

Michigan

THE Michigan Site Value Tax League did not succeed in obtaining by July 1 the needed 65,152 signatures for its proposed constitutional amendment for site value taxation, in order to submit the constitutional amendment at the November election. But the League is continuing its campaign for signatures, in the expectation that the extra thirty thousand still needed will be forthcoming by December 1, when it can be submitted at the Spring election.

One peculiarity of the campaign is that the thinly settled portions of the State have supplied a larger per capita of signatures than have the well settled agricultural districts. Indeed, some of the really populous areas have not yet sent in a single signature, even though tenant farming is very much in evidence.

Through special efforts, Detroit is well represented in the petitions, but almost entirely outside the group of Single Taxers. However, one Single Taxer has sent in over 1,100 signatures, and several others have obtained most of the signatures of the voters in their home localities or among their office and shop mates. Still these are exceptions. The fact remains that too many of those who have "seen the cat" have been content to let others do the work of soliciting.

On July 1 the League issued a small bulletin, *Common Sense*, as a vehicle of communication between the secretary's office and those whom it is desired to reach. It has been well received, and will be continued monthly if the interest aroused warrants it.

Both the organized Michigan farming interests and organized labor are in accord with the proposed constitutional amendment. A recent number of *Michigan Farming* openly advocated site value taxation, insisting that "when site value taxation in Michigan is an accomplished fact, it will mean the saving of tens of thousands of dollars annually to the farmers of the State." And very recently the Michigan Federation of Typographical Unions unanimously endorsed the proposition for site value taxation, and recommended the circulating of petitions and the obtaining of signatures. JUDSON GRENELL.

Missouri

THE Homestead Loan and Land League filed its petition on July 2 containing nearly 40,000 signatures, or about 10,000 more than the legal requirement.

The campaign has now begun. On July 9 Louis Wallis, whose reputation as a propagandist is well known to all Single Taxers, began a canvass of the rural counties.

To the seven hundred odd newspapers in the State a letter will go out advising that the petitions have been filed and that the question will be voted on Nov. 5 of this year. These papers are notified that arguments will be sent in plate for their use to save them the expense of typesetting. Every civic and educational body in the State will be addressed by the speakers from the League. Labor unions in the State will be asked to read in open session the question in the form couched as an issue to be brought to the

voter. Public meetings in the larger cities will be held when local talent makes this possible.

The friends in Missouri believe that if they can raise the necessary funds they will carry the State. They estimate that less than \$10,000 will be needed and that this money will be used to bring the question to the hearthstone of every voter in the State.

The vital part of the measure is as follows:

All public revenues for State, county, municipal, school and all other public purposes shall be derived from taxes on the value of land exclusive of improvements and from such taxes as may be imposed by law on the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and on incomes and inheritances; but this shall not prevent the imposition of such license taxes as may be necessary to a proper exercise of the police power. Rights of way for public utilities shall be deemed property in land and the value thereof shall be taxed accordingly if not owned by the public. This amendment shall govern all taxes for which assessments shall be made on and after June 1st, 1919, but not those assessed before that date. All constitutional limitations of rates of assessment and taxation are hereby abolished and the legislature is hereby empowered to fix such rates of taxation as shall produce the revenue required for State and school purposes and in counties the county court of each county and in municipalities the corporate authorities of each municipality shall have power to determine the rate necessary to produce the revenue needed from time to time for municipal purposes, provided that any school district in the State may increase the rate for school purposes fixed by the legislature by submitting such increase to a vote of the people of such district. All provisions of the constitution conflicting herewith are repealed so far as they so conflict.

Death of L. E. Wilmarth

IT IS our painful duty to chronicle the death of a veteran Single Taxer, and an old and valued friend of many of us. L. E. Wilmarth, of Brooklyn, passed away at an advanced age on Saturday, July 27. Mr. Wilmarth was one of the earliest Single Taxers, being active in the New Church movement to bring our question before the adherents of that faith. He was an earnest Swedenborgian, profoundly versed in the philosophy of that great thinker, and himself an independent investigator in the realm of religious speculation.

Mr. Wilmarth was one of the sweetest natures it has been our good fortune to meet. He fairly radiated tenderness and human sympathy. He loved the association of young people and they responded in kind to one who, until his power of memory began to fail him, retained all the sweetness and light that must have been the possession of his younger years.

Mr. Wilmarth was no mean artist, and has left many beautiful examples of his skill on canvas. He excelled in the painting of flowers and fruit, for he was a lover of out-of-doors and of all fine and rare things, of the beautiful in nature as well as the beautiful in thought. He will be missed greatly by the many who knew and loved him.