

features which were not defensible, and which aroused much opposition.



During the early stages of the campaign, the prospects of carrying the amendments were excellent. The Governor and the State administration as a whole were earnestly in their favor, and actively advocated their adoption. The leading papers throughout the State were either outspoken in favor of the amendments, including the New Orleans Times-Democrat and Daily Item, or were silent concerning it. The supporters of the movement were organized to some extent, while, at first, there seemed to be no inclination to organize in opposition. But during the last three weeks of the campaign, special interests took alarm, gathered about them the "ring" influences, and were joined by the Bishop and Archbishop of the Catholic Church in this State. It then became evident that the amendments would not carry.

The opposition urged that the plan meant increased taxation; and once the voter is led to the belief that new taxes are to be imposed on him, it requires a long and persistent campaign to remove this impression. They were well supplied with money, and were furnished with arguments by attorneys of various special interests, including the railroads, the banks and the Catholic clergy. The campaign therefore ended in the defeat of the proposition by a large majority.



Just what the future will bring forth it is as yet too early to say. The people have been awakened to the injustice of our present tax laws, and it is probable that they will insist on relief in some form. But how and when this will come, no one can say.

To those of us, however, who have long favored tax reform, the situation is encouraging. Heretofore it was difficult to obtain a consideration for tax problems, for the reason that it is impossible to obtain any relief under our Constitution; but the campaign has made tax reform a live issue in Louisiana. The leaders in the recent movement are largely men who have heretofore been most conservative, and were against any alteration in taxation. They now fully realize the necessity for a change and have worked earnestly to accomplish it.

Much credit should be given to Mr. Hampton Carver for his good work as a member of the two Commissions. He openly declared himself a Singletaxer before each Commission, and made his fight for improved taxation entirely from that standpoint. To him is largely due the credit of obtaining the provisions permitting the assessment of lands and improvements on a lower basis than land values, and also for the many exemptions on improvements and personalty which the proposed amendments permit. Had his counsel been followed many of the errors in the work would have been avoided.



It might be of interest to know why the Archbishop of the Catholic Church should have cast the influence, of himself and, so far as he could, of his clergy, against the tax amendments. The reason

given by him is that the inheritance tax provided for would fall on donations to churches and educational bodies, when the amount of the bequest or donation exceeded one-half of the disposable property of the donor. For this reason he claimed that the Church had a special interest in defeating the amendments.

Special interests urged on behalf of ecclesiastical corporations have been even more disastrous to governments than those urged on behalf of political corporations. Such claims peculiarly lead to deplorable divisions and discord among the people of a country, and therefore, from either a religious or political standpoint, should not be attempted. There is a strong sentiment to this effect in the State among the intelligent voters of all creeds.



The City of New Iberia and the Parish of Iberia were both carried for the amendments, though only in the face of a stubborn fight.

EDWARD T. WEEKS.



ADVANCE IN CHINA.

From a Private Letter from the Missionary Physician, Dr. Macklin.

Nankang, China.

I am busy translating Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." It is one of the most important things now to get before the Chinese. I don't plan to make a word-for-word translation, but to translate the idea into good, clear Chinese. I am also translating the "Life of Thomas Jefferson." I have also just finished translating that fine article in one of the late Scribner's on Garden Cities in England, by Frederic C. Howe. It shows these garden cities run on a Singletax basis.

Our Singletax colonization scheme has taken on national proportions. The government has authorized all the governors to foster it.

I am making a strong effort now to get the government to adopt a heavy tax on waste land; since there is no tax at all on waste land, owners can hold the land idle indefinitely.

Nearly all my missionary friends are entirely sympathetic with me in my propaganda, and the missionary society has never made any objection to it; it is an essential part of my Christian platform.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen is very enthusiastic about Singletax, but I don't know how much headway he has made in arguing the matter with President Yuan Shih Kai and the Assembly. He has done a great and noble work in unifying the parties and bridging over the differences between the North and the South. He has done in a way what Bryan did in America, eliminated himself for the good of the cause. By so doing he is really a bigger man than the President.

I have been taking extra good care of my health for the past year by the advice of physicians. I take an immense amount of exercise—horseback riding, farming, gardening, walking, and shooting, and am feeling a good deal better, but I cannot longer stand the strain of caring for the sick and dying, so I am trying to get rid of this work. We are selling the hospital to a union of eight missions, and I

hope to be largely free, but still to do some teaching and lecturing. I shall also preach, translate books, and tracts (largely economic and politico-religious) aiming to help bring the kingdom of God on earth. Of course, the kingdom of God, with monopoly of natural wealth, is unthinkable.

The most likely way to bring in the Singletax in China is to convert the missionaries, and there are quite a number of missionaries who are enthusiastically in favor of this movement. We want to organize all those in favor, and do something effectual. Mr. Strumenski and a number of others in Shanghai are working up a Singletax club among foreigners. The Chinese also have a society among the Socialists for studying Singletax. I lectured for them in the early summer, and am keeping in touch with them.

W. E. MACKLIN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, December 17, 1912.

Progressive Party Organization.

The Conference of leaders in the Progressive Party, in session at Chicago last week, adjourned on the 11th. [See current volume, page 1184.]

In executive session the national committee made certain decisions and referred others to the executive committee. As reported by the Chicago Tribune of the 12th, the minutes of this session were in substance as follows:

Permanent headquarters established in New York with a branch in Washington.

Legislative reference bureau created. To be directed by three experts who will work for uniform social justice laws in all States and in the national Congress.

Money pledged by national committeemen for maintenance of bureau, and guarantee of annual support made.

Committee of seven authorized to go to Europe to study operations of social justice laws in force there. Prof. Walter Weyl and Medill McCormick named as two of committee by Chairman Dixon.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall applied to national committee membership and recommended to State, district, and county organizations of Party.

In the same report it is stated that—
announcement also was made that the committee had approved the organization of a Progressive editorial association and a syndicate news bureau, both suggested by Progressive editors at a special conference.

A plan of organization proposed by Miss Jane

Addams and others, was referred to the executive committee.



The Illinois Legislature.

As a result of the final decision of the State canvassing board of Illinois, announced on the 12th, the next legislature of Illinois will be constituted as follows:

Senate.

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Republicans | 25 |
| Democrats | 24 |
| Progressives | 2 |

House.

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Republicans | 51 |
| Democrats | 73 |
| Progressives | 25 |
| Socialists | 4 |

It will be observed that no party has a majority in either chamber. Also that there are 4 instead of 3 Socialists in the House. The strength of the parties respectively may be still further altered by House decisions on some 25 contests.



Official Returns on Direct Voting in Louisiana.

Since the premature reports on the vote in Louisiana upon taxation questions, official returns promulgated by the Secretary of State of Louisiana have disclosed the following figures:

Amendments Lost:

Segregating the sources of State and local revenue. Lost by 18,324 to 40,422.

Authorizing self-taxing municipalities to exempt new industrial enterprises and improvement values for ten years. Lost by 16,132 to 35,095.

Exempting all money on hand or deposit. Lost by 15,536 to 34,097.

Exempting homes to the value of \$2,000. Lost by 16,237 to 34,327.

Referendum to determine whether or not cities, towns and villages shall be released from parochial taxation and licenses. Lost by 15,676 to 33,024.

Exempting for ten years new canals for irrigation, navigation and power purposes, costing not less than \$5,000,000. Lost by 24,031 to 24,269.

Providing for refunding and a sinking fund for State debt. Lost by 14,874 to 34,005.

To allow women to serve on school boards in any part of the State, also on boards governing institutions of charity and correction. Lost by 18,746 to 31,367.

Exempting for a period of ten years all railroads or parts of railroads constructed to January 1, 1913. Lost by 17,808 to 28,983.

Recall of all officers elected by the people, with the exception of judges of courts throughout the State, judges of municipalities and justices of the peace. Lost by 22,655 to 29,915.

Amendments Carried.

Exempting for twenty years corporations organized for the sole purpose of lending money on coun-