

tion of Roosevelt at a time when, after years of hard fighting, complete victory over the reactionary forces in the Republican party seemed assured.

Roosevelt, soon after assuming leadership, ordered a retreat and he and his immediate following abandoned the fight for progressive principles in the Republican party by giving up their membership in that party, and they are now engaged in an effort that can only result in dividing the progressive vote. I believe it to be the duty of all loyal Republicans, who hold the memory of Lincoln sacred, not to abandon the fight to redeem his party, but to make it again responsive to the same high ideals that prevailed within that party during Lincoln's life. It is the duty of every good citizen, believing in progressive principles, to vote for a progressive candidate of another party whenever the candidate of his own party does not represent these principles; but I believe it to be treason to the progressive cause to divide the progressive vote at the coming election. I hold that the organization of the Roosevelt party and the nomination of Roosevelt for President, after a victory had been won by progressive Democrats at Baltimore for progressive principles and the nomination of Governor Wilson, an acknowledged progressive candidate, is an outrage and cannot be defended. I urge all progressive Republicans to join in the Wilson Million Republican Club for the purpose of aiding in the fight for progressive principles by the election of Governor Wilson as President of these United States in November, and then organizing the membership into an effective progressive Republican force with which to carry forward the fight for progressive principles within our own party. If my attitude as expressed herein is acceptable I will assume the responsibility of the president that such an organization would impose upon me. I would suggest that the name be changed to Wilson National Progressive Republican League.



Adjournment of Congress.

The Senate was at a deadlock when it adjourned at 4 o'clock Sunday morning for the legislative day of the 24th. Nominally, the deadlock was over the deficiency appropriation bill which the President had vetoed on account of about \$600,000 of appropriations to which he objected. It was supposed that the two Houses would promptly adjust the matter to the President's satisfaction in conference, and then adjourn for the session. But a parliamentary motion in the Senate on the 24th showed that although there was a quorum, it was composed in part of enough Senators who were "paired" with absent Senators to break the voters' quorum. No adjournment for the session could be voted while that condition lasted, and Senator La Follette is reported to have announced that he would not consent to any arrangement for final adjournment unless adoption of the Penrose inquiry resolution, as amended and as quoted above, is included in the arrangement. Such an arrangement was afterwards made and, the deadlock over the deficiency bill being also

adjusted, both Houses adjourned for the session on the 26th.



Panama Canal Tolls.

President Taft's proposed joint resolution declaring the sanctity of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, was reported upon adversely, 8 to 6, on the 20th by the Senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, and on the 24th the President signed the bill which discriminates as to tolls in favor of American coasting vessels passing through the Canal. [See current volume, page 803.]



Negro Business Conference.

Business representatives of the Negro race from all over the United States held a three-day conference at Chicago last week, the thirteenth annual conference of their organization. Booker T. Washington, the president, was re-elected. [See current volume, page 804; also this number of *The Public* at page 820.]



Inequitable Taxation in the District of Columbia.

The first important Congressional report on taxation in the District of Columbia since that which Tom L. Johnson secured when he was in Congress, twenty years ago, was made on the 19th by Henry George, Jr., M. C. It is the report of a sub-committee of the Committee on the District of Columbia in the lower House. The material for it was obtained by Congressman George, with the aid of Herbert Browne as real estate expert. The report is signed by every member of the sub-committee, which consists of Ben Johnson (Dem.) of Kentucky (chairman), Wm. A. Oldfield (Dem.) of Arkansas, Henry George, Jr., (Dem.) and Wm. C. Redfield (Dem.) of New York, C. O. Lobeck (Dem.) of Nebraska, Cyrus A. Sulloway (Rep.) of New Hampshire, Leonidas C. Dyer (Rep.) of Missouri, and Victor L. Berger (Soc.) of Wisconsin. The report is made under authority of House resolutions 145 and 200, authorizing an inquiry into the assessment and taxation of real estate in the District of Columbia. [See vol. xiv, p. 602; current volume, page 122.]



This report makes astonishing disclosures, which, especially since half the revenues of the District of Columbia are paid out of the national treasury, are of personal interest to every taxpayer in the United States. It appears that real estate in the District of Columbia is assessed at only \$330,000,000 while its true value is \$744,000,000; and, as usual everywhere in cases of under-assessment, the owner of vacant or poorly improved land gets the benefit. Land is assessed at \$169,674,006 (about one-third of its value), whereas improve-

ments are assessed at \$160,648,481 (two-thirds of their value). In respect of individual holdings, the 40,000 small homes are assessed at an average of 90 per cent. of their value (site and house together), while the fine residences show an average of only 50 per cent. Considering ground values separately, the committee finds that sites occupied by small homes are assessed at 60 per cent. of value, those occupied by middle class houses at 50 per cent., those occupied by fine residences at 30 per cent., those in the business area at 30 per cent., and large suburban speculative areas at 20 per cent. It may be seen, therefore, that of the share of District revenues which local real estate owners pay, small home-owners pay double the taxes, value for value of their property, that the owners of fine residences do, and three times as much as land speculators pay.



The Committee make the following recommendations:

Administrative—(1) Full value assessments; (2) the exercise by the assessor of his full powers for the adducing of testimony relative to real estate values under oath; (3) the keeping by the assessor of a record of all important leases to aid in determining property values; (4) the publication of land-value maps and assessment sheets; (5) the establishment of a systematic method of equalizing land values; (6) the establishment of tables of building factors and deterioration for determining the value of improvements; (7) the energetic prosecution of the legal requirement of reforming the lot numbers in squares; and (8) the consolidation of lots that are portions of single buildings.

Legislative—(1) Annual, in place of triennial, assessments; (2) the repeal of the fixed tax rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, leaving the rate to be fixed annually by the requirements of the budget; (3) the recording of the true consideration in all real estate transfers; (4) the substitution of 12 field assessors for the 3 assistant assessors now on field work; (5) the abolition of the requirement for the assessors in the field personally and jointly to "view" each piece of property; (6) the creation of a board of appeals, from which the field assessors shall be excluded; (7) the power to be restored to the Commissioners to remove the assessor or any of the assistant assessors for cause; (8) the divorcing of excise matters from the assessor's office; and (9) the establishment of an assessment roll and the transfer of the duty of making bills from the assessor's office to the office of the tax collector.



The report, which is "Report No. 1215" of the "62nd Congress 2nd session," is as suggestive in its explanations and discussions as in its recommendations; and the record of testimony, which goes with it, is of exceptional value in its specific disclosures of unfair taxation.

The Missouri Campaign for Tax Exemptions.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat of the 22nd reported that on the previous day—

Singletax advocates formed a preliminary organization for carrying on the campaign in St. Louis for the two tax amendments to be submitted to the voters at the November election. An advisory committee was named to plan ward and precinct organizations on the block system and report back at a meeting to be called. Edward H. Boeck was appointed chairman of a committee which he is to get together to conduct a soap-box campaign on street corners which is to start at once. Stephen M. Ryan was chairman of the meeting and Boeck secretary. They were put on the advisory committee with the following: Percy Pepon, Owen Miller, Dennis Ryan, Chris Osterwisch, Joseph Forshaw, Henry H. Hoffman, Mrs. D. W. Knefler and Mrs. Sadie Spraggon. On the speakers' committee the intention is to enroll several members in each ward who will volunteer to make speeches. Boeck enrolled the following last night: Victor Gebhardt, J. G. Hummel, Max Stahl, Dr. Joseph Boehm, Charles Kelley, C. M. Berry, Henry Furth, John Appel, Charles A. Green, S. E. Garrigan, A. A. Paxton, J. W. Steele and J. N. Simon. The purpose of the city organization is to relieve the campaign bureau of the Equitable Taxation League of work in St. Louis so it can devote its endeavors to the counties. S. L. Moser, secretary of the League, said they would need 100,000 majority in St. Louis to make sure of carrying the election, although he was optimistic about the educational campaign to be undertaken winning many votes in the country. Henry Furth, William Marion Reedy and Charles W. Bates also spoke.

[See current volume, page 800.]



Spanish-Speaking International Singletax Conference.

The first "Georgite Hispano-American Conference" has been called to meet at Ronda, Spain, on the 26th, 27th and 28th of next May. It is called by "The Spanish League for the Singletax," which has its headquarters at 21 Mendez Nunez, Ronda. The call, which is under the signature of the general secretary of the League, Antonio Albendin, invites all Singletaxers to attend; and in order that arrangements may be made, asks those expecting to come to notify the League. As Thomas Cook and Son are organizing a special service and price for the Conference, combined with Andalusian excursions, arrangements for travel may be made with their branches anywhere. Following is the program of the Conference:

(1) The Singletax Movement throughout the World: Means to Unite Efforts. To be moved by Mr. Joseph Fels of London and Philadelphia; seconded by Señor Manuel Herrera y Reissig, of Uruguay.

(2) The Singletax Movement in South America: Means to Unite Spanish Action. To be moved by