

who desires to invest his money in productive enterprise?



When a sufficient number of communities have pushed the Singletax far enough, testing it step by step, and have found it good, then will be the time to attack the national problem.

But the change will be so gradual, the agitation will be so general, the public conscience will be so aroused against land speculation and landlordism, that most of the speculators will have been driven into using their money in productive enterprises, most of the land monopolists will have released their immense holdings, and those remaining will have had sufficient warning that the people mean to recapture their heritage.

R. BEDICHEK.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 25, 1912.

Republican Presidential Nominations.

At a late hour on the 22nd the national Republican convention nominated President William Howard Taft for President, and Vice-President James Schoolcraft Sherman for Vice-President. [See current volume, page 581.]



After Elihu Root had been chosen as temporary chairman on the 18th, the important procedure of the convention was in the committee on credentials, which did not complete its work until the 22nd. It sustained the national committee's report in every particular and was itself sustained by the convention. Thus the temporary roll was made the permanent roll without a change. Upon the completion of the roll the report of the committee on permanent organization was adopted. It made the temporary officers of the convention the permanent officers. Henry J. Allen of Kansas having then made a statement in behalf of Roosevelt and Roosevelt delegates (the character of which will be given farther on), ex-Vice-President Fairbanks presented the report of the committee on platform, of which he was chairman. Walter C. Owen of Wisconsin presented the La Follette platform as a substitute, but this was promptly laid upon the table. The Fairbanks report was thereupon adopted by roll call vote. When California was called, and Meyer Lissner of the California delegation responded, "California declines

to vote," evoking a storm of applause, Chairman Root announced that the vote of California had been challenged and ordered the roll of the State to be called. This resulted in two votes for the platform (two Taft delegates) but silence from the rest of the delegation. The same question arose later on the vote for Presidential nomination when Massachusetts refused to vote both on call of States and on call of delegates. Chairman Root ordered the alternates to be called, but as only four responded this experiment was not further tried. Wisconsin voted "No" unanimously. The adoption of the platform was by the following vote:

Aye	666
No	53
Present (but not voting).....	343
Absent	16
Majority for adoption.....	254



Immediately upon the adoption of the platform the roll was called for nominations for President. Ohio was the first to respond. Warren G. Harding of that State nominated President Taft. The nomination was seconded by John Wanamaker and Nicholas Murray Butler. Michael B. Olbrich of Wisconsin nominated Senator La Follette, and Robert M. Pollock of North Dakota seconded the nomination. No other nominations were formally made. The voting began at once, 8:23 in the evening of the 22nd, and the result was as follows:

Taft	561
La Follette	41
Hughes	2
Roosevelt	107
Cummins	17
Absent	6
Present (but not voting).....	344
Taft's majority	44

Having nominated Vice-President Sherman for Vice-President, after Governor Deneen of Illinois and Governor Hadley of Missouri had refused to consider the honor, the convention adjourned at 10:30 p. m.



Third Party Possibilities.

Signs of a new party movement were plentiful from the moment when it became evident that all the contested seats would be awarded with a strong hand, by the Taft managers of the Republican convention, to the Taft faction. One of the first important statements definitely along that line came, however, from Governor Johnson on the 22nd. Governor Johnson was then reported as saying:

Developments since the convention opened have convinced me that there will be a new party in the field, headed by Col. Roosevelt, and that party will carry California by 120,000. The principle in-

volved is vital. No one nominated by this convention, with its tainted delegates, can be elected.

This movement began to assume tangible shape when Henry J. Allen of Kansas, prior to the presentation of the platform, read a denunciatory statement by Mr. Roosevelt and in behalf of a majority of the Roosevelt delegates, and followed it with a formal declaration that they could no longer share in responsibility for the convention. Having recited the circumstances that impelled them, Mr. Allen said:

We do not bolt. We merely insist that you, not we, are making the record. And we refuse to be bound by it. We have pleaded with you ten days. We have fought with you for five days for a square deal. We fight no more. We plead no longer. We shall sit in protest and the people who sent us here shall judge us.

The delegates represented by Mr. Allen were understood to be at least the 344 who were present in the convention when the Presidential nomination was made but refused to vote.

Mr. Allen's action in the convention was followed the same evening, the 22nd, by a meeting at Orchestra Hall of what the Chicago Tribune (pro-Roosevelt) of the 23rd describes as "the majority of the uncontested delegates in the Republican national convention." The following statement, offered by Senator Clapp of Minnesota and supported by Governor Johnson of California and Comptroller Prendergast of New York, was adopted:

We, delegates and alternates to the Republican national convention, representing a clear majority of the voters of the Republican party in the nation, and representing a clear majority of delegates and alternates legally elected to the convention, in meeting assembled make the following declaration: We were delegated by a majority of Republican voters of our respective districts and States to nominate Theodore Roosevelt in the Republican national convention as the candidate of our party for President and thereby carry out the will of the voters as expressed at the primaries. We have earnestly and conscientiously striven to execute the commission intrusted to us by the party voters. For five days we have been denied justice in the national convention. This result has been accomplished by the action of the now defunct national committee in placing upon the preliminary roll of the convention, and thereby seating upon the floor of the convention, a sufficient number of fraudulently elected delegates to control the proceedings of the convention. These fraudulent delegates, once seated, have by concerted action with one another put themselves upon the permanent roll, where they constitute an influence sufficient to control the convention and defeat the will of the party as expressed at the primaries. We have exhausted every known means to hold off this conspiracy and to prevent this fraud upon the popular will, but without success. We were sent to this convention bearing the most spe-

cific instructions to place Theodore Roosevelt in nomination as the candidate of our party for President, and we therefore deem it to be our duty to carry out those instructions in the only practical and feasible way remaining open to us. Therefore, be it Resolved, that we, representing the majority of the voters of the Republican party and of the delegates and alternates legally elected to the national Republican convention, in compliance with our instructions from the party voters, hereby nominate Theodore Roosevelt as the candidate of our party for the office of President of the United States; and we call upon him to accept such nomination in compliance with the will of party voters; and be it further Resolved, that a committee be appointed by the chair to forthwith notify Colonel Roosevelt of the action here taken, and request him to appear before us in this hall as soon as convenient.



Mr. Roosevelt appeared accordingly at 11:30 o'clock at night and spoke until 12:25 Sunday morning. In the course of his speech he said:

The time has come when not only all men who believe in Progressive principles, but all men who believe in those elementary maxims of public and private morality which must underlie every form of successful free government should join in one movement. Therefore I ask you to go to your several homes to find out the sentiment of the people at home, and then again to come together, I suggest by mass convention, to nominate for the Presidency a Progressive candidate on a Progressive platform—a candidate and a platform that will enable us to appeal to Northerner and Southerner, Easterner and Westerner, Republican and Democrat alike, in the name of our common American citizenship. If you wish me to make the fight I will make it, even if only one State should support me. The only condition I impose is that you shall feel entirely free when you come together to substitute any other man in my place if you deem it better for the movement, and in such case I will give him my heartiest support. Wherever in any State the Republican party is true to the principles of its founders, and is genuinely the party of justice and of progress, I expect to see it come bodily into the new movement; for the convention that has just sat in this city is in no proper sense of the word a Republican convention at all.



At a subsequent meeting, at which Mr. Roosevelt was not present, held at the Congress Hotel on the 23rd, with Governor Johnson of California presiding, it was unanimously voted, on motion of James R. Garfield of Ohio, that Governor Johnson appoint a provisional committee which, with himself, "shall confer with Col. Roosevelt for the purpose of devising a plan of action for the new organization."



The Democratic National Convention.

The Democratic convention at Baltimore followed close upon the heels of the Republican con-