

by Mayor Gaynor's commission on congestion of population, of which Benjamin C. Marsh is executive secretary. The Commission recommended that "the rate of taxation upon buildings be made one-half the rate of taxation upon all land by five equal reductions in five consecutive years." Literature and information may be obtained of Mr. Marsh, Room 506, No. 320 Broadway, New York City. [See current volume, page 635.]

+

Opposition comes especially from speculative real estate interests led by Allan Robinson. They denounce the bill as an entering wedge for the Singletax of Henry George.

+

Before the Senate committee on cities on the 8th, Mr. Robinson appears from the New York dispatches to have been the only important adversary of the bills. Those who spoke for them were Mr. Marsh, Raymond V. Ingersoll (chairman of the Congestion Commission), Dr. William Jay Schieffelin (president of the Federation of Churches), Walter Laidlaw (secretary of the Federation of Churches), and Charles James (representing the People's Forum and the Bowery Mission). Dr. Schieffelin quoted from the last report of the American Real Estate Company that an inevitable increase in the value of land is due to the constantly growing population of New York City, and he read this list of organizations that have approved the Sullivan-Shortt bills.

Brooklyn Central Labor Union, Tenants' Union of New York, the Federation of Churches, the Wyckoff Heights Taxpayers' Association, the South Brooklyn Board of Trade, the City Club of New York, the People's Institute, the Women's Trade Union League of New York, the Church Association for Improving the Condition of Labor, the Neighborhood Workers' Association, the East Flatbush Taxpayers' Association, the People's Forum, the Committee on Congestion of Population in New York, the United Hebrew Trades, the Central Federated Union, the New York State League of Savings and Loan Associations.

Among the merchants, manufacturers and others who have endorsed the idea of halving the rate of tax on all buildings, Dr. Schieffelin cited the following:

V. Everit Macy, E. H. Outerbridge, A. Augustus Healy, Byron W. Holt, Horace E. Deming, B. W. Huebsch, John Moody, Frederic L. Cranford, Charles O'C. Hennessy, Mornay Williams, Edward T. Devine, Charles H. Ingersoll, Joseph N. Francolini, James C. Shevlin, John J. Hopper, James C. Mun, John T. Brook, George Foster Peabody, John W. T. Nichols, John DeWitt Warner, Thomas J. Skuse, Henry Holt, DeWitt Clinton, Jr.

At the time of the committee hearing, it was the general belief at Albany, according to the World correspondent, that both bills would be reported to

their respective Houses, if not for passage at any rate for discussion.

+

A local report in the New York World of the 9th quoted Dr. Henry Moskowitz, head of the Downtown Ethical Culture Society, as saying he believes the bills will go a long way toward solving East Side congestion, and in this view he was supported in the same report by Miss Mary E. Dreier, the president of the Women's Trade Union League, by Mrs. V. G. Zimkhovitch of the Neighborhood Workers' Association, and by Mrs. Florence Kelley of the Consumers' League. "Halving the tax rate on buildings," said Dr. Moskowitz, "will encourage the construction of healthy tenements, the consecutive development of the city from the centre out, and the demolition of firetraps and unsanitary buildings. The bill will reduce rents and break up land monopolies. It will encourage manufacturers to remain in New York city. They will make higher wages possible and will help the little man to own his own home. Men wish to live near their work, and the reduction of the tax on buildings will encourage manufacturers to put up better factories in localities where the operatives may live in their own homes, near the factories." The agitation for the change, so the World report concludes, is likened—

to the great movement now under way in England under the leadership of Lloyd George looking toward the breaking up of the big landed estates and the opening up of the land to small holders.

+ +

#### Reforms in Mexico.

Reports from Mexico indicate a general moral cleaning up and the advance of the interests of labor. Labor strikes from one end of the Republic to the other are said to be regarded by the Provisional Government as indicating the excellent fact that the country requires a new standard of wages, and that the working classes have simply adopted the most efficacious method for establishing it. "In a majority of cases," says a dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean, "the wage earners have been successful, and throughout the country their influence has been felt. The Government has in many cases voluntarily raised the wages of those employed on public works." Madero's platform in the coming Presidential campaign, is said to consist of but two planks—one against the re-election of a president to office and one against the trusts.

+ +

#### Commutation of Sentence.

The Canadian cabinet on the 14th commuted the capital sentence upon Angelina Neapolitano to imprisonment for life. [See current volume, pages 649, 659.]

+

News dispatches from Ottawa explain that the