

gough, the famous chalk-talk man, to come and visualize the situation; Margaret Haley, of Chicago, to appeal to the women; others to talk to everybody, but we have not the money. Wouldn't it be too bad to fail now for want of a few thousand dollars?

J. H. RYCKMAN.

Missouri

THE recent action of the Missouri Secretary of State, John L. Sullivan, in giving the Numbers Seven and Eight, respectively, to the Homestead Loan measure and the Single Tax measure gives official certainty that these amendments will be before the voters of Missouri at the November election. Forty thousand signatures were secured to place these amendments on the ballot.

Lack of funds will not permit of as aggressive a speaking campaign as might be desired, but a worth-while programme is being worked out in spite of all the handicaps which propoganda movements meet in war times.

Groups are being organized in all counties and are mapping out plans for effective work. These groups will arrange local meetings and keep in active touch with the local newspapers, doing the valuable work of shaping the Editor's mind by means of prodding letters written on the Tax and Loan amendments.

All of the County Fairs have been covered by local workers and tons of literature particularly fitted to each locality are being intelligently distributed.

An especially important feature is a plate matter news service which a good percentage of the country newspapers have agreed to make use of. One column or more of strong Single Tax news articles will thus appear every week from now until election in papers which cover nearly every section of the State.

The State Federation of Labor at Sedalia has adopted resolutions unanimously supporting the measures, as have two previous State Conventions. This puts the measures squarely up to every union man in the State. Systematic canvassing of unions is being made in all the large cities, Farm Club secretaries are being reached, so that every phase of the life of the State comes within the scope of the campaign plans.

The Campaign Committee has determined that an almighty spirit shall atone for the lacking dollars, and that by judicious Hooverizing of the funds actually on hand, good and ever better plans will be found whereby the message of the Single Tax and its benefits can be spread broadcast throughout the State.

The official titles to the amendments are as follows:

The Tax amendment:

"A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, providing that all public revenues shall be derived from taxation upon the unimproved value of land based upon assessments made on and after June 1st, 1919, and from taxes upon the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and on incomes and inheritances; abolishing all constitutional limitations on the rates of taxation, and empowering the legislature, county courts and municipal

authorities to fix the rate for State and school, county and municipal purposes, respectively, classifying rights of way of public utilities for purposes of taxation, and repealing all constitutional provisions in conflict herewith."

The Loan amendment:

"CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. A proposition to establish in the State treasury a Homestead Loan Fund to be loaned to citizens of the State of Missouri for the purpose of purchasing homesteads and erecting permanent improvements thereon, to be secured by a first lien on the homestead and to bear three per cent. interest, commencing one year from the date of the loan; providing for the repayment thereof, and empowering the legislature to enact necessary legislation to make effective the provisions hereof."

As was expected the opposition is paying little attention to the exact form of the measures to be voted upon, but is making its fight on the "pernicious programme of confiscation, involved in the Single Tax idea." Instead of there being an effort to present the programme as something less than Single Tax the advocates of the Homestead Loan and Single Tax programme are willing to have it stand or fall on this issue and are demanding of the opposition an explanation of their reasons for opposing this great idea for opening up the land at a time when every effort should be centered in this direction.

The utmost confidence is expressed by the leaders in the campaign of a successful outcome at the election on November 5th.

Michigan

A WEEK'S work at the Michigan State Fair in September accentuates the fact that the great majority of people are still ignorant of the first principles of just and equitable taxation. Two members of the Michigan Site Value Tax League solicited signatures to the League's petition for a constitutional amendment for site value taxation, and while it was not a difficult matter to obtain signatures, it was difficult in the short space of time at their disposal to intelligently explain what the excitement was all about.

A few had heard of Henry George and the Single Tax; a number had heard that petitions were in circulation to exempt personal property and improvements in and upon land; the great majority knew nothing of "the incidence of taxation," nothing of the fact that taxes on sites could not be shifted, while taxes on the things consumed invariably were.

Had there been 100 solicitors for signatures on the State Fair Grounds, 50,000 signatures might have been obtained. As it was, the two solicitors secured nearly 1,500 signatures, distributed thousands of site value tax leaflets and petitions, and aroused an interest in the taxation problem in localities never before reached by tax reformers.

I am impressed more and more that only a very small proportion of Single Tax literature is intelligible to most people. It is like trying to teach algebra to the A B C class. Of course, not even all grown-ups can learn algebra; they

haven't the brain capacity. So the task still remains with us to simplify our language, whether oral or written, in the matter of taxation.

There are still two months in which to obtain signatures for site value taxation, if the proposed amendment is to be submitted to Michigan voters in the Spring. Something like 30,000 more signatures are needed to be added to the 35,000 already on the petitions. This would be easy of accomplishment if every known Single Taxer in Michigan would fill a petition with 50 signatures. Unfortunately, most of them hide their light under a bushel. Are they timid? Or is it because of lack of salesmanship? Anyway, they fail to sell Single Tax.

JUDSON GRENELL.

Texas

THE platform of the Democratic Party in its recent convention contains this plank:

"We urge the submission to the people by the legislature of an amendment to the Constitution which will have for its purpose the promotion of more intense agricultural development of idle land by assisting deserving and qualified persons to acquire farms and homes through an extension of the State's credit properly safeguarded."

This plank is in line with the plank in Governor Hobby's declaration in his announcement for re-election in which he proposed that the State purchase large tracts of land, subdivide into farms and sell on easy terms to the landless man, thus following the efforts of California of two years ago. No doubt the next legislature will endeavor to carry out this recommendation and by doing so make the "land question" and the "tenant farmer problem" a definite and concrete issue. This will give the Single Taxers a great advantage. It will be easy to show that a measure to provide cheap money for the full purchase price of land will raise the price of every acre of land of Texas; that the price of land is already too high; that "Land Purchase Acts" generally where tried have raised the price of land and have been expensive in administration; that such a measure standing alone will but aggravate the already serious condition that confronts us.

There will be a number of avowed Single Taxers in the next House, and many others who want to get a real solution of this problem and are open to conviction. There is also a growing feeling that we must make some provision looking to the return of our soldiers and men engaged in war industries. Some step to that end should be taken by the present legislature. We should not wait until these men come crowding back on us. Whatever provision may be made we must begin with placing them on the land. The Single Taxers have made much progress in bringing this to the attention of the people but still fall far short of reaching a sufficient number.

Organized labor of the State has specifically recognized this condition and has demanded the submission of a Single Tax amendment. The Joint Labor Legislative

Board of the State Federation of Labor, together with the Legislative Committees of the Railroad Brotherhoods, will work together to realize these demands, so that there is a possibility, almost a probability, that the next legislature in Texas will submit a Single Tax amendment to be voted on at the general election in 1920. The war is making men realize that they must act and not merely talk, and that this question cannot be made a political pawn to be played with.

I have been nominated by the Democrats of this District as a member of the next House. My position as a Single Taxer and secretary of The Single Tax League of Texas is well known here and, while not the chief issue, was freely discussed. I was supported by the business and professional men of the city as well as organized labor men. These not only do not fear the Single Tax, but seem anxious to have it thrashed out and understood. It can no longer be ignored but must be considered.

I have just returned from a two weeks' trip through north Texas. I attended the Democratic Convention on the 3rd at Waco, where I met and talked with many members of the next legislature. I also visited some twenty or twenty-five members at their homes and freely discussed the prospects of legislation looking to relief through constructive work. I found a few in the older agricultural counties who are blind to present conditions or possible danger ahead. They are quite content with conditions as they are and seem unconscious that there is an industrial world to be reckoned with. They read the news of the outside world, but interpret that news in terms of their own content and feel that those who are restless and dissatisfied must be victims of their own shortcomings and deserve no consideration. However, such men are comparatively few. A considerable majority of those members I visited are really anxious to find a remedy, a means by which men can really enjoy equal opportunities.

There is another hopeful sign. Several members that I talked with, while not clearly understanding the Single Tax and the benefits that would follow its adoption, are very pronounced in the position that such matters should be submitted to the people for final decision. The spirit of Democracy is growing and they are willing to trust the judgment of the people.

WM. A. BLACK.

Good Wishes to California From South Australia

MEMBERS will remember the splendid fight put up in California two years ago by the Great Adventure group of Single Taxers, when 260,232 votes were secured for a Single Tax amendment of the Constitution. That effort is now being repeated on a larger scale, and in November next another vote is to be taken to try and secure free land for the people. We sincerely trust this effort will be crowned with success.—From the Report of South Australia Single Tax League.