

are not necessary in order to care for the returning soldiers. The problems of reconstruction, of unemployment, of social unrest, of demobilization, can all be solved by a straight-from-the-shoulder brand of Single Tax.

In the last issue I mentioned that a bill would be introduced in Congress to provide for a Department of Education and Human Welfare. The bill was introduced last week by Mr. Baer. It is a bill that would fully supplement any action looking towards opening up the land of the country. It provides for the establishment of agricultural-industrial schools that are to be self-supporting. Upon the completion of the course the government is to let the student have sufficient land to start for himself and lend him the money to carry him along until he becomes self-supporting. The government is to grant the land only for occupancy and use. There is to be no fee simple title. There can be no more speculation in public lands, and the government can acquire by purchase whatever land may be needed for this purpose, if the public domain is not yet suitable for the purpose. It is a comprehensive bill and should receive early action.

B. F. LINDAS

Michigan

HARRY A. WHITE, ex-representative of the legislature from Grand Rapids, advises the Michigan Site-Value-Tax League against trying to influence the legislature to submit to the voters this Spring a constitutional amendment for site-value taxation. He considers that neither the legislators now grinding out laws at Lansing, nor the people who must eventually decide are sufficiently educated at this time to do the right thing. Mr. White is a Single Taxer, and has had experience in trying to induce unwilling legislators to pass laws for the general good.

F. F. Ingram, Single Taxer, well known in the world of radical ideas, who is now conducting an open forum in Detroit, where all kinds of radical ideas are championed, and which is crowded to the doors almost every Sunday afternoon has met with a loss of \$100,000 by having his factory catch fire from the printing office in the basement. It is hoped that the loss is fully covered by insurance, but this can only be determined after a careful investigation of what can be salvaged from the ruins.

The Michigan legislature is now wrestling with a proposal that there be levied on business men and other enterprising citizens a tax on incomes, to supplement that already levied by the general government. To do this will require a constitutional amendment, to be submitted to the voters in April, or in the Fall of 1920. A good number of Single Taxers are saying: "Serves business men right for not taking more interest in the proposed constitutional amendment for site-value-taxation, which would enable the State to obtain ample revenue without discouraging either industry or enterprise." Others are certain this movement is only another instance of the fact that

society is bound to try out every scheme of taxation before it finally accepts the right one.

Michigan Business Farming, having a large circulation in the State, has freely opened its columns to a thorough discussion of site-value taxation ideas. Some farmers cannot distinguish the difference between land and land value.

WARREN S. BLAUVELT, one of the vice-presidents of the Michigan Site-Value-Tax League, and who for over a year has been in Washington in governmental employ in charge of the coke distribution of the country, is back again in Detroit, as the fuel "lid" has been raised. With his return, the campaign among business men for site-value taxation is to be renewed with redoubled energy.

Mr. Blauvelt's services in the matter of addressing business men's meetings are being solicited for more and more by business men themselves. His address before the Michigan gas men, in which the necessity of better taxation methods was ably put, received recognition by being printed for general distribution among those making gas.

A. FALKEL, of Grand Rapids, believes that tax reformers of the Single Tax stripe should make use of the moving picture to teach economic truths. He writes to the secretary of the League advocating the immediate creation of appropriate films that would tell the story pictorially. "In my opinion," he says, "it would not only reach multitudes that lectures and literature are lost on, but it would appeal to women."

As MICHIGAN now has woman suffrage, giving at least 600,000 almost totally economically ignorant voters an opportunity to guide "the ship of state," an entirely new field of propaganda has been opened for site-value tax education. And it is the belief of many that a new line of literature must be prepared—something that appeals directly to the home-makers and the class who spend most of the wages earned by wealth producers.

While there are many women's clubs in the state, few of them take any interest in matters so vitally affecting society as the incidence of taxation. And yet these women are expected to vote intelligently. JUDSON GRENNELL.

Texas

I HAVE SEEN YOUR AD," a State Senator recently said when I was introduced to him. Every member of the House and Senate has seen our ad. They all know something of the Single Tax though with many the knowledge is very vague. Some of the members of the House and Senate are openly against our proposition and at the same time most of them confess that they do not understand it. What is worse for them these same fellows confess to no plan for changing the present burdensome system.

I am in receipt of a letter from one of our State Senators who opens by saying, "I am unalterably opposed to your Single Tax proposition." The next paragraph in his letter shows that he is wholly ignorant of the principle, and he concludes by saying that he "will fight any proposal to

submit a Single Tax remedy." Again he adds, "I am not capable of offering anything that will solve it (the tax problem) fairly." He says he has given considerable attention to it and finds that he knows but little about it. All this comes from a man elected to enact the laws for our people.

The fact is these men represent the public, and the public is not so much against Single Tax as ignorant of it. At whose door can we lay this ignorance? Have the Single Taxers been intelligently working to reach the mass of the people? How much organized propaganda has ever been done compared with the organized propaganda that selfish interests have carried on? What a pitiful showing the Single Taxers make compared with privilege in its various endeavors to reach the people. We have left the work of education almost entirely to a few self sacrificing men here and there who from the very poverty of their means discredited their work to a great extent. The Single Taxer must learn to go to the people and this takes time and money. Big business with its followers and hangers-on has plenty of money for political and propaganda purposes. The National Security League reports a budget of more than \$6,000,000. The National Manufacturers Association has some \$500,000 a year to work with. It is safe to presume that the propaganda for the return of the railroads to the private owners has an unlimited source of funds. Those of us who are familiar with news items and insinuating articles bearing on this railroad question can easily understand that funds are available without stint.

The contending forces today are accumulated wealth, bottomed on privilege, on the one hand, and public opinion, unorganized and groping on the other. Organizations fighting for privilege raise money and select men to make the fight. They never question how the work is done so that the ultimate end is kept in sight and attained.

Single Taxers in common with other reform movements put up but little money and continually raise petty questions as to just what you are doing with it and what the results are. This office has had the munificent sum of \$2,069 with which to carry on a campaign in Texas in 1918. The Texas League will *muddle* through in some way. There is too much interest in the subject of taxation for sane Single Taxers to neglect the opportunity. Of course the opportunity will be here as long as the present system of taxation is maintained, but we may wait too long; we may wait until the mass of men become desperate and irrational. Frequently men say, "Our present system is all wrong and Single Tax is the only rational system, but I am not going to bother about it; I can get mine anyway." "After me the deluge." But the deluge may come while they are still here, and if it should, these same men will feel themselves martyrs and victims.

The situation in Texas is much the same as elsewhere. The interest in our movement is probably more widely distributed in this State than most others, save possibly those that have had political campaigns. The very nature of our propaganda for the past three years and more would

bring about this distributed interest. The high school debates of 1916-17 brought the Single Tax into thousands of homes. During the past year the headquarters has sent out hundreds of editorials that have been published, and references to Single Tax in the country papers have grown to be quite common occurrences. If we had an annual budget of \$15,000 for the next two years Texas would become a Single Tax State. In this relation \$15,000 a year spent regularly month by month for these two years would be worth more than \$50,000 spent in a two month's pre-election campaign. Such consideration as we may have before the Legislature this year will be due to the steady propaganda of the past three years. We are in a position in this Legislature to receive consideration, or else we will be able to put the opposition in a very uncomfortable position.

The political trimmers propose to go into the colonization business copied after the California measure of two years ago. The presidents of several Chambers of Commerce have appointed themselves a steering committee to advise with the Legislature. They propose that the State should buy at least 100,000 acres of land to be divided up and sold as workable farms. This would provide 2,000 farms of fifty acres each. I imagine they will be proud of their accomplishment if this is done, as it will involve a business undertaking of many millions. It will provide 2,000 farms as against 250,000 tenant farmers needing farms, and a due proportion of 180,000 returning soldiers that this is intended to provide for.

It is an alluring outlook for the landless man. What a pitiful showing it will make for the business and political leaders of our State to fall for. Our opportunity is at hand in Texas if ever we are to have one. What do the Single Taxers of the State and the country at large think of it?

WM. A. BLACK

The Great Game and The Latest Tip

THE United States is approaching a tremendous real estate activity. This will mean advancing prices, and the time to buy real estate is on a rising market. The instances are few where real estate has declined in value to a very great extent, and values seldom, if ever, have gone back to their original level.—*Real Estate News*, Chicago, November, 1918.

The rounding up of Democracy goes merrily on, in the midst of hymns to her honor and glory! Let us build higher the walls of the corral that confines a politically free people from exercising its economic right of access to natural opportunities, in the land it calls its own!

Do the gamblers really think their sport is to go on for ever? Is it possible the maddest amongst them fail to see the hand-writing on the wall, though its ominous import they may not apprehend! Would that they were capable of a saving moment of reason!