

## Texas

THE Texas Legislature will meet in Called Session the 18th. The chief work of the Session will be to make appropriations for the next two fiscal years. This work was crowded out at the regular session at the beginning of the year. The State is hard put to it for sufficient revenues. The General Property Tax broke down in this State 15 years ago and since then has been supplemented by various Gross Receipts Taxes on certain industries. From time to time the legislature has added to the list. At the coming session many additional business taxes will be proposed; all of which is making men think seriously of the Single Tax.

We have just elected a Georgian Single Taxer to the legislature from San Antonio to fill a vacancy. Mr. E. G. Le-Sturgeon's name has stood on our letterheads and literature since the very inception of organized work in this State. We have reached the point when being a well known Single Taxer adds political strength.

The State Federation of Labor in annual convention at Galveston in May, made the 6th consecutive declaration in favor of Single Tax:

"The Texas Federation of Labor in convention assembled again urges and demands the Constitution of this State be so amended that all taxes for State, county and city be levied against the monopoly of land values and that all labor values be free from taxes in order that the ends of justice in taxation be maintained, greater opportunities for wealth production established, and the workman be enabled to retain and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

"Be it further resolved, that this be made an issue in the election of members of the legislature in order to assure the submission to vote of the people of such an amendment to the Constitution."

I was invited in April to address a district convention of the Farmers Union in Northwest Texas. I am invited to address another convention of this same district in August. The leaders of the Farmers Union in that section of the State are very much interested in the Single Tax.

I addressed a county convention of the Non-Partisan League in May in another section of the State where this movement is active and aggressive. I am expected to address eight or nine other similar county conventions this Summer and Fall. The Non-Partisan League is concentrating its work in a few counties that lie in the triangle formed by Waco, Houston and San Antonio.

The National Farm-Labor Union is an organization working in Northeast Texas and Southeast Oklahoma. Its plan of organization is that of the Labor Union. Its membership is made up of "dirt" farmers, whether owners, renters or farm laborers. The president reported, in May, a membership of 40,000, two-thirds of which are in Texas.

These are important forces for the Single Tax and we are cultivating them. Our proposition is listened to and talked about today as never before. Leading men can no longer ignore the necessity of a change and the Single Taxer has the only proposition that gives any hope of relief. Texas

is coming along and will probably be the first State in the Union to adopt the Single Tax principle. We are not asking that all rental value be taken for taxes; we are asking that all needed revenues for the State, county and city be taken from the rental value of lands, and that all improvements and personal property be specifically exempted from taxation. Our proposition is easily understood and applied.

WM. R. BLACK.

## The Washington Single Tax Conference

WE have received from Mr. William Hallenkamp, secretary of the Ohio Site Value League, a copy of his report of the Washington Conference of the National Single Tax League, submitted by him to his organization which he represented at the conference.

There has been so much misapprehension as to what was disclosed at that conference as to the actual condition of the National Single Tax League, purporting to represent the movement before the country, that we give Mr. Hallenkamp's conclusions as those of a shrewd observer who went to Washington with no prejudices or prepossessions.

"The attendance was a disappointment. Not more than fifty people attended any session of the conference, and the attendance would not have been this much but for the presence of a dozen or so residents of Washington and the immediate vicinity. So far as I could learn, only eight States were represented, as follows: New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Oklahoma, Oregon and Ohio.

"Most of the members of the National Committee which called the conference were absent; and of the few members of the committee who were present at the opening of the conference, most of them left before it ended. The absence of the Chairman, Treasurer and so many members of the committee with the others deserting the conference at their first opportunity, was another disappointment.

"The National Committee seemed to have had no specific purpose in calling the conference and had no programme to present. Mr. Frank Stephens, secretary of the National Committee, informed the conference that the Committee had been reorganized about seventeen months ago; that during this time about 85,000 copies of the *Bulletin* had been mailed to Single Taxers; that a press bureau had mailed press bulletins to about 1,000 newspapers; that an office had been opened and correspondence looked after; and that about \$8,900 had been raised, the most of which had been paid in on \$200 and \$500 subscriptions by a few Single Taxers who had underwritten the budget, only a small part of the sum coming from the balance of the Single Taxers in the country.

"He also advised that because so many Single Taxers were working for Single Tax in so many different ways, that the National Committee had no programme and that it planned to provide merely 'a clearing house' which would send bulletins to newspapers and gather reports of Single Tax activity and keep Single Taxers informed thereon.