

W. J. Wallace on California

WORD has been received from Mr. W. L. Ross that, because of the defection of the Los Angeles Single Tax League, the Great Adventure organization will be unable to get the signatures necessary to an initiative petition to place the Single Tax constitutional amendment on the California ballot for the coming election.

To those of us who looked with hopeful eyes to the strong and courageous leadership of Luke North in the campaigns of 1916 and 1918, and to the continued public interest and approval displayed by the vote of nearly 200,000 in the election of 1920, this abandonment by the California leaders of further political effort will require a much more satisfactory explanation than has been given, to relieve them from the reproach of betraying the voters who have supported them, the contributors who have sustained them and the Single Taxers throughout the world who have earnestly hoped for their success.

Indifferent and fainthearted, they have retreated to the easy and peaceful programme of education.

That programme does not necessitate results in any specific time, nor does it require any specific results at any time. It can be indefinitely prolonged. Under it no test occurs to determine whether more people are learning about the Single Tax than are forgetting about it.

Education proceeds best in quiet rooms where the student, calm and undisturbed, can follow the arguments of Henry George or of Patrick Edward Dove to their conclusion. But students are rare. Most people learn by contact with their fellow men, in their families, their schools, their business and social relations; and what is interesting to the public at large is certain to have some effect on them. What is not of public interest seldom reaches them and the advocates of new and unaccepted doctrines are usually disregarded until a general interest is created.

If education is the desideratum, the facilities for it in California under the election laws of that State are vastly superior to any other kind of educational effort.

The character of the education that may be expected can be judged from the following extract from a recently published letter by the publicity director of the Los Angeles Single Tax League. "When the voters feel themselves reassured that the Single Tax will not disturb their title to land or other property in any way, shape or manner, the measure can be put on the ballot and carried."

This surely cannot mean that only the title to land will not be disturbed, but that the rent of the land will not be taken for the public. So, to make the assurance still more satisfying and to give the necessary definiteness to it, there should, of course, be added some such phrase as the following: "and will not in any way interfere with the emoluments now drawn or which are expected to be drawn from land."

If this is Single Tax, another name must be found for those of us who do not subscribe to this statement as our belief.

In recent campaigns the interest of the California voters was so aroused that the opposition became apprehensive. The speculators in land privileges (among whom, regrettably, are some who claim to be Single Taxers), recognized the danger and an Anti-Single Tax League was formed. This opposition would have forced the question to the front of public discussion. What a grand opportunity for educational work!

The California leaders then withdraw and leave the enemy in undisturbed possession of the State.

WM. J. WALLACE,
National Chairman, Single Tax Party.

California Campaign of 1922

TO ALL SINGLE TAXERS

THE 1922 California Campaign for the Single Tax Amendment is on again. After having been abandoned by the active workers in that state largely because of fear that sufficient funds could not be raised, it has now been given a new start with new money and additional workers.

Friends of the movement in the east got together and have raised sufficient funds to start the machinery going again—confident that Single Taxers all over the country would rally to support of this great movement in California.

To get the Amendment on the ballot, 65,000 signatures must be obtained. Can this trick be turned? Yes, it can be by supporting the Committee of the East.

The Committee of the East, in conjunction with workers in California, plead for immediate aid. With the Amendment on the ballot let the people of California decide! It is not for us to speculate on the outcome. But the torch must be lifted, not lowered. It is for us to go forward with the work of Henry George and not fall supine by the wayside. A movement which has always secured a vote of upwards of 200,000 must be kept alive. To stop now would be to desert these real friends of the cause.

Uphold the Committee! Renew the aid given in previous campaigns in California, and we are certain of success. Mail your contributions without delay to the Treasurer of the Committee,

E. YANCEY COHEN,
Care of Columbia Trust Company,
125th St. and 7th Ave.,
New York City.

Mexico

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR CALLES is an earnest advocate of a project recently discussed by a congress of Mexican mayors to tax all idle lands.

The Secretary pointed out that such a tax in the State of Sonora had an extremely beneficial result, better crops being gathered than in many years previous.