

troduced in the City Council to compel the traction company to carry passengers on all its lines where franchises have expired; and steps are in contemplation to condemn the plant to public use upon payment of its physical value. This is the traction system that Governor Pingree and Tom L. Johnson tried to bring over into city ownership several years ago at a price which the City rejected as excessive. This rejection left in corporation ownership and control a public utility property that soon rose in market value to a point 50 per cent higher than the rejected price.



Organized Labor and the Singletax in Oregon.

At the meeting of the Oregon State Federation of Labor on the 17th the following resolution was adopted with only two dissenting votes:

Whereas, The people of Oregon have accepted as a part of the Constitution of the State the measure endorsed and proposed by the Oregon State Federation of Labor in 1910, which does away with the iniquitous poll tax, takes from the legislature the power of enacting tax laws without the direct consent of the people, places in the hands of the people the direct and sovereign power of taxation, either in the Commonwealth as a whole or in the several counties for their local revenues; and whereas, this has made the matter of taxation a leading public issue, and the question of the taxation of labor products, capital invested in productive enterprises, homes and improvements and personal property of all kinds, open to the people to legislate upon, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the taxation of land values exclusive of all improvements and personal property wherever to any extent put in practice encourages the employment of labor, attracts capital seeking to invest in manufacturing enterprises, discourages the monopoly of land and other natural resources being held for speculation and not for use, builds up the city and encourages the working farmer by reducing his taxation burdens, puts the workers in homes of their own, and makes for the higher forms of civilization.

Resolved, That it is to the best interests of the working and producing people of Oregon, in city and country, to the best interest of capital not seeking special privilege and monopoly, to the best interests of all Oregon, that special privileges in land, in water and in transportation and public service franchises instead of personal property and improvements, be made to carry public burdens, and that the power of the people to make such regulations for the raising of public revenues should not be impaired or abolished.



Extension of the Singletax in Canada.

The royal commission on taxation of the Province of British Columbia, Canada, submitted its report to the Provincial Parliament on the 23rd. It makes these three principal recommendations: (1) abolition of poll taxes; (2) abolition of per-

sonal property taxes; (3) abolition of taxes on real estate improvements. According to the news dispatches these recommendations were adopted by the royal commission after a thorough investigation of the character and workings of the whole system of taxation in the Province of British Columbia. If the recommendations of this report are adopted by the Provincial Parliament, all the taxation of the entire province—like that of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria, for city purposes—will be upon land values only. [See vol. xiv, pp. 770, 892.]



Political Lynchings in Ecuador.

As a strange sequel to the close of the little civil war in Ecuador has come news of the lynching by the populace of General Pedro Montero, the head of the revolutionary government which capitulated on the 22nd as reported last week. The dispatches relate that General Montero was tried on the evening of the 25th by courtmartial at Guayaquil, which had been the headquarters of his party and the scene of his surrender, and was sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment; and that thereupon the fickle populace, desiring a more severe punishment, mobbed the courtroom, shot the prisoner, and later beheaded him and burned his body. Other revolutionary leaders, including Eloy Alfaro (a former President of Ecuador), and General Paez, in prison at Guayaquil, were then hastily sent by night to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and the headquarters of General Leonidas Plaza's victorious government. An amazing dispatch of the 28th, from Guayaquil, relates that on that day an infuriated mob had broken into the Quito penitentiary, and in spite of doubled guards had lynched General Eloy Alfaro, his wounded brother—General Flavio Alfaro, General Ulpiano Paes, Manuel Serrano and Medardo Alfaro, all revolutionists. [See current volume, page 82.]



Shuster in London.

W. Morgan Shuster, late Treasurer-General of Persia, was given a banquet at the Savoy in London on the 29th, by the Persian committee which is composed of members of the House of Commons and other prominent men. Mr. Shuster's frank defense of Persia's independence was enthusiastically cheered, according to the news reports. The Chicago Inter Ocean's dispatch describes Mr. Shuster's speech as—

a detailed narrative of the wrecking of Persia's constitutional government. He placed the entire responsibility upon Russian antagonism to a strong, independent Persia, and made it plain that he thought the British people had been deceived regarding the facts. He declared that 99 per cent of the disorders charged as a partial excuse for intervention had been imported by Russia. Replying to