

The causes of the defeat may be sought for in many directions. Yet after all is said and done, there is but one cause. There remains a vast deal of education yet to be undertaken before a permanent victory for the Single Tax can be secured. The knowledge of the principles for which we contend must be made so general a possession in the minds of the people that the silly arguments of the *Post Intelligencer* will cease to be printed in any newspaper that respects the intelligence of its readers. The Single Taxers of Seattle, if they would win a victory in the next election, must now start out on a campaign of propaganda that will acquaint every voter in Seattle with the arguments in favor of the removal of taxes from improvements.

There are other incidental reasons for the small vote cast for the Single Tax amendments, which may be briefly indicated. It was, first, a decided disadvantage that there were two Single Tax amendments to be voted for, and another serious handicap were the number of amendments on the ballot, 27 in all. This was confusing, and prevented the two amendments from receiving the proper attention of the voter. It is doubtful even with the very aggressive and active campaign waged by the Single Taxers of Seattle that our cause received anything like its proper share of consideration.

There was no newspaper support for the Single Tax amendments, except the *Star*, and the movement was persistently misrepresented. This misrepresentation could not be overcome in time. If the story of Vancouver could have been laid before the people in its true light the result might have been different, for the experience of this Canadian city was not set before the people. If the Vancouver Number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, in which the story of Vancouver is told in detail, had been placed in the hands of the voters there would have been a very visible increase in the Single Tax vote.

The idea that the measure was unconstitutional also operated to prevent the full vote in favor of Single Tax and this notion was not confined to the opponents of the measures. Many votes were prob-

ably lost owing to the attack upon the constitutionality of the measures.

The Single Taxers expended in the fight \$2,145.30, and splendid work was done by Miss. Margaret Haley, Thorwald Seigfried, O. T. Erickson, Will Atkinson and many others. Alfred D. Cridge, of Portland, Oregon, the valued Oregon correspondent of the REVIEW, made eighty speeches during the campaign, and there were scores of public debates.

In enumerating the newspaper support received, we have omitted the *Western Woman Voter*, which for the time made itself a Single Tax periodical. Its highly intelligent presentation of our doctrines must have won many votes.

When the result was known Oliver T. Erickson wrote as follows to the *Star*, which will show the spirit animating our friends in the face of defeat, a spirit which will win coming victories:

"If the Single Tax is defeated, we are ready to begin the fight again. It was unfortunate that so many issues were before the people at the same time. We shall go on, and on, unmindful of temporary set-backs, until this thing which we are working for, fighting for, is understood. Then we will win. The *Star* made a remarkable campaign for Cotterill and deserves all the credit."

OREGON.

Oregon is moving along very jauntily to the State election in November confident of being able to survive and thrive even if from thirty to forty measures are on the ballot. Among them will be at least six tax measures, and that the question of the Single Tax cannot be treated with silent contempt is clearly apparent. The official organ of the State Grange of Oregon and Washington, the *Pacific Grange Bulletin*, has articles pro and con in every issue. The editor deplores the fact that the arguments against are such poor dope, and says he is anxious to publish any argument against it, but has not received any yet that amount to much.

W. S. U'Ren has had two or three

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