

for their benefit as well as for the benefit of every other man who earns his living, and will hurt nobody but land monopolists, the working farmers will be for the reform to a man.

ROBERT CUMMING.



## SYRACUSE CONVENTION UNBOSSSED.

New York, Oct. 5.

The man who staged the Democratic State Convention at Syracuse, Oct. 1, 1912, was a past master in stage wizardry. There was one poor actor in the company—Alton B. Parker. He could not carry out his part of the program. While the vote for permanent chairman was being taken, Parker sat beside Mr. Murphy, as delegate after delegate stated what he thought of the proceedings. It was an open convention, as far as surface appearances went.

When delegate Mott of Jamestown quoted some of the remarks of William Jennings Bryan, referring to Parker as a reactionary, the applause from the galleries was tremendous. Parker realized at once that while he knew he would be chosen chairman the voters were against him.

The Progressives had no chance to win. The odds were against them, but they made friends by their action on the floor. Osborne led a losing fight, but covered himself with glory. While reading the minority report of the resolutions committee (he being the minority), he made a "bad break," but it worked out in his favor. The spokesman for the Boss rushed to the platform in defense of the machine, and admitted that Mr. Murphy was in full control of the convention. There was one charge that the satellite would not answer, the one made by Sagin of Poughkeepsie, that if the delegates were free to express their own view, Parker would not get 100 votes for chairman. A number of the delegates applauded, but it took the audience by storm. The Baltimore convention was still fresh in their minds.

Parker's address was flat and halting. He was evidently hurt by the lashing of the opposition, and was so tiresome that Murphy yawned several times. "I am a Progressive," was his opening remark. He tried to prove it by the fact that he once invited "the gentleman from Lincoln" to visit him and the invitation was accepted. He did not dare mention the name of Bryan for fear of an expression from the audience.

After the nominations were made and the roll was called, some of the up-State counties voted as a unit; but when New York, with 105 delegates, and Kings with 69, were reached, the county chairman requested that the roll of delegates be called. This action pleased the audience. They were in favor of an open convention. It appealed to them. It was something new. But it did not take long to see that Boss Murphy had his hand on the lever, most of the delegates from Greater New York voting for any name they could think of.

When it was seen that Sulzer on the third ballot had a majority of the up-State delegates, the county chairman of New York and Kings voted the delegation as a unit. The delegates were not consulted; they did as they were told.

The rest of the ticket was made up by the Boss

in "room 216," and put through without a dissenting vote.

Sulzer's nomination had been sanctioned by the State machine, immediately after Straus was nominated on the Bull Moose ticket.

JOSEPH H. FINK.



## TAXATION HOME RULE IN CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.

The California League of Municipalities, which at its session in Santa Barbara a year ago adopted resolutions in favor of giving cities power to adopt local systems of taxation, has this year met in Berkeley, at the College of Mines building of the University of California. The following resolution was on the program for discussion on the 25th:

Resolved: That the city officials of California be and they are hereby requested to do all in their power to secure the adoption of the Constitutional amendment providing for Home Rule in Taxation.

The leader for the affirmative was Mayor J. Stitt Wilson of Berkeley.

It is worthy of note that not one of those who opposed the amendment is a member of the League of Municipalities. The opposition came from two University professors and an attorney.

In order that the members might properly consider the subject, the vote was postponed to the 27th. Upon being taken, 73 favored the home rule amendment and only 15 opposed it. This action practically means adoption of the amendment.



Our success is due chiefly to Mayor Wilson and H. A. Mason, secretary of the League. Mr. Mason was chosen to write the argument in favor of the amendment. It is printed along with the amendment in the pamphlet issued by the State and sent by the county clerks to each voter.

Besides that of the League of Municipalities, we have received the following endorsements for the amendment:

City Councils.—Alviso, San Bernardino, Anaheim, Tulare and Dunsmuir.

Organizations.—State Federation of Labor, San Francisco Labor Council, Labor Councils of every city in the State, New Era League of San Francisco (formerly the Women's Suffrage Club), Commonwealth Club, Anaheim Chamber of Commerce.

We have also branch Leagues for Home Rule in Taxation in the following counties: Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego, Humboldt, Fresno and Butte.



The serious crime of being Singletaxers has been charged against us by agents of the public service corporations who are the only real opponents we have. "It is a veiled attempt to impose the Singletax on the State," is what one public official said in opposing the amendment at the Commonwealth Club. No Singletaxer has denied that he favors it because Home Rule in Taxation will offer opportunity for that system. Yet we have many supporting it who are not Singletaxers. Some do so be-