

pronounced "stand-patter." The Governor, however, refused to go to Washington to take the oath of office until the State Legislature had adjourned, and he finished the work which he had promised the people, and in behalf of which he had asked their support through three campaigns for the governorship. These reforms are: the primary election, that is, the nomination of all officers, state, county, legislative and congressional, by direct vote; the ad-valorem taxation of public-service corporations, and the railroad rate commission, the last of which has just been secured. A law was passed providing for the election of delegates to the national conventions by direct vote. The Governor is also strongly in favor of home rule by cities in municipal affairs and vetoed several bills locally regulating certain matters in the city of Milwaukee. He also presented a strong message to the Legislature urging legislation to restrict the grants of mill-dam and water-power privileges, and to reserve and protect the rights of the public therein. It would be but a step for the Governor to recognize the effective Single-Tax method of doing this, namely, to require as annual payment to the State or to the municipality of the reasonable value of the site, regardless of improvements, or whether it were used or not.

On the whole, Wisconsin is to be congratulated upon the civic progress made in the last few years, and upon its honest and brilliant Governor, who has led in the fight. We hope for much from him when he finally takes his seat in the national Senate. To be sure, he is no Single Taxer, but he does see that the values created by the public should go more largely to the benefit of the public, and thus reduce the burden of taxation upon the people; and that is of the very essence of the Single Tax.

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KANSAS.

THE UP-HILL FIGHT IN THIS STATE—STANDARD OIL KINGS ITS REAL RULERS.—STEALING THE RESOURCES OF AN EMPIRE WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.

As predicted in a former article, our state officers are trying to render void the anti-monopoly legislation forced by the people from an unwilling legislature last winter. How completely railroad influence dominates the state officers is seen in the fact in the suits to test the constitutionality of these laws the state was represented by railroad and Standard Oil attorneys. The state officers whose duty it was to select counsel for the people say these lawyers just jumped in and filed the papers before they had time to appoint state counsel, so they had to let it go, and we have the peculiar

spectacle of attorneys representing and paid by the state arguing in the interest of monopolies the state is supposed to be trying to control in the interest of the people and "a square deal."

One thing has been made plain to even the mud-heads in Kansas, and that is that the Standard Oil derives much of its power to rob the people from its control of the iron highways built by land grants, bonuses and subsidies paid for by the people, and that these affiliated monopolies retain their power to oppress the people only by political influence, and this political influence is obtained largely through the use of the money extorted from the people. Railway passes, subsidized or directly owned newspapers, freight rate favors, use of political patronage and influence of Federal officials, appeals to senseless partisanship, free trains to big political rallies with cabinet officers or U. S. Senators as the principal speakers, are some of the means used to obtain votes for "fixed" nominations, all supplemented when necessary by direct or indirect bribery.

The Standard Oil Co. is now offering 25 cts. per barrel for the same crude oil for which it paid \$1.88 to \$1.90 fifteen or eighteen months ago, while the retail price of refined kerosene remains at twenty cents per gallon. During the same time the railway freight rate on crude oil has quadrupled, the effect being to make the Standard the only buyer and seller of oil. Some independent refineries are being built, but they are unable to make freight rate contracts that will enable them to do business, hence the importance of the laws passed last winter to prevent railroad discrimination and extortionate rates. These laws are now tied up by injunctions with the railroad and Standard Oil, attorneys representing both sides of the suits. All these things show how the people are robbed as the result of their own fool voting.

Really, the oil producers are entitled to little sympathy, as they too are trying to get something for nothing, and their demand for Antimonopoly legislation is confined to what will serve their own interests. Nevertheless, the effect of their efforts is in the right direction and is doing much to educate the people. The price of oil producing lands has dropped twenty five to fifty per cent. since the Standard obtained its cinch and some real and many prospective fortunes have melted away or gone into your city at No. 26 Broadway.

The Indian Territory, just south of the Kansas oil fields, is very rich in Petroleum of the highest quality, most of which is under direct control of Standard Oil subsidiary companies, and the independent producers are entirely at its mercy and glad to sell its oil at twenty-five to thirty cents per barrel. The Standard controls all the railways there and freight rates are prohibitive. The action of the Secretary of the Interior in arbitrarily extending for

twenty-five years an expired and originally fraudulent lease of 880,000 acres of extremely rich oil land in the Osage Indian reserve, over the protest of the Indians, was worth many millions to the Standard. The Standard or its subsidiary companies has leased millions of acres from the Indians of the other six tribes at a royalty of one cent a barrel with the approval of the Federal authorities, and the great Indian Territory coal field of the best semi-anthracite coal in the world has been similarly looted. Yet, strange to say, not an acre of land in the Indian Territory has been reserved for school purposes, nor any fund whatever for education saved from the looting.

The fairest and richest domain of the continent is the Indian Territory, until recently belonging in fee simple—an inalienable title guaranteed by the pledged faith of the United States government. This faith was broken and guarantees repudiated, at the behest of speculators and politicians, and the Indians compelled by force to receive small allotments of land and see their great patrimony looted by corporations, politicians and speculators.

The entire Indian Territory, including most of Oklahoma, as large as Pennsylvania, is the richest and deepest soil in the world, well wooded and watered, a delightful climate, and all underlaid with quantities of coal, oil, gas, lead and zinc, sufficient to make Pennsylvania a poor house by comparison. When the history is truly written—if ever—of how this great storehouse of wealth has been looted from its rightful but helpless owners, leaving not one dollar for educational or public improvement purposes, the story will appall the world and cover our national politicians with infamy.

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THE WOMEN'S FIFTH ANNUAL CON- FERENCE.

The Fifth Annual Convention of the National Women's Single Tax League was held in Philadelphia on June 15, 16 and 17. In spite of the torrid temperature, which rendered the occupying one-self with serious questions a somewhat difficult task, a large number of delegates attended, and discussion was animated at all the sessions. New York, (Manhattan & Brooklyn); Washington and Philadelphia were represented by their full quota of delegates, and individual delegates were present from Georgia, Chicago, Fairhope and several New Jersey clubs.

At the first session on Thursday the 15th, afternoon, after the reports and business of the Convention, Mrs. Margaret Hugan, of Brooklyn, opened the series of addresses by an interesting and earnest paper on "The Origin of the Slums," which called forth a lively discussion. Frank Stevens, Phila-

delphia's leading disciple of Single Tax, made the address of welcome at the evening meeting, which was responded to by Grace Isabel Colbron of New York. At the Friday afternoon meeting a lively discussion was started by the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions, but the resolutions as drawn up were accepted finally without change at the final session Saturday morning. The most important among these resolutions was the one expressing sympathy with the Swedish workmen in their brave stand in refusing to take up arms against Norway.

On Friday evening a banquet was held at the Roosevelt, and attended by all the delegates and a number of Philadelphia Single Taxers. Henry George, jr. was the first speaker on the list, and gave a warm recommendation of the actions of Mayor Weaver in exposing the graft that has been bleeding Philadelphia's city treasury for so long. Mr. George entitled his speech, "Major Weaver's splendid opportunity," and expressed the hope that, once having embarked upon this course of fearlessness, Mr. Weaver would crown his good work by dislodging all the holders of special privilege who were drawing fortunes from what belonged by right to the people of Philadelphia. Mr. George's speech was greeted with great applause, and was quoted at length in several Philadelphia morning papers. Miss Jane Campbell, a noted suffragist, Miss Amy M. Hicks, Mrs. Harry Coope and Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, were other speakers of the evening programme, which closed with a splendid address by John Sherwin Crosby. Unanimously demanded, unscheduled talks by Mr. Hetzel, well known to Single Taxers, were a most exhilarating feature of the Convention.

Officers elected for the following year were, President, Mrs. John S. Crosby; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. L. Monroe, Washington; Mrs. E. B. Campton, Irvington, N. J.; Mrs. J. D. Mills, Boston; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, Brooklyn; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. L. R. Schofield, Germantown; Treasurer, Dr. Mary Hussey, East Orange; Auditor, Mrs. M. R. Ryan, Brooklyn; Executive Committee, Dr. Anna Lund, Chicago and Mrs. R. Helm, Adrian, Mich.

The Bulletin of the University of Montana gives its course of study in Political Economy, which includes the "historical method of presentation" of the doctrines of Adam Smith, Ricardo, Carl Marx, Henry George; and others. Practical application will be made by the study of present laws. The course of Modern Economics includes the Principles of Taxation and the Single Tax Theory.

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