

and of several Socialist Party candidates for other places. The Socialist Party candidate for Mayor is Job Harriman, well known throughout the country as having been a Socialist Party candidate for Vice-President of the United States. At the December election the mayoral contest will be between Mr. Harriman, who got the highest primary vote, and Mayor Alexander (the "good government" candidate) who got the next highest. Following is the primary vote as reported on the 1st:

Harriman	20,157
Alexander	16,790
Mushet	8,168
Gregory	327
Becker	59
<hr/>	
Total	45,501
Harriman's plurality	3,361
Harriman's minority	2,594

[See vol. xiii, p. 251; current volume, page 899.]

✦ ✦

Local Option in Local Taxation in California.

At the meeting of the League of California Municipalities, held at Santa Barbara on the 25th, Mayor J. Stitt Wilson of Berkeley launched the question of local option in taxation, placing special emphasis upon the Singletax policy. As reported by the Berkeley Independent of October 24, Mayor Wilson, after elaborately denouncing the existing methods of taxation as "chaotic, irrational, unscientific" and "inquisitorial," continued:

The city or State, the Social Mother, should provide unimpeded and inalienable opportunity for each and every one of her children to produce wealth by labor and skill and industry. She should secure equal rights to all and special privileges to none. But in providing this equal opportunity to all, the city or State herself is meanwhile creating a great source of wealth for herself in the natural increase of the site values on which the surging tide of the association of her children takes place. The more surely she secures equal opportunity to all, the more certainly her site values increase. Here then is the only legitimate source of public revenue. What the individual creates let him keep. What the social body creates let it gather into the public treasury. Let the individual live on the result of his labor. Let the city pay its debts and bills and provide all public satisfactions out of its own legitimate earnings. How now shall the city actually get into its treasury its own earnings? The answer seems plain. The lands and sites on which men live and labor, are limited in quantity and varied in quality. Therefore, whoever occupies or uses any such standing ground for life and labor, excludes every other citizen, and, therefore, enjoys a privilege in the city or State. He uses a social value in society under the permission and with the guarantee of the whole social body. Therefore the city, the Social Mother, shall charge this man for the privilege and collect the same and place that money in the treasury. But how much shall she charge? Her charge shall be simply and only a rate on the unearned increment of the site values.

He shall be assessed for the full unimproved value of the site. The tax shall be taxation on land values. All other taxes shall be removed. On no improvement, on no product of labor, on no personal property shall the city levy a rate. Such a tax is rational, natural, just, scientific and unescapable.

At the close of Mayor Wilson's speech, A. H. Mason introduced a resolution providing for a committee of three to propose a Constitutional amendment to the next session of the legislature to establish home rule on questions of taxation in all California cities and counties. In support of the resolution Mr. Mason said: "While not committing myself absolutely to the theory of the Singletax, I think it high time to do something to improve our obsolete system of taxation." The resolution was adopted. According to the San Diego Union of the 26th "several other delegates favored the proposition and none opposed it, so it would seem that the Henry George system of taxation is bound to become an issue with the people of California."

✦ ✦

Prohibition in Maine.

By the official count of the election returns of September 11, the people of Maine did *not* repeal the Constitutional clause prohibiting the liquor traffic. The latest unofficial returns had indicated a repeal by a majority of 26; but the Governor and his Council, finding errors in the vote of four towns, announced on the 6th that Constitutional prohibition has been retained by a majority of 758. [See current volume, page 978.]

✦ ✦

The Progressive Republican Movement.

Headquarters for Progressive Republicans in the middle West were opened at Chicago on the 1st in the Fort Dearborn Building, and under the management of Walter S. Rogers. The speaking campaign in Illinois was renewed on the 2d at a meeting at Galesburg addressed by Walter Clyde Jones (candidate for Governor) and Congressman Lenroot of Wisconsin. [See current volume, page 1099.]

✦

The movement in northern Ohio was formally launched at Cleveland on the 3d, with W. R. Wannamaker of Akron for temporary chairman, and J. D. Fackler of Cleveland for temporary secretary and treasurer. Senator Clapp of Minnesota made the baptismal speech.

✦ ✦

Direct Legislation Before the Highest Court.

The Oregon case involving the Federal Constitutionality of the Initiative and Referendum in operation in that State, came up for oral argument on the 3d before the Supreme Court of the

United States. The question is raised by the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company, a public utility corporation upon which a special tax had been imposed by Initiative, and the principal point in controversy relates to that clause of the Federal Constitution (section iv of article iv) which requires that "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government." In opposition to the Constitutionality of Direct Legislation it is contended that "republican form" means "representative form" exclusively; on the other hand the contention is that "republican" excludes monarchical but not democratic forms; also that the question is not judicial but political, and that the political departments of the government (the President and Congress) have decided it favorably to Direct Legislation by continuing to recognize States where this system prevails. [See current volume, pages 1005, 1105, 1123.]

For the public utility corporation which attacks the Initiative and Referendum of Oregon the arguments were made by E. S. Pillsbury of San Francisco and R. R. Duniway of Portland; for the State of Oregon Attorney General Crawford of Oregon, George Fred Williams of Massachusetts, Jackson H. Ralston of Washington (D. C.), and Frank S. Grant and William C. Benbow of Portland, made the arguments. Mr. Williams also represented several other States, which asked to be heard as "friend of the court" on the ground that they also have Direct Legislation and are therefore to be affected by the decision. Newspaper reports of the argument are supposed to indicate a decision in support of the Initiative and Referendum, but no decision has yet been made.

The Anti-Imperialist League Honors Louis R. Ehrich.

At a stated meeting of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League held in Boston on the 2nd the following resolution was passed:

The loss of our valued colleague, Hon. Louis R. Ehrich, a Vice-President of the Anti-Imperialist League, is recorded by the Executive Committee with deep sorrow.

Mr. Ehrich had identified himself with the League almost from the beginning, and his addresses and writings have contributed in a very great degree to its progress. Our movement perhaps appealed to him more strongly than any other political question; and, aside from the part which Mr. Ehrich publicly took in its behalf, his helpful and inspiring support of the executive officers of the League was never wanting.

Mr. Ehrich always took a stand upon the highest ethical plane, for he was scrupulously conscientious, not only in action but in thought. In the great causes of religion, of labor, of free trade and of the money standards, he occupied a ground

which inspired those who followed him and gained attention from those who disagreed with his attitude. Beloved by his friends, he was respected,—not by his enemies, for he had none, but by all fair-minded opponents.

ERVING WINSLOW, Secretary.

MOORFIELD STOREY, President.

+

Joseph Fels Fund and National Singletax Conference.

The Joseph Fels Fund Commission of the United States will hold its annual meeting at Chicago in the LaSalle Hotel, on the 24th, 25th and 26th of November. Daniel Kiefer is chairman of this Commission, the principal object of which is to establish the singletax somewhere in the United States within five years from 1909. It is supported by funds collected generally, to which Joseph Fels contributes one dollar for every dollar contributed from any other source. The other members of the Commission are Lincoln Steffens, Jackson H. Ralston, Frederic C. Howe and George A. Briggs. Joseph Fels is to be with the Commission at its coming meeting, and at the same time and place a voluntary advisory conference of Singletaxers is to be held to which all persons in sympathy are invited.

NEWS NOTES

—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, one of the leaders of the militant woman suffragists of Great Britain, was given a reception on the 5th at the Chicago Beach Hotel, Chicago, by Mrs. L. Brackett Bishop.

—Abraham Bowers, immigration agent of the Chicago Y. M. C. A., will address the Chicago Single Tax Club, Schiller Bldg., Friday evening, the 10th, on aspects of the new immigration and labor conditions in Chicago.

—Amalgamation of London's electric tubes and railroads and the London General Omnibus Company was reported on the 1st as having been agreed upon. The combined capital of the undertakings is roughly estimated at \$165,000,000.

—George E. Dickson, a democratic Democrat and an advocate of the Initiative and Referendum, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Illinois at the Spring primaries. [See current volume, pages 1031, 1089.]

—Since the California election at which woman suffrage was adopted, the Equal Suffrage League of California has altered its name to the Political Study Club, and amended its statement of purpose accordingly. [See current volume, page 1076.]

—At a meeting of "The Public Club" at Boise, Idaho, on the 28th, it was decided to organize "The Idaho Singletax League." Robert Wilson of Emmett was elected president, Frank Kinyon of Boise secretary, and Hugh McElroy of Boise treasurer. A vice-president is to be chosen from each county in the State. Curtis Pike of Boise fills the latter office for Ada County. The league began its work October