

to give them no concern about filling the strikers' places.

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#### Judge Hanford's Impeachment.

Oliver T. Erickson and his associates in Seattle (including the editor and publisher of the Seattle Star and their attorney), who have been urging the impeachment of the Federal Judge Hanford, have been exonerated of the criminal charge of obstructing Federal justice. The United States Commissioner admitted them to bail to await the action of the Federal grand jury; and on the 28th the grand jury, after investigating the case four days, threw out the indictment. [See current volume, page 954.]

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#### Land Values Taxation in Missouri.

The campaign for land values taxation in Missouri by means of Initiative amendment to the Constitution, began last week upon the basis of the following proposed amendment, which had been carefully drafted under the supervision of Dr. William P. Hill and S. L. Moser and by some of the leading lawyers of Missouri, including F. N. Judson:

Section 1. All property now subject to taxation shall be classified for purposes of taxation and for exemption from taxation as follows: Class One shall include all personal property. In the year 1913 and thereafter no assessment for State or local taxes shall be made on property in Class One. Class Two shall include all improvements in or on land, except improvements in or on lands now exempt from taxation by law. In the years 1914 and 1915 all property in Class Two shall be exempt from taxes to the extent of one-fourth of the assessed value of such property; in the years 1916 and 1917, to the extent of two-fourths; in the years 1918 and 1919, to the extent of three-fourths, and in the year 1920 and thereafter all property in Class Two shall be exempt from taxes; provided, however, that in the year 1914 and thereafter the improvements to the extent of \$3,000 in assessed value on the homestead of every householder or head of a family, shall be exempt from taxes. Class Three shall include all lands, independent of improvements thereon or therein, except lands now exempt from taxation by law, and no property in Class Three shall ever be exempt from taxation. Class Four shall include all franchise values of public service corporations.

Section 2. All property subject to taxation in this State shall be assessed for taxes at its true and actual value.

Section 3. No poll tax shall be levied or collected in Missouri, nor shall any tax whatsoever be levied or imposed on any person, firm, merchant, manufacturer, trade, labor, business, occupation or profession under the form or pretext of a license for revenue after December 31st, 1913, but nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the licensing of any business, occupation, profession, place or thing in the interest of the public peace, health or safety; and nothing herein contained shall be con-

strued as changing the present laws governing the regulation of the manufacture or sale of fermented, vinous and spirituous liquors.

Section 4. The existing Constitutional limitations upon the rates of taxation for State, county, school and municipal purposes shall have no force and effect after January 1st, 1914.

Section 5. The General Assembly shall provide the legislation necessary to secure full and effective compliance with the purposes and intent of this amendment. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to limit the Initiative and Referendum powers reserved by the people.

[See current volume, page 777.]

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#### The British Conference on Land Values Taxation.

At the conference on land values taxation held at Glasgow September 11 and 12, all the official resolutions were carried except the second, for which a stronger substitute was proposed by R. L. Outhwaite and unanimously adopted. Following is the substitute:

That this conference views with grave concern the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the valuation will not be completed until 1914, and refuses to assent to the long delay which this would entail upon urgent reforms. This conference, in view of the pledge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to deal with the question of the relation of imperial and local finances during the present Parliament, declares emphatically that this can only be satisfactorily carried out on the lines outlined in the preceding resolutions. It therefore urges the Land Values Group in the House of Commons to take an early opportunity of again pressing on the Chancellor of the Exchequer the desirability of expediting the Budget valuation, and if this is impracticable on present lines, to consider other methods which will more speedily accomplish the end in view. This conference further pledges itself to resist strenuously and uncompromisingly any attempt to deal with the problem of local and imperial taxation which ignores the rating and taxation of land values.

Georges Darien, editor of "L'Impot Unique," conveyed the greetings of the Single Taxers of Paris to the Conference, and Joseph Fels announced that it had been arranged that an international Single-tax conference be held at the place of and just prior to the next International Free-trade Conference, the meeting place of which was not yet settled. [See current volume, page 956.]

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#### Pennsylvania Dam Disaster.

The town of Austin in Potter county on the north boundary of Pennsylvania, with the smaller town of Costello below it, were almost entirely swept away by a mighty flood of waters on the afternoon of the 30th, when the great dam of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company, on Freeman's Run, holding back more than 500,000,000 gallons