

in taxation for cities and counties"; Mr. Foote *did* get "into close relations with the New York Tax Reform Association"; the New York Tax Reform Association "*has* drifted into opposition" to its original policy of home rule in taxation.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### WORD FROM OREGON.

When the majority of the people understand a question they vote intelligently and for their best interests. The "composite citizen," as Senator Bourne calls the people en masse, is a reliable citizen even if he does "see ghosts" sometimes.



Oregon's composite citizen has decided that he doesn't wish to decorate the Initiative and Referendum with hobbles and handcuffs.

The legislature of 1911 thought the composite citizen might be deceived by a so-called "majority rule" amendment into doing that; so it offered, without any request that was ever made public, an amendment to fix the Initiative by providing that a Constitutional amendment cannot be adopted except by a majority of all the votes cast at the election. That is, the legislature presented an amendment meaning this: If the whole number of votes cast at an election is 140,000, then a Constitutional amendment must receive at least 70,001 votes in order to be adopted, even if no more than 400 ballots are actually marked against it.

But that amendment applied only to Constitutional amendments, and Big Business wants that brand of "majority rule" for laws that are voted on; so some of its agents initiated a "majority rule" amendment to apply to laws as well as to amendments. The voters rejected both those amendments.



Big Business had two pet bills on the ballot—one to prohibit boycotting or picketing, and another to prohibit street speaking in any town of 5,000 or more inhabitants without a written permit from the mayor. Those pets were slaughtered by the voters.



After six unsuccessful attempts to get the ballot, the women of Oregon now have it, and there are many indications, even so soon after the election, that the women of this State intend to get acquainted with political questions.



While the Graduated Tax and the County Exemption amendments have been voted down by very large majorities, no Oregon Singletaxer is discouraged.

There is no reason for discouragement. The official vote is not yet known, but we do know that a very large minority can be depended on in the next campaign, and in succeeding campaigns until Oregon finally adopts the Singletax.

How did it happen?

It's as simple as one of Sherlock Holmes' deductions. The majority of the Oregon majority was stampeded in the last two or three weeks of the campaign by quarter-page, half-page and full-page advertisements in the newspapers and by hundreds of thousands of printed cards and circulars, making statements that were as far from the truth as a tariff commission's report. We were smothered by bald and crude but shrewd lies from men who had a large pocketbook interest in stampeding the voters.

Why didn't we "educate" the voters? The power of suggestion is great. A child is easily influenced by the suggestion that in a dark room something is waiting to grab and injure it. In past elections voters have been stampeded by the assertion that a Democratic President means "panic" and ruin. It is useless to ask why voters are not educated out of superstitions.

Into the ears of those who have but little land value, or none at all, the agents of special privilege shouted: "Don't you see that your taxes will be increased if sky-scrapers and department stores, bank buildings and money, factories and railroad locomotives and cars are exempt from taxes?" "Singletax means State ownership of all land. It means State ownership of your land. State ownership of land is the foundation of Singletax. If you don't believe it, read 'Progress and Poverty,' the Singletaxers' bible." Those are merely samples.

It's hard to say which were worse scared during the campaign—the foolers or the fooled; but the foolers are about as badly scared now as they were before election. They suspect something is coming next, but don't know what it is.



There be those who doubt the ability of voters to legislate for themselves, and would sooner trust a legislature than the people. I am not a member of that class. A legislature is as easily deceived as the majority of the voters; a legislature may be easily corrupted, while it is almost impossible to corrupt even a considerable minority of the voters.



In this fight Special Privilege had the active co-operation of the State administration—of every State officer except the Attorney General, and of the State Tax Commission and the legislature. I shed no tears because these public servants, acting wittingly or unwittingly as the agents of Big Business, took that stand; and I bear them no malice. The chickens they have hatched will return home to roost. It won't be long before they will be busy with white-wash brushes trying to paint out the 1912 spots on their records; and what punishment is greater than that of the man who tries to cover a "damned spot" that refuses to "out"?

One effect of the stampede was the repeal of the County Home Rule Tax amendment. It was advertised that the repeal of that amendment would "kill Singletax." The real effect, and the effect desired by Big Business, was to restore the taxing power to the legislature; but that body can't put the "emergency clause" on a tax bill. Anyway, the repeal of

that amendment gives the legislature an opportunity to break a few of its legs if not its neck.' The legislature will meet in January—to play politics. It is a safe bet that the game will be much more exciting after the legislature adjourns. Would that we had a Franklin Hichborn in Oregon to write the true story of the Legislature of 1913.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

819 Belmont St., Portland, Ore.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, November 19, 1912.

### A Correction.

In the list of Singletaxers who were elected to Congress, two weeks ago (current volume, page 1089), Edward Keating was erroneously described as a Progressive. The error came from a slip of the pen and subsequent oversight. Mr. Keating was chosen at the direct primary in Colorado for Congressman-at-large from that State as a candidate of the Democratic Party.

### Election Results—The Presidency.

Official returns, only spasmodically reported in the news dispatches, show thus far the following popular vote for President:

State.	Dem.	Rep.	Prog.	Soc.	Proh.
New Hampshire...	34,725	32,927	17,794	1,980	535
Vermont .....	15,354	23,334	22,973	928	115
Georgia .....	93,171	5,191	22,010	1,014	147

[See current volume, page 1089.]

The vote in California is so close that the way the State has gone, whether for Roosevelt or Wilson, will not be known until the official count is reported. It may not be known until Congress counts the Electoral vote. Reports of the 16 districts gave Roosevelt a plurality over Wilson of 119.

### Election Results—Governors of States.

The following official returns on Governors of States are noted in the news dispatches:

Indiana.—Ralston (Dem.), 275,275; Durbin (Rep.), 142,803; Beveridge (Prog.), 166,054; Reynolds (Soc.), 35,464; Hickman (Proh.), 18,454; Matthews (Soc. L.), 2,884. Democratic plurality over Progressive, 109,221, and over Republican, 132,472.

[See current volume, page 1089.]

### Election Results—Singletax in Oregon.

Detailed reports on Singletax results in Oregon are not yet at hand. It is safe to say, however, that the county measures are defeated by a vote of at least two to one, and that the State-wide graduated land value tax is defeated by about the same proportion in the State at large, but has carried in Coos and Curry counties. [See current volume, page 1091.]

### Election Results—Nebraska.

The Initiative and Referendum was adopted in Nebraska at the recent election. [See current volume, pages 470, 1090.]

### Direct Voting in Colorado.

Several measures were voted on directly by the people of Colorado at the recent election, with the following results:

Defeated.—A measure providing for city home rule in respect of public schools, and for social center uses of school buildings. A court for the regulation of public utility corporations. State-wide prohibition. Authority to search and seize liquor in any house. A race track gambling measure disguised as a "State Fair" bill. A tax commission bill abolishing the State Board of Equalization.

Adopted.—An 8-hour law for women engaged in trades and industries. A mothers' compensation law. An 8-hour law for mining- and smelter-workers. Recall of all elective officials, not excepting judges. Recall of judicial decisions; by limiting to the Supreme Court the right of courts to declare laws unconstitutional, and giving the people power to overrule the decisions of that court in so far as they declare laws unconstitutional. The headless ballot; designed to do away with party distinctions on the official ballot. Home-rule for cities of 20,000 inhabitants. Publication in pamphlet form of all Initiated and Referred measures, with arguments for and against by persons interested in their adoption or rejection, and also of statements by candidates. Requiring proceedings for contempt of court to be tried before another judge than the one offended, and with the aid of a jury.

### A Special Session of Congress.

Upon the eve of his departure for Bermuda on a four weeks' vacation, the President-elect authorized an announcement that he will call a special session of Congress not later than April 15. He said:

I shall call Congress together in extraordinary session not later than April 15. I shall do this not only because I think that the pledges of the Party ought to be redeemed as promptly as possible, but also because I know it to be in the interest of business that all uncertainty as to what the particular