

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
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Total	45,501
Harriman's plurality	3,361
Harriman's minority	2,594

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

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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."

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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.]

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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.]

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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.

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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