

Haug, 762; Thomas J. McCaffrey, 1244; Leo W. Marks, 819; Samuel H. Reading, 662; Oliver Wingert, 703.

The Philadelphia County Committee made a special effort this year to hold street meetings in as many wards of the city as possible, but were limited by the funds available and the size of the working force. A study of the results by wards and divisions, but not shown above, reveals the fact that the greatest number of votes were cast in those precincts near where the street meetings had been held. The wards in which it was found impractical to hold such meetings were found to have produced proportionately only a few scattering votes. The election justifies the political party as well as the policy of the local committee in holding the street meetings. It also indicates the necessity of greater activity on the part of the party to increase the number of its workers. A special campaign is to be conducted to increase the membership of the County Committee.

At a recent meeting of the Philadelphia County Committee, an auxiliary organization was formed to be known as the Current Topics Lecture Bureau. The purpose of the Lecture Bureau is to provide speakers to appear upon the platform before various local organizations, which in their nature do not permit political discussions, in order that the Single Tax doctrine may be properly presented to them.

Only fragmentary reports have been received from the outlying districts about Philadelphia in regards to the vote for the Single Tax ticket. With only one exception, every precinct heard from in Delaware County reported a good substantial increase over the former record vote for the ticket.

John W. Dix, Ardmore Park, Pa., Secretary of the Delaware County Committee of the Single Tax Party, reports that through some mistake on the part of those responsible for the printing of the official ballot, there was no space provided for voting a straight Single Tax vote, but that in spite of this difficulty, which made it necessary for those desiring to vote the ticket to pick out the various candidates and mark them separately, the votes cast for Single Tax candidates showed a very gratifying increase over previous records, particularly in and about Ardmore Park and Llanerch. Mrs. Frances C. Lowe, of Media, Pa., Chairman of the Delaware County Committee, reports exceptionally good returns from Media and Chester.

JULIAN HICKOK

## Washington

THE Washington State Grange has been for years the foremost of farm organizations in the country in its stand for economic freedom for the farmer. It has taken an advanced ground on public ownership of public utilities, controlled credits, and better sanitary conditions on the farms, better rural schools, and has for years been a champion of the Single Tax and anti-militarism.

On account of its progressive principles it has been singled out for attack by the National Grange, reactionary to the core and controlled by the reactionary and parasitic elements

of the community. Former Master Kegley was singled out for special attack, and no doubt his death was hastened by the unscrupulous assaults to which he was subjected.

William Bouck, who followed Kegley, was an eager champion of these principles and an ardent supporter of the Single Tax. In 1920 he was cited to Boston and tried for disloyalty to the Grange. He was not convicted, but his enemies swore they would get him.

At the Annual Convention of the Washington Grange at Colville in June of this year, Mr. Bouck delivered his address, taking strong ground against war and for the Single Tax. He was immediately assailed by the press of the State aided by the reactionary group in the Grange, and a few weeks later was suspended by Mr. Lowell, of New York, the National Master.

It happens that the Executive Committee of the Grange are thoroughly reactionary and as soon as his suspension was over they aided in crucifying him. At the National Grange, held in Portland, Oregon, on Nov. 18 of this year, without any warning, and without hearing or trial, a report was made by the Executive Committee recommending Mr. Bouck's expulsion, together with five others associated with him. This report was supported by Master Deal, of Idaho, who made the motion for its adoption. It was adopted without a dissenting vote.

This is the first time in the history of the Grange where free speech has been absolutely stifled, and it is a direct blow at freedom of discussion and economic action by the Grange. The National Master has made the purpose of this action plain in these words: "It is an ultimatum to other States to first seek the wishes of the National Grange and obey its dictates."

The policies for which Mr. Bouck stands have a great support among the farmers of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and other States, and an organization is being perfected in which and through which the ideas of progressive farmers in these States may find expression. It is now designed to build up an organization which shall express the viewpoint of the progressive elements among the farmers without being broken up by an antagonistic ring representing the plutocracy. The basic principle of the new organization will be freedom of expression, and its economic policy will be reform along site value or Single Tax lines.

The new movement is assured of substantial backing. It was inevitable that there should be an attempt to control the Grange in the interests of reaction, and the expulsion of Bouck and his associates is probably a good thing for the progressive movement among the farmers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Mr. Bouck states that the new organization will not be political in the strict sense of the word, but will in no way bar political activities among the members and officers. He points out that under the more progressive policy of the group expelled from the Grange the Washington Grange has doubled its membership and influence in the State.

Mr. Bouck and his followers are delighted over the turn of events. They say the deal was so raw that it will drive

all the remaining grangers who were in doubt over to the new organization in a body. It means the beginning of the end of the old grange and the new West against the old East, with the Single Tax as the basic principle. The Single Tax will be the central if not the militant slogan of the new group. The initiative measure in Oregon will make it the militant slogan, if not this year, then in the not distant future, perhaps for other States than the one in which Mr. Hermann is making his indefatigable campaign.

## Wisconsin

**A** FRESH and convincing view of the Single Land Value Tax is set forth in a pamphlet which is being widely distributed by its author, John Harrington, who is Inheritance Tax Counsel to the State Tax Commission. Mr. Harrington entitles his pamphlet, which has received an appreciative notice in the REVIEW, "A Tax that is not a Burden." He calls "Progress and Poverty" the greatest book ever written by an American, covering the field of economics and sociology. Mr. Harrington says:

"But in spite of criticism and hostility the teaching of Henry George is re-making the world today, and chiefly through those who do not even know that it is from him their ideas are derived."

Mr. Harrington's pamphlet is devoted to the demonstration of three propositions:

1. The value of land is created by the public and not by the owner.
2. The value of all other things than land is created by human labor.
3. Ground rent paid to private land owners is a burden on society for which no economic return is made to society, and is therefore an economic waste.

Lieutenant-Governor George F. Comings, ever since the adjournment of the legislature, has been addressing farmers' meetings in both this State and North Dakota. In his speeches he always stresses the fact that land values are different from other values and should be used for public purposes.

Edward Nordman, the State Market Commissioner, is another Wisconsin State official who has seen the cat, and never loses an opportunity to point out the distinction between earned and unearned incomes.

During the last session of the legislature a number of bills, defeated but fought for with ability, were introduced exempting from taxation improvements on real estate. Mr. Grimstad introduced a bill providing for a surtax on land values which was drawn by Prof. John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin. It provided for a surtax on the right to the use and enjoyment of land values in excess of \$10,000, and in excess of the value of improvements, preparation costs, standing timber and fertility. There were two hearings on the bill. Prof. Commons, Edward Nordman, John Harrington and other Single Taxers spoke in its favor.

CHESTER C. PLATT.

## Texas

**W**E are indebted for two generous contributions of Single Tax literature. The Manhattan Single Tax Club has made two shipments of good things for special distribution, such as "The Crime of Poverty," and "Moses." Mr. H. H. Willock has just contributed 12,000 copies of "Unused Democracy." This may prove a hint to some other Single Taxers to contribute an edition of ten or twenty thousand copies of some good literature. We want everything that goes out to bear the imprint, "The Single Tax League of Texas."

A conference of labor men, National Farm Labor Union, Farmers' Union and Nonpartisan League, was held last month in Waco. It was an interesting all-day conference of representative men from the various organizations, looking towards political action next year. One plank in the platform adopted demands the exemption of all farm improvements and implements from taxation and definitely recites that unimproved land shall be assessed the same as improved land of like location. We did not ask for a specific declaration on exemptions of all improvements and personal property. The State Federation of Labor has for six consecutive years specifically demanded the submission of an amendment to the Constitution exempting all improvements and personal property from taxation, and placing the entire tax burden for State, county and city, on land values.

The National Farm Labor Union is a new organization. Its activities date from October, 1920, and now reports some 50,000 members in Texas. It is made up of actual farmers, men who make their living by working the land. We have not as yet asked any demand on taxation from this organization. It is following the lead of organized labor and when the proper time arrives, we believe will follow labor in its tax demands.

Our political activities in the near future will be centered on the election of members of the legislature. We submitted a Single Tax amendment to the 36th Legislature, which met in January, 1919. The Committee on Constitutional Amendments refused to report it out and it was brought out on minority report. When it came up in the House, there were only 13 votes for it, although in a previous test vote 18 votes were cast in its favor. The same amendment was submitted to the 37th Legislature last January. The Committee on Constitutional Amendments voted it out with only one dissenting vote. That does not mean that every member that voted for a favorable report endorses the Single Tax. It does mean that they are interested and wanted it debated on the floor. There was another significant situation in the House. Several revenue measures were introduced taxing business in various forms. None of these measures had any standing before the Committee on Revenues and Taxation. The House of Representatives is not ready for Single Tax but it is against any added taxes on industry.

If the 38th Legislature, that will be elected next year, will