

**The Single Tax Initiative in Oregon.**

Vigorous steps have begun in Oregon for the purpose of submitting to every county in the State at the November election of 1912 a proposition to adopt the single tax in those counties respectively. The right and power to do this was secured at the election last fall by the adoption (vol. xiii, p. 1233) of an amendment to the State Constitution allowing each county in the State to obtain revenues for the purpose of meeting its own local expenses and its proportionate share of the State expenses, by any method of taxation the voters of the respective counties adopt. Accordingly, subscriptions for funds in compliance with the corrupt practices law of Oregon are being circulated now in the various counties in the form substantially of the following, which is for Multnomah County, the county in which Portland is located:

**Multnomah County Business and Labor Tax Exemption League**

Portland, Oregon, ....., 1911.

I hereby subscribe the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars per month, payable on the first day of each month to the Treasurer of said League, for the period ending November 30th, 1912.

This subscription is to pay the expenses of said Multnomah County Business and Labor Tax Exemption League in proposing and advocating the adoption by the people of Multnomah County, at the general election in 1912, of a law in substance as follows:

Be it enacted and ordained by the people of Multnomah County, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 1A of Article IX of the Constitution of Oregon:

Section 1. That all business, labor, trades, occupations and professions, and the right to conduct, work at, or practice the same; and all forms of personal property and personal estate; and all improvements on, in and under all lands, shall be and hereby are exempted from taxation for any purpose within Multnomah County; and no tax shall be imposed upon any trade, labor, business, person, occupation or profession under the pretext of a license or the exercise of the police power within said County.

Section 2. All taxes within Multnomah County shall be levied on and collected from the assessed values of public service corporation franchises, rights-of-way, and the assessed values of all lands and other natural resources in said County, except such lands as are used only for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes already exempt from taxation by law. Until otherwise provided by law, the assessed value of all standing timber of natural growth shall be taxed in like manner as the value of land.

I hereby authorize C. E. S. Wood, Geo. M. Orton, E. S. J. McAllister, H. J. Parkison, A. F. Miller, H. W. Stone, Will Daly and John F. Logan to act as Executive Committee and Officers of said League, with power to fill vacancies and to appoint additional members of the Executive Committee.

(Signed).....  
 No.....Street.  
 .....Treasurer.

Alanson M. Himes, Membership Solicitor and Collector.



**Traction Question in Cleveland.**

For months past the Cleveland traction com-

pany (vol. xiii, p. 973) has been trying to escape its responsibilities to the city under the Tayler ordinance (vol. xiii, p. 181), and on the 2nd the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to inquire into the matter and report the facts. In advising such a committee, the president of the Chamber, who appointed it, explained in a preliminary speech that—

there are two classes of people who would be glad to see the Tayler grant fail—those who advocate municipal ownership, and those who prefer to have the city give a straight franchise to the street railway company. . . . If readjustments are required to meet the needs and help the city, then we ought to be prompt in lending our aid. The readjustment, if made, should be with the view of helping make the Tayler grant successful, not of harming it. On the part of the company, President Stanley said:

There ought to be some changes so we can finance our needs with businesslike economy and protect our stockholders. Without this we are unable to secure funds with which to purchase additional equipment and extend our lines. This company will afford the committee any information it may possess that the committee thinks will be helpful.

In an interview after the appointment of the Chamber of Commerce committee, the City Solicitor, Newton D. Baker, repeated a declaration he had formerly made, that the proper solution of the Cleveland traction question is municipal ownership. Tom L. Johnson refused to comment publicly at this time on the proposed investigation. The investigating Committee of the Chamber of Commerce is composed of the following persons:

F. H. Goff (lawyer), chairman; and Warren S. Hayden (of the bond brokerage firm of Hayden, Miller and Co.), Charles E. Adams (General Manager of the Cleveland Hardware Co.), Henry W. Stecher (Secretary and Treasurer of the Pearl Street Savings and Trust Co.), H. A. Higgins (General Manager of the Standard Tool Co.), Warren S. Stone (Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers), and the following lawyers: George B. Siddall, Homer H. McKeehan, D. C. Westenhaver. (one of Mayor Johnson's legal advisers in the public interest in traction controversies), and James R. Garfield.



**Newspaper Business Amenities.**

There was a printers' strike in the Hearst newspaper establishments in Chicago (those of the Examiner and the American) on the 28th, in consequence of which the Examiner—the morning paper—appeared with only four pages. This disclosed a curious understanding between members of the newspaper owners' union, the name of which is the "American Newspaper Publishers' Association," and which has "locals" in the different cities. Inasmuch as Hearst's Examiner,