

...ptali Congress of the Rhodesian Agri-
...nion:

...the opinion of this Congress the time has
...men the question of a tax on unoccupied
...d be seriously considered, and that the
...t be urged to the introduction of the
...legislation to ascertain the extent of
...by the company and by individuals which
...present condition of the country could be
...occupied.

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...tax Movement in Washington Municipi-

...farmers of the city of Seattle have put
...Initiative petition, now circulating for
...which proposes that the charter of
...amended by adding the following arti-
...known as Article XXVII:

The assessment, levy and collection
property for all corporate or municipal
the City of Seattle shall be uniform in
persons and property therein; provided,
and after the first day of July, 1912, no
corporate or municipal purposes in the City
shall be levied or imposed on any im-
on, in or under any lands in the City
or on any form of personal property ex-
d interests in land; but, from and after
of July, 1912, all taxes within said city
or municipal purposes shall be levied
cted from the assessed value of lease-
s in land, public service corporation
nd on and from the assessed values of
all other natural resources in said city,
lands as are used only for municipal,
literary, scientific, religious, or charit-
already exempt from taxation by law;
t nothing herein shall be construed to
imposing of licenses on certain occupa-
the City of Seattle in the exercise of the
or affect any charter provision or ordi-
ning the sale of intoxicating liquors.

No tax or fee for corporate or municipi-
shall be imposed in the City of Seattle
e, labor, business, person, industry, or
er the pretext of a license or the ex-
police power except where the imposi-
x or fee is for the avowed purpose of
discouraging the pursuit or object so
rdinances imposing such taxes shall
that the purpose is to limit and dis-
rsuit or object so taxed.

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...entertained of the power of mu-
...discriminate in that manner, in-
...Constitution forbids it in general.
...ion to these doubts it is argued that
...nt giving municipalities power to
...n charters, with no conditions as
...taxation, has had the effect of re-
...peration of the Constitution in that
...municipal taxation. Commenting

upon the dispute, the Seattle Argus of September
says:

Corporation Counsel Calhoun is of the opinion that
a Singletax amendment to the city charter would be
illegal. If it is, there can be no possible harm in
finding it out. Others, who are fully as wise as Mr.
Calhoun, say that it is not. It should be put up to
the courts for a decision. Singletax, as proposed in
this city, simply means the removal of taxation on
improvements, and placing it on all property of the
same class equally. If Seattle had a population, for
instance, of a few hundred people only, the south-
west corner of Second and Madison would be worth
only the few hundred dollars which Mr. Walker gave
for it a number of years ago, instead of over half a
million dollars. Mr. Walker has a right to hold it
practically vacant if he desires, but the people have
created that value for him. He has never raised
his hand to do anything towards it himself. The
Singletaxers protest that it is not fair to tax the
men who have created that great value by making
improvements, and let Mr. Walker go practically
free. They contend that it is not right to police and
give fire protection and other municipal necessities
to a whole city, and have the people who are simply
holding real estate until others can make it valu-
able, pay practically nothing towards caring for their
property. There are men who own tide land lots
and hold them at values so high that nobody can
afford to buy them for manufacturing purposes. They
contend that if the property adjoining the Fisher
Bros. mills, for instance, paid as much taxes as the
property on which the mill is situated, it would not
be long before it would be improved, and become a
hive of industry. In the East large manufacturing
centers have been built up by the communities giving
free taxes, free water, and even free power to leg-
itimate concerns. The Singletaxer contends that
his way is the only way to do these things correctly,
and make each and every man benefited pay his full
share. Seattle may not be ready for this innovation,
but the fact that our Canadian neighbors have found
it wonderfully successful, and the further fact that
the plan proposed by Messrs. Griffiths and Erickson
is far from radical, should cause every voter to give
it careful consideration, at least.

[See current volume, pages 651, 853.]

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The Singletax Fight in Oregon.

Original jurisdiction of the Clackamas county
Singletax case has been taken by the Supreme
Court of Oregon, and a decision is expected some
time in November. [See current volume, page
1002.]

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The Strike of American Railway Shopmen.

By reports of the 7th from headquarters of the
American Federation of Labor, it appears that
38,000 shopmen in 15 States and 24 cities had
then joined the railway shopmen's strike, and
that the railroad officials were making frantic ef-
forts to replace the men with strike-breakers but
were meeting with scant success. "The shops are
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