

## Newspaper Publicity For The Commonwealth Land Party

A RECORD has been kept at party headquarters of the notices which appeared in various papers throughout the country commenting on the activities of the Commonwealth Land Party.

In addition to notices with comments on or extracts from the Platform and reports of the National Convention sent broadcast over the whole country by the News agencies, a total record of 244 clippings have been received, some of these illustrated with pictures of the candidates.

In Arizona, though not on the state ballot, the sample ballot for Yavapai County received from Mr. Vyne proves that the existence of our party was made known to all those who saw that ballot in the newspaper which covers that section, and to all who read their ballots while voting. This is the most conspicuous instance we know of indicating the amount of publicity that can be obtained with the least possible achievement in the way of securing candidates, as there was but one name on the ballot—that of Mr. N. A. Vyne for State Senator.

In New York State, though not on the state ballot, we had several candidates in N.Y. City and these appeared under our party name in six papers on October 28 and in six on October 29. The eight papers that published these ballots included all the leading dailies of this city with an enormous combined circulation.

The short tour of William J. Wallace, our candidate for President, resulted in several of our best notices, conspicuous alike for position, space and matter, with some good pictures. The death of William McCabe, our candidate for Governor of New York, was reported in all the leading New York City papers and some outside; and all of them emphasized his candidacy and his early association with Henry George.

In Ohio where our work was more thoroughly organized and more generously supported with the assistance of Mr. J. C. Lincoln, our candidate for Vice President, than in any other state, there must have been many news notices which we have not received.

Of the individual achievements in newspaper publicity a notable instance is the splendid work done by C. LeBaron Goeller of Union, N. Y., our candidate for Lieut. Governor, who composed a series of 7 uniquely interesting and convincing advertisements which appeared in twelve successive issues of the *News-Dispatch*, a weekly paper of Endicott, N. Y., in uniform spaces 6x10 inches. The first of these appeared August 20 and the last on November 5.

From a study of the clippings we believe that they represent less than a quarter of those published. The agency that issued Mr. Wallace's photo in a story with

all the other candidates sent them to several hundred papers, many of which doubtless made use of it and some of which failed to reach us. The "spreads" in Cleveland and St. Louis resulting from Mr. Wallace's visit to those cities were copied in smaller papers throughout other parts of Missouri and Ohio.

Such magazines as *Collier's*, *Woman's Home Companion* and *The Arbitrator*, all of which have corresponded with us; *Literary Digest*, *Public Opinion*, the weekly and semi-weekly editions of big papers such as *New York Times* and *Boston Evening Transcript*; and all publications that pretended to review the complete political situation, must have made some mention of our activities. So we believe that 1000 news notices, exclusive of advertisements and published ballots, is a reasonable estimate of the total publicity secured by the COMMONWEALTH LAND PARTY throughout the United States since its National Convention last February.

—L. W. TRACY,

## A Criticism of our Colleges

(Gerrit J. Johnson in *Grand Rapids Herald*)

THE football games at our colleges and universities are a success. The University of Michigan has built a new addition to its stadium and still thousands are turned away. The Michigan Agricultural college just dedicated a new stadium. We all realize that athletics are necessary but should we not also realize that most of our taxpayers who have to pay the bills get plenty of exercise without stadiums?

One of the M. A. C. professors reports that thousands of children in Detroit do not get milk. The professor hastens to say that family income has nothing to do with it. Of course, that is what professors are supposed to say, but this professor does not say why the families of the well-to-do in Detroit all get milk. I think it safe to say that 80 per cent. of taxes that go to maintain our colleges come from the people who produce milk and from those who need more milk. May I ask why these institutions are so run that the man who produces the milk and the man who needs the milk are not enlightened as to why they are both starving to death? Reports from the American Bankers' Association show that at the age of 65, 54 out of every 100 American citizens are either in the poor-house or ready to go there.

What do our college students learn about life? What is being a sport? A sport is one who can sit alongside of another and slowly see him starve to death and then yell rah! rah! rah! This coming winter there will be thousands of Michigan farmers who will have to get along without the necessities of life and there will be thousands of workers in our cities who in zero weather will buy coal by the bucket. Yet in the face of this the University of Michigan puts a ban on politics. Can there be anything more

stupid? Everybody knows that there is something radically wrong with our body politic. Why not allow students to listen to all sides of political questions?

We taxpayers are all of different minds. Who gave our university management the authority to say which of us is right or wrong? Are we not sounder Americans for listening to people with whom we do not agree? Should we not remember that the birth of this nation was the result of disagreement? Anyone in this age who would control the avenue of thought has an illegitimate mind.

We taxpayers want professors to know that we are not building educational institutions as ornaments. Capital and labor are in trouble and we would have the professors' brains act as fertilizer to grow new thoughts and show us a way out. If our universities cannot help labor and employed capital solve its problems what good are they? Why not close them? Surely we do not need more of the professional class. Civilization is now getting top heavy and the crowd below is commencing to sweat blood. We do not need higher education as badly as just a little common sense.

The writer owned several houses in Detroit which he sold on the installment plan. These people pay \$50 to \$60 a month on their homes. Then there are street improvements, sickness, layoffs, and, believe me, there is nothing poetic about a stork that hovers over the chimney of a home that has a mortgage hanging over the fireplace. If some of our theorists could exchange places with those strugglers they would learn that family income and outgo had a good deal to do with the supply of milk.

In Detroit there have been untold millions of dollars of increased land values which were created by the people and rightfully belong to the people, but under our present tax system these millions have gone into the pockets of land speculators. Suppose we untax all improvements created by capital and labor and instead tax vacant lots and idle land the same as lots and land in use, according to location value. That would make land speculation unprofitable, and give young people the same privilege as the birds of the air, to build a nest in any place not in use. That would create a demand for wedding rings instead of handcuffs.

What do students learn about the struggles of life? What does the average graduate know about the power of taxation? Yet a system of taxation can make or break a nation. Taxation is as important to a nation as the breath of life to a new born-babe. I maintain it would be far better to close the doors of our state educational institutions and instead have all high school graduates serve one week in Marquette or Jackson prison, one week in the Kalamazoo Insane asylum, one week at the home for the feeble-minded at Lapeer and one week in the poor-house. Then they might not learn so many frills, but they would have a better understanding of human ills. I maintain that four weeks in those institutions would do more to open the eyes of youth than four years in a university.

## Life In The Far North

IN the course of his lectures on the Far North Dr. Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, is reported to have said: "Raw materials were the property of everyone, but manufactured articles belonged to whoever had made them. . . In civilized countries people strive for wealth to spend on themselves, and thus gain prominence. But the Eskimo hunts, fishes, and hoards food against the coming of winter to give it to less successful hunters and fishers. And the man who has the most to give away is the most prominent among the Eskimos. . . . White men whose work takes them to the fringes of the Arctic nearly always marry Eskimo women, and in a few more generations the Eskimo will have entirely merged with the white race."

Another traveller in the Far North, the Rev. A. F. Forest, writing of Metlakahtla, in Alaska, says:—"It is a Christian city—out and out—as no other city in the world. The Government consists of 30 men, popularly elected. It holds the land, and supports itself from the rental. Metlakahtla has no policemen and no poor law officer. They are not needed. There is neither crime nor poverty in the city."

When Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty" he made an examination of all civilized countries to find out what there was common to all that would account for the poverty and degradation common to all amid increasing wealth. And what he found was that making private property of land (in its wide meaning, including all raw materials in a state of nature) was the cause of both poverty and degradation. That baneful act divided the people into two classes—one going in one direction and becoming increasingly wealthy, and the other in the opposite direction and becoming poverty stricken and degraded. And what a sad reflection this is on our boasted civilization and Christianity, that we should thus divide the people into two classes, to the enrichment of the one and the degradation of the other, while these semi-civilized people of the Far North acknowledge the equal right of all to the use of the earth and all that it contains, and only seek wealth in order to help the less successful members of their community.—*People's Advocate*, Adelaide, South Australia.

## Robbing The City

THE Pasadena (Calif.) *Star News* says: Proceeds of the Civic Center bond issue, which will be voted upon next Tuesday, are to be used to meet the cost of the Civic Center buildings and their sites above the rough estimates made in advance by the City Planning Commission. A large part of this excess cost, as shown by the city's official statement, is traceable to the advance in real estate prices which necessitated paying nearly \$300,000 more for the land than was estimated.