

debates, and has others in prospect. The chief argument against is that of "confiscation," and the "poor widder."

At this writing it is expected that the local measure for Multnomah county, embracing 38 per cent. of the land values and population of Oregon, will be out for initiative signatures the last ten days in March. It will be a strong, long, fundamental step, and put the people effected into a higher rank of Single Tax communities than nearly any on the globe. Other counties may follow with the same or similar measures.

A State wide measure taxing water power and franchises and exempting some personal property, will be out for signatures at the same time. It is not fundamental; but "there's a reason" for its being.

Even the Socialists are considering the land question; and at their State convention in a few days will attempt to agree on some initiative measure.

"The Single Tax Broacher" is in press at this writing, and is compiled and issued by W. D. Wagon, W. G. Eggleston and the undersigned. It has over 16,000 words of reading matter and a lot of ads. There will be 50,000 copies distributed free. Others may follow.

At first the plute press was disposed to go wild with delight over the skirmish in Seattle, but on second thought the election of George F. Cotterill as Mayor, in spite of the assaults on him as a Single Taxer, is not regarded as a plutocratic victory, even if a half way and probably unconstitutional land tax measure was not accepted.

Seattle has a mayor who knows why 25,000 people have left Seattle in the last eighteen months, and why 25,000 more are going to British Columbia. And he is not going to hide his light under an office desk.—ALFRED D. CRIDGE, Portland, Oregon.

THE SEATTLE SINGLE TAX FIGHT.

It was or rather is a great fight, for in the immortal words of Finnegan, it is "Off again, on again, gone again." Our new initiative petition for a Single Tax amendment to our charter is now being

printed and before this reaches you we will be getting signatures. I enclose a copy.

Margaret Haley of Chicago, California and Seattle was a human dynamo of energy, eloquence and pertinacity. She was never still and when not speaking was handing out literature.

She has a flutelike voice of remarkable carrying power and is a wonderfully effective street speaker.

I heard her only twice in halls, for on all other occasions we were assigned to different meetings, but she made converts everywhere she spoke, and the unusual spectacle of a charming, vivacious woman speaking on the streets drew such crowds that she undoubtedly did her best work there.

We fought the best organized opposition that the Single Tax has ever encountered. We are told that the big property owners spent over twenty thousand dollars in fighting it directly.

Hiram C. Gill, the mayoralty candidate of the alliance of vice, liquor and special privilege interests, is said to have spent fifty thousand dollars more and in nearly every speech he attacked the Single Tax and George F. Cotterill because he was a Single Taxer, open and avowed.

The day after election Gill openly conceded that his defeat was due to the Single Taxers, but his adroit attacks also had much to do with the Single Tax defeat. In addition, the two leading papers had daily editorials attacking the Single Tax and we had no effective way to answer. The *Post Intelligencer's* favorite argument was that it was unconstitutional and the *Times* scared small home owners by declaring that its adoption would mean the foreclosure of all mortgages.

But for the complications of the mayoralty campaign and of voting on twenty six other charter amendments, on over eight million dollars of bonds and of important civic and harbor plans we might have won. But next year we will have a clearer field and we are starting the fight now.

Twenty thousand of those who voted for mayor did not vote at all on the amendments.

If each of the sixteen thousand Single Taxers here will convert one anti within

the next year we will win next time. We are not discouraged, but see victory in sight. We forced the enemy into the open and compelled them to organize and to talk back.

Many influences, not Single Tax, are fighting for us. For instance the Port Commission severely scored the land owners whose greed is ruining Seattle by driving industries away and the Municipal League got out a very effective Anti-Monopoly cartoon and condemned the landlord trust.

George F. Cotterill, our new mayor, is one of the Vice Presidents of our Tax Reform League which made the fight for the Single Tax amendment.

No city on earth has a more devoted and self sacrificing band of Single Taxers than Seattle, and their energy, persistence, ability and altruism will bring success next year.—WILL ATKINSON.

THE LEADING LAND REFORMERS OF GERMANY.

There will be found elsewhere in this number portraits of many of the leading land reformers of Germany, and our readers will be interested in their personalities.

Adolph Damaschke, perhaps the most active with tongue and pen, was born November 24, 1865, and from 1886 to 1896 was a teacher in the schools of Berlin. He has been one of the foremost leaders of the land reform movement since 1896. He is the editor of *Bodenreform* and the *Year Book of Bodenreform*. He is the author of a number of works, among which are *The Problems of Communal Politics*, *Bodenreform*, from which some striking extracts will be found on page 1 of this number, *History of Political Economy*, *History of the German Land Reform Movement*, and *the Art of Popular Speaking in Public*.

Prof. Adolph Wagner, Honorary President of the League of German Land Reformers, and member of the Prussian Upper House, was born in Erlangen, in 1835. He stands high among the fiscal and economic authorities of the empire, and has been professor of political economy

at Berlin since 1870. His work on *Political Economy and Financial Systems* is regarded as the standard work in Germany.

J. K. Victor, Vice President of the League of German Land Reformers, is president of the Chamber of Commerce at Bremen. He is the author of many essays on land reform in German colonies, and has written much and well against monopolies and German colonial concessions.

Rev. Ludwig Weber, another of the vice presidents of the League, born 1846, is one of the most energetic leaders of social reform in Germany, and is especially interested in sanitary buildings for the working classes. He is president of the League of Protestant Workmen.

A. Pohlman was led to study the Single Tax question and to become an enthusiastic supporter of land reform by his experience gained as a merchant in the Brazils. He was the founder and for 15 years the chief of a commercial establishment ranking among the first of its kind and still bearing his name in two of the northern States of that country. During that period extensive travels in the old and the new world brought him into contact with many men and many countries, and the various conditions under which they live heightened his interest in national economy.

In 1893 he retired from business, settling down in his native country, but with prolonged stays abroad chiefly in England and France. His views soon brought him into touch with Mr. Damaschke and since he joined the League, he has been one of his most ardent and faithful supporters. His principal aim has been to find out what Henry George's theory means, if shaped into practical acts of law and how it may be adapted to existing forms of national conditions without barring, what seems to many of our German friends, the course of historical evolution.

Beside numerous contributions to the *Bodenreform* and other periodicals, pamphlets on the agricultural problem (*Not der Deutschen Landwirtschaft und die Bodenreform*), the question of the German Midland Canal (*Die vergessene Grundrente*), and the land valuation (*Der erste Schritt zu gesunden Finanzen*), he has written