

membership. Membership shall be of two classes, active and associate. Active members shall consist of unrepresented tax payers, direct and indirect. All who are not eligible to active membership may be admitted to associate membership on payment of the regular annual dues. Associate members shall be entitled to speak in all meetings but shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office.

It is especially noteworthy that indirect tax payers, who are usually ignored by taxpayers' leagues, are recognized by this league as having the same footing as direct taxpayers.

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Pennsylvania Single Tax Conference.

The State conference of Pennsylvania single taxers on the 2d at Pittsburgh (p. 182) was attended by 17 residents of Pennsylvania, representing advocates in that State of the fiscal and industrial reform proposed by Henry George. After devoting the day to the subject of the conference, of which Warren Worth Bailey (editor of the Johnstown Daily Democrat) was chairman, and B. B. McGinnis secretary, the attendants were given a banquet in the evening, at which Mr. Bailey was toastmaster, and the following were the other speakers: Henry George, Jr., of New York, Joseph Fels of Philadelphia and London, Daniel Kiefer of Cincinnati, Prof. H. S. Bender, H. H. Wilson, Charles R. Eckert, Calvin B. Power, R. B. Brinsmade, of St. Louis, Frank H. Stephens, W. D. George, George W. Acklin, John Murphy, W. N. McNair and C. V. Tiers. Over 200 attended.

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The following resolution was adopted at the conference, upon the recommendation of a resolutions committee composed of Charles R. Eckert of Beaver, H. S. Bender of Johnstown, and Frank Stephens of Philadelphia:

We recognize and again wish to emphasize the fact that industry and commerce are clogged, fettered, and bound by our antiquated and unscientific system of taxation, and that new life and vigor will be given to trade and business by a revision of our tax laws, in accordance with scientific and just principles.

In view of the fact that a legislative committee has been appointed for the purpose of investigating the tax question, we recommend that the local Single Tax organization send representatives, in conjunction with delegates of this conference, to appear before the said legislative committee at its meeting to be held in Pittsburgh and urge, as a matter of simple justice, that all taxes which fall upon industry and commerce—and thus hinder and cripple production and trade—be abolished, and all taxes be levied upon the rental value of land.

We urge, as a beginning in the development of this comprehensive tax system, the abolition of the obnoxious mercantile tax, and as a further step in the development of a rational system of taxation, we recommend that land and improvements be as-

essed separately and that such assessments be given to the people by publication.

The right of the people to rule is a recognized sovereign, indefeasible right. We therefore advocate the system known as the initiative and referendum with the recall, and particularly local option in taxation, and that all losses to the State by the abolition of obnoxious taxes be supplied by the several counties, in proportion to the amount raised by the said several counties for their own local government, by such methods as the people of the respective counties may designate by expressing their will through the medium of local option in taxation.

We call upon all those who are in sympathy, either in whole or in part, with the recommendations herein set forth, to co-operate with the local Single Tax organization, and conversely we recommend that local Single Tax organizations co-operate and join with all those seeking to improve our present methods of taxation.

England has set the world afire through the agitation of the tax question, and we recognize in the work that has been done by our brethren across the sea the beginning of the abolition of the great fundamental monopoly of the natural resources. To all engaged in this great and intense struggle we send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for further successes and triumphs.

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Snowslides and Floods.

The snowslides in the mountains of the northwest reported last week as having overwhelmed some small towns (p. 208), have been followed by others in the still farther northwest which have buried railroad trains and passengers and railroad workmen, while half a dozen transcontinental roads have been tied up.

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Two Great Northern trains were overwhelmed by a vast avalanche of snow a mile long in the Cascade Mountains near Wellington in the State of Washington at dawn on the 1st. One train was a fast mail carrying no passengers. The other was the Great Northern express, westbound between Spokane and Seattle, which had been stalled in the snow for about four days. The weight and power of the falling masses of snow swept the express train from the track and hurled it down the hillside into a canyon. Besides the passengers on the express, the crews of both trains, and a number of workmen who had been engaged in protecting the trains from the drifts, were involved in the disaster. By the 4th forty dead had been brought out, and it was believed that forty-five passengers and railroad men, and an unknown number of laborers were still buried beneath the snow.

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On the 2d the Oriental Limited on the Great Northern, eastbound near Milan, twenty-two miles east of Spokane, was wrecked against boulders