

In almost every issue of their publications they have articles in its favor, written by the editors or by the secretary of the Michigan Site Value Tax League.

The petition now being circulated was first distributed about the beginning of last November. Already 30,000 signatures of the 65,152 needed in order to have the amendment placed on the official ballot have been obtained, and solicitors are constantly offering their services in territory in which the Single Tax and site value taxation are new problems to a very great majority of the voters. A number who have written to the secretary of the League insisting that "everything should be taxed," have been converted to the idea that it is really good policy and good sense to exempt some things. Their opposition has been changed to approval of the amendment, for heretofore not a few farmers have been afraid to make improvements or buy better stock, or do anything that would indicate prosperity, knowing that to do so would put a perpetual burden on them in the shape of higher taxes.

A Wolverine farmer writes: "I will try and get some signatures for you." One from Clare says: "Am with you; will try to obtain signatures at once." Says an Adrian farmer: "Will get as many signatures as possible." From Albion comes: "I am sending you 100 signatures for site value tax." From Lansing: "I have 147 signatures on my petitions. Hope to make it 250 so that I shall be entitled to a set of the George works." A Tecumseh Single Taxer says: "Am getting signatures. Mr. G. has a petition and is doing finely. He is located in his own jewelry store and gets them when coming in. Am unable to get so-called business men or bankers; they are afraid it will interfere with their business. Am located and work in a wire fence plant; got about 30 there. Oh, but most people are awfully ignorant of the tax problem."

Others decline to do anything; some show decided opposition; a few plead ignorance; many are silent. These latter are at least in a receptive mood. Those who are loaded down with unproductive real estate, and no market (for Michigan's recent farm land boom has receded), yell "Murder," and insist that the country will go to the bow wows under site value taxation.

The proposition that these activities for site value taxation be halted to see the outcome of the California campaign is not meeting the approval of thoughtful Michigan Single Taxers. While the Great Adventure is important, it is not all-important to the extent of neglecting all other localities. Indeed, to desert at this time such a fruitful field as Michigan, albeit practically virgin soil, is to lose much of what has already been accomplished in the matter of arousing interest in the taxation problem, and would be a dreadful waste of energy and money.

If the necessary number of signatures are obtained by the first of July, the proposition will be put up to the voters four months later, at the regular State election in November. If the required number is not obtained by that date, then the proposition will go over until the Spring election in 1919, thus adding at least four months

to the time in which signatures must be submitted to the Secretary of State for verification. This makes the question of submission practically a certainty, with the probability that at least 100,000 signatures will be obtained for the proposition.

JUDSON GRENELL.

Texas

I wish that I could report progress of work in Texas so that all your readers could understand it. Someone has said that success is made up of many little successes, and our success in Texas is measured by that standard. We did not start in with the intention of putting something over on Texas, but rather to show the need for Single Tax and that nothing else would meet that need. "The land question" has been more or less of an issue in every campaign for the past four or five years. All the candidates for Governor this year felt called upon to make some pronouncement for its solution. Aside from winning the war this "land question" comes first, and the Single Taxers are doing their share to keep it in the forefront.

The State Federation of Labor and several of the State Conventions of Crafts have unqualifiedly made a demand for the submission of a Single Tax amendment by the next legislature. A joint legislative board made up of the Legislative Agent of the State Federation and members from six or seven crafts with a representative of the Single Tax League of Texas will place before all the candidates for State offices and members of the House and Senate, the direct question of how they stand on the submission of a Single Tax amendment to the constitution, along with some other labor measures. This will give us a line on every member of the House and Senate. These question blanks will not only be sent out before the primaries of July 27th but they will be followed up again between the primaries and the general election in November. This last move of the Single Tax League is but the logical outcome of the many moves made with organized labor, during the past three years. It is one of the many little successes.

Our work with organized labor can be measured more definitely than any other for the simple reason that labor is the most effectively organized of all groups in the State.

There are some drawbacks to this kind of campaign. While it is most effective and when finally successful will give the best result, yet it is the hardest kind of a campaign for which to get money. There is no dramatic appeal in it. There is but little of the evangelistic spirit. There are no shouts of victory. There is no planning to get the best of some group or hit the heads of particular individuals. It is merely working along the line of good common sense on a principle that the simplest minds can understand. It needs to be often told and retold. It needs to be shown to the farmer, to the wage earner, to the business man and always from the point of view of the man or the group.

The League has lived for three years without a break and without friction. We expect to continue without a break until the Single Tax is written into the constitution of Texas which will probably be done in 1920. Some extraordinary condition growing out of the war may postpone it, but I can think of no condition that will postpone that day for any great length of time. WM. A. BLACK.

Other News Summarized

WE do not print much news from California in this issue, but hope in our next number to review the campaign to date. The committee in charge of the Great Adventure are in hopes of being able to file their Initiative Demand at the end of May. They are hopeful that this will contain not less than one hundred thousand names. The so-called People's Anti-Single Tax League are hard at work in the endeavor to defeat the measure, and the *Great Adventure*, the four page bulletin issued by the campaign committee, prints a list of the officers and directors of this Anti-Single Tax League which shows a majority of them interested, directly or indirectly, in real estate—some of them owners of large tracts of idle land.

The recent accession to the ranks of the Great Adventure of Judge James G. Maguire supplies the movement with a tower of strength. Judge Maguire, as long as the Equity Tax League measure was before the Single Taxers of California, refused to support the Great Adventure. He now writes to Luke North pledging his hearty support and best wishes "for the success of your brave fight for the equal and inalienable right of mankind to the use of the God-given earth."

The Single Tax party in New York, with the small number of workers available, have a gigantic task before them, which is the securing of the needed 12,000 names to petitions, to get the Single Tax on the ballot. To make the matter perfectly secure the aim will be 25,000 names. Messrs. Robinson and Fowles are now touring the entire State in the interests of the petition, for the law requires fifty signatures for each county. They report great success in some counties and much enthusiasm, with utter dearth of Single Tax sentiment in many places, where no missionary and no literature have apparently ever reached. However, as we go to press, Broome, Delaware, Chenango, Seneca, Tompkins, Cortland and Tioga are safe for the required number, and arrangements are being made at the rate of a county a day to take care of the sixty-two counties in the State, with the exception of New York where it is anticipated the necessary additional names may be secured.

In Broome County a county committee has been organized: Edw. M. Tichenor, chairman, with H. A. Miller, Augustus Babcock, Chas. O'Mara, Chas. Le Baron Goeller and Frank W. Cole.

Edw. P. Vanderbosh, of Auburn, is chairman for Cayuga, Chas. C. Inshaw for Seneca, and A. M. Conger for Onondaga. In the latter county Miss Elizabeth Dixson has charge of the petitions.

Australia

SENATOR GRANT continues his attack in the Australian Parliament against the incidence of Federal Taxation. In his speech of Jan. 23d-24th he demands a substantial increase in the Federal Land Tax. His whole speech is peculiarly appropriate to the condition in our own country. We have space, however, for only a paragraph or two:

"I wish to show Senator Millen where he can get the necessary revenue to pay increased wages to soldiers, an increased allowance to dependants of the soldiers, and increased pensions to the soldiers' and sailors' widows; also, incidentally, but none the less important, to put real life into his so-called repatriation scheme, by making land available for returned soldiers, as well as for others who may desire to use the land of the Commonwealth...."

"Mr. Fisher, the Finance Minister, said the country was prepared to send the last man and spend the last shilling. We know very well that he did not mean the last man and the last shilling. We have not commenced to take the last shilling; we have not commenced to think about it. We have borrowed £189,000,000, and the only money we have paid out of revenue is £25,000,000. Instead of taxing amusements and single men, or collecting taxation through the Customs, the people who should pay the taxation of the country are those who own the country—the landowners...."

"Landowners certainly know how to look after themselves. Such men are prepared to support the imposition of Customs duties, income tax, war-time profits taxation, a tax that will fall on widows who visit picture shows; and, in short, any taxation except a land values tax. They know that while they hold the land values, they are in a position to compel the rest of the community to remain, in effect, their slaves."

Spain

THE attitude of the Roman Catholic Church toward the philosophy and fiscal policy advocated by Henry George is still a subject of controversy in South America and Spain. The question was settled definitely in North America by clear and unchallenged decisions of the Papal Nuncio, Mons. Satolli, in his settlement of the famous McGlynn case. The decision in favor of Dr. McGlynn and the declaration that the doctrines preached by him in his campaign on behalf of George's economic and fiscal policy contained nothing contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, have evidently not been widely or authoritatively made known to the Spanish-speaking peoples. The Feb. number of *El Impuesto Unico*, organ of the Spanish Single Tax League, is trying to make good the omission. It contains an article upon the subject by Dr. Felix Vitale, president of the South American Single Tax Committee, and also a reproduction of another contributed by Father L. A. Lambert to the *Freeman's Journal* of Dec. 5th, 1903.