

ods of "machine" bosses in the different States. To such an extent has this kind of campaigning for Mr. Harmon gone on, that any Democratic committeeman outside of Ohio who advocates his nomination should be regarded with suspicion. Governor Harmon is the one Presidential possibility up to the present time, except Mr. Taft, of whom it can be said that any democratic Democrat who votes for him, either at primary or in convention or at the election, votes squarely against his own professed convictions.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HENRY GEORGE, JR.'S, SPEAKING TOUR.

Washington, D. C.

As Alaska's resources are treated at Washington, so may the treatment of the natural resources of Canada be modified. In this and many other ways I found western Canada in close sympathy with our western States. The political situation, shaped by underlying economic forces, pit the radical West against the conservative East in both countries. The prairie Provinces stand with the western States for radical tariff reduction, breaking out with increasing frequency into open Freetrade sentiment.

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In Canada the western farmers are perhaps the most radical of all the citizens. They have no taxes on their improvements and are taxed mainly on ground values. Yet in spite of that the great farmers' organization, the Grain Growers' Association, sent a delegation to Ottawa during the recent reciprocity struggle to encourage the Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, to pass the tariff treaty with the United States, assuring him that should the Government suffer any material loss of revenue in the customs as a consequence they, the farmers, would gladly submit to a compensatory land-value tax.

This incident is a pretty strong answer to the question as to what the farmers will say when the Singletax is proposed to them. And again the same question is answered in the editorial or other columns of the farmers' official organ, The Grain Growers' Guide, published at Winnipeg and edited with much ability by Mr. G. F. Chipman. That organ openly, flatly and powerfully advocates the taxation of land values and the abolition of every other tax laid for revenue purposes.

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I commenced my Canadian speaking tour at Winnipeg. This was part of my engagement under the management of Mr. F. H. Monroe of The Henry George Lecture Association. I had spoken on the way at Minneapolis, Milwaukee and several other points.

Mayor Seidel, the official head of the Socialist party in Milwaukee, attended one of my lectures and made a friendly little after-speech without committing himself to the Singletax. But Mr. City Clerk

Thompson, an official Socialist, at my second Milwaukee lecture announced himself a believer in the principle of taxing land values exclusively. He furthermore announced that that policy would be adopted by the city administration as soon as the Socialists could move out the incumbent of the tax assessor's office next January and move into his place a Socialist. The said incumbent, Mr. Frank B. Shutz, was present and a breezy time followed. He is a thorough-going Singletax man and has made material steps toward the application of the Singletax, considering the difficulties in the way. But besides being a Singletax man, he is chairman of the Democratic State Committee; and there lies the rub with the city administration. Milwaukee is the home of my colleague in Congress, Mr. Victor Berger. He was not at home, else he surely would have participated in the discussions following the lectures, as he has openly avowed himself for the transferring of taxation from the products of labor to land values.

But as to Winnipeg: I had fine audiences both in numbers and mental quality. They proved to me that the business world and the community generally had been thoroughly roused by the wonderful budget fight of Lloyd George in Great Britain and by the remarkable example of the city of Vancouver in exempting the fruits of industry from taxation. In fact, running straight west from Winnipeg I found a chain of cities, under these two powerful influences, shaking off improvement taxes, personal property taxes, license taxes, and poll taxes; and preparing to increase ground value taxes.

This latter step, however, will be taken only at the expense of a very hard struggle; for land speculation is rampant throughout western Canada. Everybody who can is speculating. The case of Medicine Hat amounts to almost a tragedy. It is a town of six or seven thousand people, at a point of the Canadian Pacific line just where the prairie begins to roll into hills in approaching the Rocky Mountains. It has fine water and an apparent abundance of natural gas. The town officials and business men had induced an American corporation to establish clay product works there by giving free two acres of land, and free or at small cost, natural gas and water. It also agreed to an exemption from all taxation for a term of years. A much larger and more liberal offer was made to the Canadian Pacific railroad to induce it to establish repair car shops there. These shops were expected to employ 2,000 men which, taken with their families, would mean an increase of 10,000 persons and hence more than double the town's population.

As time went the prospect of the shops looked like a certainty. Everybody thought that this was merely the beginning of an amazingly great and rapid growth. Every one, therefore, foresaw a quick rise in the value of land. Everyone speculated. Hilltop and flat country bare of a tree or a bush was staked out in city lots five miles beyond the last house of the town. People took their little savings from banks and others borrowed money to make first payments on installment purchases of land inflated to the skies by this wind of expectancy. I spoke to a mighty slender audience there before the sword fell. My voice was a voice in the wilderness of speculation. Three days later I reached Calgary,

which is close to the Rocky Mountains. Newspaper extras were screamed on the streets that morning and men gathered in little groups all over the city to discuss the momentous announcement that the Canadian Pacific railroad would establish its repair shops not in Medicine Hat, but in the much larger and still more ambitious Calgary. Next morning I read in one of the Calgary daily newspapers which had five whole-page real estate advertisements, besides three other pages of assorted real estate advertising, that the southeastern part of the city where said car shops were expected to be erected had suddenly shot up in price, and that within a few hours following the announcement of the advent of the shops a number of Calgary citizens of theretofore modest purses had become rich owing to the rise in the price of their land.

The telegraphic news from Medicine Hat which appeared in another column of the same Calgary newspaper was pathetic in the extreme; and the two cities from that one incident revealed something of the enormity of land speculation.

I was able to point my lectures with this story as I traveled west to Vancouver. There I found Mayor Taylor figuratively speaking with arms open to receive me. He paid me the great honor of a public luncheon, at which were present a large representation of the professional and active business men of the city. The Mayor also presided at my lecture in the evening. On both occasions he announced that Vancouver had only begun its Singletax policy. Lest anybody be in doubt as to precisely how much of a Singletax man Mayor Taylor is it will be sufficient to say that he has commenced the serial publication of "Progress and Poverty" in the Vancouver World, of which he is owner and editor.

I found Mayor Morely of Victoria, the capital city of British Columbia, in a like welcoming mood. He presided at my lecture and assured his audience that while Victoria now had entirely exempted houses and other improvements from taxation, it had still some taxes embarrassing industry; and that besides getting rid of them, it should increase taxation on land values. He publicly announced that Victoria had no thought of receding but would advance.

At Seattle, on our own side of the northern boundary line, I found a very lively appreciation of the strides forward already made by Vancouver and Victoria and the keenest of interest in the "Vancouver plan" for building up and not hampering a city's growth. Alderman Griffith had just got through the city council an ordinance making installment exemptions of improvements from taxation. This ordinance had gone to the Mayor. President Oliver T. Erickson of the Council, opposed to waiting five years for the full exemption, had begun the circulation of a petition under the Initiative clause of the Constitution for a change in the charter. This change will allow an immediate repeal of all taxes for local revenues save the tax on ground values, and the increase of that one tax.

At Portland I found those sleepless workers, U'ren, Eggleston and their associates, confident that the legal questions now being tried out will be satisfactorily met, and that the way will be clear for a victorious test of the Singletax issue at the polls next year.

At the Oregon State University in Eugene I found,

as I had shortly before found in the North Dakota University and as I later found in the California University, a very marked interest among the students in the question of the Singletax.

In and around San Francisco I had the honor of addressing a succession of splendid meetings fully alive to the meaning and consequences of the Singletax; and on my rush back to Washington to participate in the hearings of the committee investigating the Alaska scandal I was met at El Paso, carried, between trains, up to the chief hotel to take breakfast with the Mayor and all the members of the City Council, and later to the Chamber of Commerce to make a public address where President Taft and the then President Diaz so shortly ago met to publicly attest the concord between the two republics.

I was introduced by the Mayor at my Houston lecture and I made a mid-day speech before a crowded business men's luncheon at St. Louis and was assured that the Singletax was greeted with more demonstration than was the President of the United States when he addressed the same gathering in the same place not many days before.

I made on this tour close to a hundred addressees, and found everywhere audiences anxious to know the meaning and to hear of the progress of the Singletax.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.



POLITICS IN LOS ANGELES.*

Los Angeles, Nov. 10.

Three times judge of my election precinct, with a coming fourth, I have had an excellent opportunity to study the practical as well as the theoretical workings of the best bit of election machinery ever devised. Out of 90 names on the primary lists, all but two sets of candidates were eliminated—Mayor, City Attorney, City Assessor, City Auditor, seven members of the School Board and nine members of the City Council. This leaves us only 36 to choose 18 from on election day—December 5. Harriman got 19,816, Alexander, 16,712; Mushet about 8,000, Gregory, 381, and Becker (Socialist Labor), 51. There was about 60 per cent of the total vote at this primary, as compared with 20 per cent under the old plan.

Behind Harriman are all the Socialists—rationalist, impossibilist and Syndicalist—with the rationalists in the saddle. Also the most solid front of organized labor ever seen on the Pacific coast. Every element of discord has been subordinated. A deep seated, and apparently just belief that an unfair attack is being made on organized labor through the McNamara trial, is responsible for this solidarity, and nothing seems likely to break it. It has been strengthened by the hostility of the present administration as manifested in a drastic "anti-picketing" ordinance that sent 300 or 400 workmen to jail on charges that were never sustained.

Behind Socialists and Labor is a powerful contingent of well-to-do citizens who are not "belongers." They range from millionaires to the plain and simple disgusted fellow, thoroughly tired of the "unco guid" whose only cures for the ills of society

*See current volume pages 1163, 1172.