

value of its land into the common treasury won't need any taxes."

And this is not all theory. Many places are cited where such a plan is already in use. Particular mention is made of Hampstead, England:

"Hampstead, one of the largest co-partnership tenancy societies, is one of the sights of London. Here are little low four and six room houses with well kept lawns and English roses, dotted prettily over an irregular suburban landscape as far as the eye can see in groups of two and four. Life is worth living here, particularly when you contrast the "garden suburb" with the wretched slums of London."

BENJ. F. LINDAS.

California Single Tax Amendment gets on the Ballot

SINGLE Taxers in California from Oregon to Mexico are in high glee today because of the news from Los Angeles and San Francisco that enough signatures have been secured to place the measure on the ballot to be voted on at the general election next November.

It required 74,136 names to place it on the ballot. More than 111,000 signatures to the petition have been secured. Allowing 25% for errors, such as defective signatures, and names of those who have not registered since January 1st, we will have more than 10,000 above the necessary number to place the measure on the ballot. This is very encouraging and a tremendous surprise to the opposition.

The anti-Single Tax League, composed of large land owners, bankers, heads of corporations, insurance companies, loan sharks and their retainers, 99% of the lawyers of the State, has been working night and day and spending no end of money to prevent the measure getting on the ballot. Considering that Single Taxers have been without money, except a few hundred dollars contributed by themselves and a few friends outside of the State, the result is most gratifying.

The 25th instant has been set apart as a day of special jubilation, and Single Taxers all over the State will meet at their respective headquarters to celebrate the victory. Manager Luke North who has been in San Francisco the past month is expected in Los Angeles to help celebrate. Likewise Gerret J. Johnson, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, without whose financial assistance the measure probably would have failed to get on the ballot, will also be here and remain until after the general election, contributing his signal abilities and several automobiles to help carry the measure at the election. Mr. Henry W. Hetzel, an old time Single Taxer of Philadelphia, is already on the ground and will enter upon a speaking tour for Single Tax at once, covering the entire State. Mr. J. Weiler, of Chicago, another war horse of Single Tax, is going to help in the campaign at his own expense. Mr. J. W. Bengough, the celebrated Single Tax "chalk-talk" man, known from ocean to ocean, will be here to cover the State with his inimitable and unanswerable arguments. Mr. J. R. Her-

mann, of national fame as a Single Tax expounder, will also be heard. Miss Corinne Carpenter of Brooklyn, it is hoped, will also be here to help in the campaign.

If with these splendid speakers we cannot win over the remnant in California to Single Tax, we will be very much disappointed.

Two of the candidates for Governor are very candidly disposed toward Single Tax. One is Charles A. A. M'Gee, of San Diego, who is seeking the Republican nomination for Governor. He leans very strongly towards Single Tax and has promised to speak in Los Angeles for the Single Taxers next Saturday evening at a banquet at which it is expected he will definitely commit himself upon the land policy of this State which he is emphasizing in his campaign.

The other candidate is the well known lawyer, Francis J. Heney, who is seeking the nomination for Governor on the Democratic ticket. Heney has the backing of the administration at Washington, as was made quite clear by Secretary Lane, in his recent tour through the State.

The radicals, especially among organized labor, are supporting Heney, and organized labor two years ago officially endorsed the Single Tax measure and backed it at the polls almost to a man.

If candidate M'Gee does not commit himself to Single Tax within the next ten days it is expected that Mr. Heney will be asked to state his position, so that the 250,000 voters who supported Single Tax at the last general election will know for whom it is best to cast their votes for Governor at the primaries which take place in August.

The Scripps papers in the State are out strongly for Single Tax. On the 10th of this month the anti-Single Tax League addressed a letter to the Los Angeles *Record* appealing for funds. The paper came back in a straight-out editorial declining to contribute a cent to the anti-Single Tax League and made a strong editorial appeal to the people of the State to support Single Tax. Among other things the *Record* said:

"If Single Tax were a reality here the few fat hogs who are sitting back and smiling while the people make their idle tracts worth more and more would have to disgorge or pay their fair proportion of taxes. When the people really understand what the Single Tax will accomplish and signify that they DO understand by marking their ballots, foundation for real, lasting prosperity will be laid, and not before.

"There is no fundamental justice in the present system. That is why it cannot endure forever. Single Tax means taxes based on land values. When the grip of the land baron is broken the poor man will have a chance. When thousands upon thousands of fertile acres are relinquished by the land sharks, when unimproved city property is made to carry its share of the tax the most of us will be vastly better off than we are today."

Judge James G. Maguire of San Francisco, formerly identified with the Equity Tax League, and one of the committee that drafted the Equity Tax League bill last year, writes to the Single Tax headquarters a most encour-

aging letter. His attitude is in marked contrast with the attitude of certain other persons identified with the Equity Tax League, who we discover now are not Single Taxers at all, although they made a great noise in days gone by to make people believe that they are disciples of Henry George and believers in the Single Tax as expounded by him. There are about a half a dozen such in Los Angeles and perhaps as many more in San Francisco. One of these is Clarence E. Todd, who for some years past has succeeded in making many people believe that he is a Single Taxer. It now appears he never has been a Single Taxer.

In a recent number of the *Christian Science Monitor*, Mr. Todd declared that if the Great Adventure measure is given a place on the ballot, it will be the duty of Single Taxers to inform the people that it is not a Single Tax measure, that Single Taxers are opposed to exempting public service franchises from taxation, and that the inflammatory utterances of the California Bolsheviki do not represent the philosophy of Henry George.

The *Monitor* gives a column of its space to such blithering idiocy. Todd says the taxes paid by the public service corporations pay practically the entire expenses of the State of California, but he does not say that this burden is passed on to the users of the public service corporations, and it requires no wisdom for one to be able to see that under the present system the public service corporations pay no taxes whatever.

The out-and-out anti-Single Taxers are heartily co-operating with Mr. Todd in opposing Single Tax in California.

That typical reactionary and mouthpiece of privilege and monopoly, Leslie M. Shaw, former Secretary of the Treasury, is stumping California against Single Tax. He compares the Single Taxers of California to the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota, where, this savant says, conditions are more chaotic than in Russia. This will be news to the people of North Dakota, but it is of a piece with the other hysterical shriekings of the wise Mr. Shaw against Single Tax.

The antis represent in their literature that Single Taxers have a fund in excess of \$100,000. They tell the people that Single Tax will confiscate their property. They especially attack the slogan of the Great Adventure group: "Open California's twenty million idle acres to raise food to feed and equip the Allies and to win the war!" They say this cry has been heeded by thousands of thoughtless people and the peril is imminent. Indications are that the anti-Single Taxers are badly scared, and they are making frantic appeals in the kept press and many other ways to arouse the people to defeat the measure. Two years ago this League is reputed to have expended a half million dollars in opposition to Single Tax and the Single Tax measure then before the people. This time the indications are they will have a fund of a million for that purpose.

We hope the friends of the cause everywhere who read this, will respond and send in money, which we need very much.

J. H. RYCKMAN.

Texas

TEXAS is now passing through its biennial political struggle. As four-fifths of the people here are Democrats our policies are fought out at these primaries, so that the November election is but little more than putting a formal stamp of approval on the nominees.

There is but little of importance at this time on the Single Tax propaganda. What with the war activities and the intense interest in the fight for Governor it is impossible to center the minds of but few upon the Single Tax. The fight for Governor is between the one-time Governor Ferguson who was impeached last Spring, and the now Governor Hobby who succeeded to the vacant seat. I will not discuss the merits of this struggle. However, if Mr. Hobby is nominated his platform will give the Single Taxers a tactical advantage if we use it. He has pronounced in favor of the land purchase scheme adopted by California two years ago. The Single Taxers should not directly fight this proposition, but demand that it be coupled up with a Single Tax measure that will apply to all State, county and city revenues. We should be able to convince the Governor and his friends that it would be a crime to adopt any State credit or land purchase scheme without coupling it up with a scheme of taxation that would counteract the tendency to raise the price of land, already too high.

I find in my campaign for the Legislature, that my Single Tax activities of the past four years, are helping rather than hurting. The people in this district have come far enough at least not to fear. If nominated it will prove the most important tactical move made. Even if defeated I will have gained a large acquaintance and made new friendships.

The Single Tax League of Texas, with myself as representative, has been made a member of the Joint Labor Legislative Board of the State and our question is one of the seven that are put to every candidate for State office and member of the House and Senate. Our question is: "Will you favor the submission of an amendment to the Constitution of Texas providing for exemption from taxation of all improvements and personal property, and placing all taxes for State, counties and cities on the unimproved value of land?"

We are quietly but persistently doing the kind of work that reaches the voters. In spite of the neglect of so many avowed Single Taxers and the poverty stricken condition that always prevails with fundamental work, the Single Tax in Texas is steadily going toward its final goal. If the Legislature that meets in January 1919 is induced to submit an amendment to the Constitution it will be adopted in 1920, in spite of the indifference of the thousands of "someday" Single Taxers in the State. WM. A. BLACK.

GOOD doctrine in a nutshell: "No man owns an oil-well or a coal mine except as trustee."—SECRETARY DANIELS of the American Government, addressing a deputation of coal mine owners at Washington.