

Miss Charlotte Schetter pointed to the widespread increase in Single Tax sentiment created by the 1897 campaign as the reason why present day workers should join the Single Tax party and aid in presenting candidates standing on its platform, as a means of securing publicity for its aims.

Mr. Robert C. Macauley made an earnest appeal to his hearers to show their appreciation of the life and services to humanity that had made the name of Henry George a beloved memory by aiding the Committee of the East to raise funds for the vigorous prosecution of the campaign in California for the Single Tax amendment. In reply to his call for contributions more than \$3,000 was subscribed, a large proportion of this coming from the friends who had previously made liberal donations.

Lawrence Tracy, the efficient chairman of the dinner, who made a brief address, now called upon Samuel Bell Thomas, the Single Tax party's candidate for Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Thomas told how he had reported the speeches of Henry George in the campaign of 1897. Others who responded to the call of the chairman in short speeches were William J. Wallace, John Davidson, Gaston Haxo, Dr. Mary Hussey, Morris VanVeen, George Lloyd, and Maurice Firth, of England, who told of the disappointment of British Single Taxers over the repeal of the Lloyd George law for land valuation through the efforts of the Premier's Tory and reactionary associates in the Coalition government.

## Oklahoma

WHEN it comes to the Single Tax, number of followers, interest taken in the movement, etc., Oklahoma ranks pretty far down the line. Last September (1921) the State Federation of Labor held its convention in Shawnee, organized the "Farmer-Laborer Reconstruction League," and adopted a platform. The Single Tax was included as one of the planks, apparently thrown in toward the last to fill up space. Outside of the few individuals who helped frame the platform, it is doubtful if anyone knows anything about the presence of a Single Tax provision.

J. C. Walton, mayor of Oklahoma City, ran as the candidate of the League on the Democratic ticket, and was nominated in the Democratic primary August first. At this writing it is difficult to say whether or not he has much chance of being elected in the November general election. Conservative Democrats over the State declare the Farmer-Laborer Reconstruction League is only the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota under another name, and that the programme the former have mapped out for Oklahoma is very similar to that which has given North Dakota such a bad reputation. This programme calls for State-owned mills, elevators, banks, State-controlled public utility plants, etc. The Single Tax provision is never mentioned by either side, and there is a strong probability that it might

get lost in the shuffle, in the event of the election of the Democratic candidate.

But due to the fact that Walton has the support of the Socialists, and that the platform smacks strongly of Socialism, a great many Democrats have declared their intention of bolting the ticket and voting for John Fields, the Republican candidate. Another handicap under which Walton is running is the fact that he has the support of the present governor and his political machine, with both of which many Democrats, as well those of other political parties, are pretty well disgusted, due to the high-handed and questionable methods that have been used during the past four years.

However, this is not a discussion of the respective merits of the candidates for governor, or of either the Democratic, Republican, or Socialist parties. The point is that the Single Tax has been obscured, covered up, and lost sight of by the F.-L. R. League and its leaders. And judging from the past performances of some of Walton's supporters, it is extremely likely that they will see to it, should he be elected, that many or most all the other features of the League's platform will be put into effect before the Single Tax, and that then it may be forgotten entirely. The writer does not say positively that this is the case, but it is his opinion based on a careful analysis of all the factors, both past and present.

## Oregon

BISHOP CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, of Detroit, who is attending the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of America in Portland, has been doing a good turn for the Single Tax while here. Bishop Williams, who recently has been studying labor conditions in England, spoke at Labor Temple Auditorium on September the 15th, and after reviewing the history of the land and labor question in England, advised his audience of several hundred people to vote for the Single Tax Amendment. Bishop Williams is a very able speaker and delivered a masterly address. It made a profound impression on those who heard him.

On September the 18th, Bishop Williams spoke before the Portland Central Labor Council on the importance of organization. He mentioned incidentally that he got his inspiration from Henry George.

J. R. Hermann paid the following beautiful tribute to this fearless champion of the truth in the columns of the *Portland Journal*:

The address of Bishop Williams marks a turning point in the evolution of thought and effort, not only in labor circles of Oregon, but in the religious and political education of the State, which was lifted out of ruts and faced about toward the rising sun of a new day industrially, politically and spiritually. It was the clearest analysis and most illuminating survey of the present status of human society it has been my pleasure to hear in Oregon. It is too bad it could not all be reproduced in the Oregon papers. It is the result of years of study by a great soul who has not

only read but has traveled and observed with a purpose, and that purpose is to interpret the meaning of man on earth and his duty in following his leader in establishing the kingdom of heaven here on earth—in other words, to bring heaven to mankind and not promise a vague heaven in the distance after death. In his keen observations he told us the old order must pass, and by the old order he meant the old order in everything, politically, industrially and in the church interpretation of the mission of Jesus and the method of teaching Christ.

In other words, it was not only a plea for democracy in everything, but it was a prophesy and a prayer, with a recognition of evolution and the operation of natural law in everything. It pleased nobody, and yet everybody was obliged to admit its truth. Everyone who had a pet hobby saw his idol wither away, and only the truth, like lightning, blazed forth regardless of consequences to dead forms and outlived institutions.

Bishop Williams takes his economics from Henry George and has long been regarded as a leading exponent of the Single Tax, and he did not hesitate to say so last night.

Mr. Hermann is doing good work; not only by his letters and articles in the press, but in other ways. He challenges all comers to meet him in debate. A debate was arranged between Walter M. Pierce, Democratic candidate for Governor and Mr. Hermann, to take place last month at a Farmers' Picnic at Scio, the center of a farming district in the interior of the State. But when the time came Mr. Pierce sent word that he could not come. Mr. Hermann went to the meeting, however, and explained the Single Tax Amendment to a large group of Farmers. He and I have a number of engagements for October and expect to be kept busy.

Not long ago I spoke before the Central Labor Council of Salem. *The Statesman*, the morning paper there, gave a rather lengthy account of my address, but being a defender of the plunder bund, it misquoted me as saying that the unearned increment collected by farmers is twelve times as much as the income on the watered stock of the railroads. I said landowners, not farmers.

Single Tax letters have appeared in the papers from Mrs. Christine Mock, J. Democracy, C. A. McLemore, Ernest DeVenoit, Anna H. Ross and others, and replies in opposition have been published from quite as many writers.

Our articles and letters in both the daily and weekly papers seem to irritate some of the land speculative farm owners, judging from numerous replies from the interior of the State that have been published in the dailies here.

The *Morning Oregonian*, leading defender of big business and land monopoly here, has broken its silence on the Single Tax. On August 29th, its leading editorial poured out a volume of abuse against what it calls "the Henry George fallacy," and objects to my presence here. It also condemns the *Journal* for publishing my letters.

In its editorial the *Oregonian* refers to me as "the hired tax evangelist Ross," and says, "If the Single Tax funds fail and we are spared the presence of Mr. Ross for the remainder of the campaign, the people of Oregon will survive the shock; but we rather hope that he may remain, that the *Portland Journal* while shouting for economy and tax

reform will continue to be receptive of his stuff, and that every opportunity be finally given to show the misguided backers of a fantastic and utopian scheme that their money is wasted."

The *Portland Telegram*, after publishing one of my letters replied to it editorially. It handled the subject in a more delicate and courteous manner than the *Oregonian* did. Mr. Hermann and I both replied to the *Oregonian* through the *Journal* and the *Labor Press*.

Some time ago Mr. B. Moffet, of Canada, while traveling in Oregon wrote the *Journal*, taking exception to one of my letters, and told the readers how the Single Tax had brought disaster, sorrow and ruin to the people of Canada. Hermann had a ringing reply in the *Journal* that carried conviction, and I replied also. We shall succeed in discrediting those misstatements from Canadian land speculators if we can reply to them a few more times.

While the newspapers and politicians are discussing taxation they are very wary of the Single Tax. But the discussion is growing in spite of them. The people are doing more thinking, and there should be a liberal increase in the vote over that of two years ago, both in Oregon and in California.

There should be no rivalry between these two States but both should work in harmony. There is no good reason why the movement should not be supported in both States and supported well—yes, liberally, generously. Great opportunities for advancement of the cause are in both States. If the necessary enterprise, wisdom, loyalty and fraternity are shown by Single Taxers themselves, the Single Tax can soon be established on the whole western coast, and then throughout the world. Wm. L. Ross.

## Texas

TEXAS has just passed through four months of strenuous political agitation. The unfortunate part is, no fundamental issue was at stake. The land question was not even mentioned by a single candidate for State office. One candidate for Governor stood on a platform that had a very good plank in it, but the candidate never mentioned the subject. One of his supporters told me that it was best so, because he didn't understand how to discuss it, even if he should have seen fit to undertake it.

The Single Tax League made no effort to extend its work. The people's minds were absorbed with political futilities and it would have been a waste of energy to inject Single Tax matters. There were some Single Tax candidates for the legislature and all those on whom the issue was raised, I believe, were defeated. That was not the sole issue nor cause of defeat, but a contributing cause. The people are easily frightened when an issue of that kind is raised against a man that really stands for something worth while.

Since the first of the month signs of renewed activity in the movement are showing in a few points in the State. We hope to have the work going again full swing by the middle or last of October. It is so easy for even an enthusiastic

Single Taxer to grow lax and forget. We will submit a Single Tax amendment at the coming session of the legislature but have no hopes of its being submitted to the people nor is the State ready for it yet. We expect to tell a different story two years from now. Unless some extraordinary upheaval comes in the meantime the Single Tax will be a live issue in the election for Governor two years hence.

We have recently lost by death a veteran Single Taxer. Penrose N. Ions, of San Angelo, postmaster and business man, died August 17th last. While not as active in Single Tax movements these later years as formerly, he retained a helpful and sympathetic interest in all that was being done. His uncompromising stand for the principle gives the Single Tax a respectful consideration from a host of his friends and neighbors. His high character commanded respect for anything that he stood for. WM. A. BLACK.

## Canada

THE most important campaign in the history of the movement in Eastern Canada is now progressing to a successful conclusion, with the hearty co-operation of the Single Taxers in Ontario.

In order to come in direct contact with our friends of the United States and enlist their interest in our advance, about 1,000 copies of the *June Square Deal* were mailed to these friends, resulting in financial and moral support.

By the time the September-October issue of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW goes to press, nearly 15,000 signatures will have been secured, petitioning the Toronto City Council to submit "The Municipal Tax Exemption Act, 1920 Amendment," to a vote of "electors qualified to vote on Money By-Laws."

Of the number 10,000 are "Owners," the necessary 10% of such, required by the Act and constitutes a mandate to the City Council to submit this question, at the coming civic election, January 1st, 1923.

As we have few friends in the Toronto City Hall, either on the Council or among the permanent officials, all signatures of "Owners" have been checked off by our workers, with the names found on the latest official "Voters' List" of Toronto.

A vigilance committee composed of A. W. Roebuck, C. Alderman Honeyford, as legal advisers, and several other stalwarts, has been appointed to follow the course of this petition, until it reaches the people at the polls.

The several favorable votes by the people, taken in other years, on similar questions, when we did not have the necessary legislation, together with the city-wide agitation against large and unreasonable increases of assessment on improvements, levied this year, makes it certain that the electors will endorse this legislation at the polls.

The petition is to be presented to the City Council on October 3rd, about a month before the time limit of the Act.

W. A. Douglass, during the annual outing at Bala,

Muskoka, delivered a Labor Day sermon, and did not hide the Single Tax light under a bushel of words.

J. W. Bengough, who recently returned from an extended tour of the Northwest provinces, is well furnished with last minute information as to the Taxation of Land Values west of Ontario.

On Sept. 25th, J. A. Martin addressed the Council of New Ontario, on "The Municipal Scope of the Single Tax," much to the satisfaction of the citizens, who are carrying the burden of undeveloped sub-divisions, in the boundaries of this municipality, that contribute little to taxation.

The petition to be voted on provides as follows:

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Council of the City of Toronto that, under and in accordance with the said Act as amended, there be duly submitted to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws, at the next annual municipal election after the presentation to Council of this petition a by-law exempting from taxation for all purposes including school purposes for the first year in which the by-law takes effect 10 per cent. of the assessed value of improvements, income and business assessment, and from year to year thereafter an additional 10 per cent. of such assessed value until the whole of such assessed value is so exempted from taxation.

## Russia

FOLLOWING is a translation of a letter from the editor of *Teristo*, a Single Tax journal published in Esperanto, received by the English Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. It has been sent to us by A. W. Madsen, of the United Committee, by whose courtesy we are enabled to give to our readers this news from Moscow of the beginning of the Single Tax movement in Russia.

We will gladly accept your publications in exchange for ours which we will send to you regularly. We shall also be pleased to give you information about the Single Tax movement in Russia when anything worthy of attention occurs. Just now we are excited because it has been decided to replace the present land tax by the Single Tax (as an experiment) in some of those districts (divisional governments). When we have received more detailed information it shall be forwarded to you.

The most famous works of Henry George, "Progress and Poverty," "Social Problems," "Condition of Labor" and others have been translated into the Russian language by our friend, S. D. Nikolajev, who, to our intense grief, died last year. In 1917 with his help we founded a Single Tax League, but the conditions of the time made it impossible for the League to continue its operations. Judging by our experience, the original works of Henry George are not easily read by the masses and so we issued in that year some pamphlets, hoping that they would be more easily understood. By this post we are sending you the chief of these, including the "Story of My Dictatorship," translated by