

that "fair" plan, I want the moving picture rights for that legal Marathon.

W. G. EGGLESTON.



DIRECT LEGISLATION IN MAINE.

Skowhegan, Me.

At the State election in Maine Sept. 9th, two questions were voted upon by the people. The first was submitted under a referendum secured by the State Republican organization, on some amendments to the ballot law passed by the Democratic legislature. The second was a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize a \$2,000,000 bond issue for good roads, submitted by the same legislature direct. Both measures were adopted by large majorities, but the striking feature of the result was the large vote cast. Upon the ballot law amendments, 75 per cent of the total vote was cast, and upon the good roads amendment 71 per cent. The official figures are as follows:

Total vote for governor.....	142,003
"Yes" vote on ballot law.....	72,816
"No" vote on ballot law.....	33,884
	106,700
"Yes" vote on good roads bond issue.....	80,619
"No" vote on good roads bond issue.....	21,454
	102,073

How is this for an intelligent electorate?

C. M. GALLUP.



THE CALIFORNIA SITUATION.

San Francisco.

On September 27, when this is being written by a Californian who has just traversed the State, Wilson has gained "for keeps" a large part of the shattered and scattered Republican vote, and keeps also the normal Democratic strength. State pride on Johnson's account has helped the new party, but now the quiet thinkers are definitely saying that Johnson is needed for a second term as Governor. Roosevelt's speeches did him no good. Pinchot's work certainly helped the new party. Kent has a hard row to hoe, but has very earnest supporters. Bryan received a remarkable welcome in California. Theodore Bell's defeat in the Democratic committee meeting has strengthened the belief that Wilson is soundly and safely for progress.

CHAS. H. SHINN.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

LAND-TAX ASSESSMENT METHODS.

San Francisco.

E. W. Doty's article in The Public of August 23d (page 799) is the first statement I have seen in print of the great practical weakness of the Single-tax—its lack of a method of assessment.

Land values are produced by (1) site advantage and (2) expectation that it will always be possible to secure an increase by putting money into title deeds. As any application of Singletax approaches perfection (the taking of total rental value in taxes),

the second factor will be eliminated and a new basis of assessment will have to be found. If that basis can be found now, the problem will be solved for all time. For, however details may change, the basis will not change when the right one is found.

"Progress and Poverty," book iv, chapter ii, paragraphs 7 to 17 (pages 232-240, library edition), seems to me to indicate the factor that determines the site advantage of land—relation to the nearest trading point. The tabulation of assessments of all communities of a certain size should show the value given by that number of people to the most valuable lot in the community, and the lessening of values in comparison with recession from that point. The same method should show agricultural values in relation to the same point.

This method would give a reasonable basis for an arbitrary starting point, to find out what the site advantage really is. The starting point must be arbitrary in any case, and the virtue of the one found in this manner is that it is based on the factor that will be used when a perfect system of assessment is arrived at.

I also believe the same method, with the help of the Somers system, could be applied to cities of all sizes.

CHARLES K. HALE.



A "CAMPAIGN SYMPOSIUM DINNER."

New York, Sept. 27, 1912.

The second propaganda dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club for the season of 1912-13, Kalil's Rathskeller, 14 Park Place, New York City, Saturday, October 12, at 6 p. m., will be a dollar "Campaign Symposium Dinner"; and as a protest against the iniquitous and undemocratic custom which denies one-half the race the right to complete participation in civic matters, the Club has invited representative women to discuss the issues of the present year, and thus demonstrate the folly of ascribing exclusive political intelligence to the male sex.

The Club has secured speakers of exceptional ability and reputation. Amy Malt Hicks will preside, and the several political faiths will be defended as follows: Republican Party, May Wood; Democratic Party, Eva MacDonald Valesh; Progressive Party, Alice Carpenter; Socialist Party, Marie Jenney Howe; Anarchism, Emma Goldman.

JOHN T. McROY.



Seek your life's nourishment in your life's work. Do not think that, after you have bought or sold, or studied or taught, you will go into your closet and open your Bible and repair the damage of the loss which your daily life has left you. Do those things, certainly, but also insist that your buying or selling, or studying or teaching, shall itself make you brave, patient, pure, holy. Do not let your occupation pass you by, and only leave you the basest and poorest of its benefits, the money with which it fills your purse. This is the life that, indeed, "catches the quality of the life of God."—Phillips Brooks.