

NEWS—DOMESTIC

RHODE ISLAND

GOVERNOR GARVIN TELLS OF THE WORK IN THIS STATE—MCNAIR AND BIGELOW'S GOOD WORK—REPUBLICAN INSURGENTS IN RHODE ISLAND LIKELY TO BE HEARD FROM.

During the past four months the educational work in Rhode Island has been continuous. Mr. Wm. N. McNair, of Pittsburg, gave us a Sunday in the Spring, as did Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, of Cincinnati. Mr. McNair from the standpoint of a young man made a very decided impression in favor of our cause. Mr. Bigelow, with his longer experience and wide reputation, set many hearers thinking upon Direct Legislation and the Single Tax.

We have felt very proud of the speakers who have come to Rhode Island to aid in our efforts at tax reform. Every one of them has done much good and they have illustrated in their characters and addresses the elevating effect of unselfish devotion to truth, as yet unaccepted by the mass of the people. The local meetings and publications have been kept up also. With the advent of warm weather in May, the open air meetings began and are continued every evening. On every Sunday evening our headquarters, a room seating seventy-five, has been crowded by audiences interested in tax reform and kindred topics. For these meetings we have had in the main local speakers of high standing. Their addresses have been followed by very interesting discussions.

Mr. Liddell, Mr. Chase and myself have also received invitations to address labor organizations, church clubs, etc., but probably the most effective work has been through communications to the press of the State. More than 200 letters by us have been published in this way, reaching all sections and necessarily, as it seems to me, making converts to the cause of local option in taxation and the exemption of the products of labor from assessment.

After the educational work of about two years and a half, it seems as though the period had arrived for reaping the fruits

of our labors. At all events a systematic effort is about to be made in that direction. This very week we are expecting the arrival of Mr. John Z. White, who did so much towards securing the Initiative and Referendum in Missouri.

In my letter appearing in the March April number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, I expressed the hope that Single Taxers, who take a summer vacation, would consider the shores of Narragansett Bay this year. Thus far we have received no word of such visitors. In my next letter I may be able to tell better news in this direction.

In the middle of August, our State Legislature assembles for a few days in special session. Among the few questions to be dealt with is that of taxation. The bill which passed the House of Representatives, did not contain the most valuable recommendations made by the Tax Commission appointed last year. The Act did not pass the Senate, but is before that body now for consideration at this special session.

Politically, it is probable that a progressive candidate for United States senator will be in the field to succeed Senator Aldrich, whose term expires next March. Undoubtedly the regular Republican nominee will be a "Stand-Patter," but in that party there are many Insurgents, not so aggressive as yet here in the East, but ready, I believe, to act in the fall campaign. In State affairs the principle of Direct Legislation promises to be an issue.

During the months of July and August, scores of thousands of our people visit the shore resorts on each Sunday. Yesterday we held our first meeting of the season at Crescent Park, our most popular resort. The speaking continued from four to five o'clock, and again from six to seven, alternating with the music at the bandstand. Mr. Francis Gallagher presided, the speakers being Messrs. Liddell, Chase, Johnson and myself. The audience was large, attentive, and evidently much interested. In the evening one of our leading manufacturers, Mr. Charles Sisson, addressed the "People's Forum" in the Tax Reform headquarters, upon Peace and Arbitration.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, Lonsdale, R. I.