable gentleman could never have existed but for the tacit acceptance of the same theory by the great army of workers. For have they not laid at his feet and the feet of his class the first fruits of their labor? The acceptance of this ideal of social sacrifice might excuse even far more idolatrous notions. Mr. Baer is simply taking his fellows at their word and as it would be neither profitable nor pleasant to question the decree that has made him the apparent trustee of the natural wealth of the anthracite regions, he accepts it unconditionally. And in this Mr. Baer is not singular.

Referring to the Coal Miners' Union, Mr. Robert Morrison Olyphant, President of the Delaware and Hudson, declares:

"This business of preventing men from earning an honest living just because somebody else for any reason does not want to work, I tell you, has got to stop in this country."

True, Mr. Olyphant. So stand aside and let that man with pick and shovel get on to the land.



FRANK D. LARABEE.