

the City Council, the real estate exchange and several other bodies; and Charles Frederick Adams, of the Henry George Lecture Association, spent several days here last week, getting in some most effective work.

Mr. Adams addressed the Political Economy Class at the John Hopkins University. He also spoke before the Advertising Club and the Real Estate Exchange on "Commission Form of Government"; and before the Builders Exchange, the Baltimore Chapter, American Banking Institute, and the Federation of Labor on "Rational Tax Reform."

Everywhere he met with responsive audiences, and caused an eager demand for literature including the sale of a number of George's works.

The visits of such men are an inspiration to the Single Taxers and have a wide educational effect upon the community.—
CHAS. J. OGLEB, Baltimore, Md.

OREGON.

The situation in Oregon is beginning to warm up in good shape for an educational campaign on Single Tax principles.

Backed by one of the banking houses of the Standard Oil and one of the big land grabbing families a very active campaign against the Single Tax is being carried on by Charles H. Shields, a grain agent and lawyer of Seattle, whose financial backers in business have been this same "Standard Oiled" bank. He wins the first round with the adoption of a ridiculous and illogically worded set of resolutions against the Single Tax by the Oregon State Grange. He is flooding the State with a yellow-backed novel full of silly and contradictory bugaboo statements, skillfully worded so as to catch the prejudices of the people. An amendment repealing county home rule taxation and forever forbidding the Single Tax is being actively circulated. The opponents are compelling the question to be discussed and they are badly frightened

and thoroughly unprincipled and unscrupulous.

The Grange was "bamboozled" by two country lawyers and the Seattle lawyer, all agents for big landed interests, who got together on a resolution committee and put through in the last hours some of the queerest economic matter ever concocted. Among other resolutions this precious gang put over was one declaring that in order to permit the vast water power of the State to be used in industry it should not be taxed!

The Oregon Grange allows to lawyers, real estate speculators, and professional men the right of membership, and around the cities and town they have quietly worked their way in the last few years to places of power and vantage. Many of the Grangers around Portland have become wealthy in recent years through the enormous development of the city, and they dread any change in taxation. The country Granger is uninformed, his prejudices against the Single Tax excited and his ignorance intensified when possible. Against this steady and deliberate campaign of misrepresentation and absurdity the Single Taxers have not been able to organize thoroughly, relying from necessity on literature that could not be accompanied with personal explanation very much.

The graduated Single Tax amendment is receiving signatures rapidly and will soon be ready for filing. It provides for a graduated tax on land values over \$10,000 belonging to any one person; for taxation of water power, corporation franchises, and for the separate listing of improvements. A man having \$100,000 in land values assessed to him would pay a special tax in addition to regular local revenues of \$1,150. On all over that sum at the rate of \$30 per \$1,000. All improvements and personal property are exempt from taxation, except by vote of people of county.

This measure meets with approval from every man who is not a big speculative holder, or is not so color-blind

and rabid against the principles of the Single Tax as to be incapable of reasoning on any thing connected with the term.

The great weakness of the opposition to the idea of land value taxation is that they have to defend the present system. This they are endeavoring to get around by proposing through the State tax commission four measures, one of which will exempt a limited amount of household furniture, and perhaps tools and machinery.

When the opponents of the Single Tax get to submitting exemption measures we have only to keep up the fight to get them to enlarge the exemptions. A few years ago the proposal to exempt household furniture and farm machinery was opposed as an insidious scheme to slip in Single Tax. Now it is being considered as a splendid thing to head it off with. And thus we move.—

ALFRED D. CRIDGE, Portland, Oregon.

THE MOVEMENT IN PITTSBURG.

The purpose of this communication is to lend encouragement to Single Taxers in other localities who may be inclined to feel discouraged at times over the results they are accomplishing. Pittsburg is a peculiar city for propaganda work of this kind. There are, to be sure, just as clear minded and progressive citizens in Pittsburg as can be found in any other city. The fact that this industrial center is regarded as reactionary in political and economic matters is not due to any inherent fault in its human equipment. Pittsburg is receiving a constant stream of boys and girls from the country, and they are made of the same material as the boys and girls that help make up the population of other cities. Moreover, this city has just as many big and public spirited men as can be found in any American city of like size. This has been proven on several occasions when disasters such as the Johnstown Flood and the San Francisco Earthquake have visited other cities. At such times Pittsburg is always to the front with the most substantial kinds of

aid. Charitable institutions, too, fare as well if not better here than in most cities. All this goes to show that the human material of Pittsburg in the rough is much the same as in other places, and that if the surface is scratched the individuals will be found to be about the same as they are elsewhere.

Why is it then that Pittsburg, which moves so fast industrially, is so slow to advance politically? Why is it that we see economic advantages only after they are tried by others? My answer is—Pittsburg newspapers. It is my firm conviction that in no city of the United States are the newspapers so completely and abjectly under the domination of the great corporations. Reporters complain that they are not allowed to tell the truth on matters that are in the least unfavorable to the Interests. They are taught that corporations are sacred and must not be criticized adversely, lest "business" be disturbed. And unrelenting are these corporations in their punishment of a local newspaper that gives the least indication of insurgency. For example, only a few months ago the newspapers began to complain bitterly about the street car service. The Street Car Company gave their "orders" and every paper hushed up at once, except one. That newspaper, however, discovered in a few days that the Street Car Company would not carry its papers. The case was carried into court where it was decided that the Street Car Company was not a "common carrier," and therefore could not be compelled to carry the papers in question. The newspaper then bought automobiles and delivered its own papers, but after several months trial this proved too expensive, so it decided to cease its attacks on the Street Car Company, and as a result their papers are again hauled on street cars. It might also be interesting to know that since then not a word of complaint has appeared in any of our newspapers about our intolerable street car service.

Of course this same condition exists to a certain degree in every city, but the point I wish to make is that in no other city are the columns of the newspapers so thoroughly antagonistic to fundamental economic