

The Missouri Vote

In 1912 the vote in Missouri on the Single Tax Amendment outside of St. Louis (city) and St. Louis county was:

35,093 Yes
435,435 No
Yes percent. 7.4

1918 vote in same district:

55,546 Yes
287,961 No
Yes per cent. 16.2

1912 vote in Missouri outside of Kansas City, Jackson county, St. Louis and St. Louis county:

21,735 Yes
407,369 No
Yes per cent. 5.6

1918 vote in same district:

41,165
268,163 No
Yes per cent. 13.3

1912 Yes per centage in Kansas City, approximately 37.0.

1918 vote in same city:

12,959 Yes
15,609 No
Yes per cent. 42.0

Every county in the State shows an increase except St. Louis city and St. Louis county.

The total vote of the State for 1912 and 1918 was as follows:

1912				1918	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
		per cent.			per cent.
86,647	508,467	14.5	82,972	375,220	18.1

The encouraging significance of the result is that not only was there an increase in the Single Tax vote but a tremendous decrease in the negative vote.

We can give these figures as a conclusive refutation to the oft repeated statement that the farmer cannot be made to see the Single Tax without a definite appeal to his prejudice or his pocketbook. We eliminate St. Louis because not much of a campaign could be carried on in that city, and because the liquor interests were entered against the Single Tax forces. So the message did not get a fair hearing there.

Single Taxers in Missouri used the writings of Henry George and begged no question of name or principle in presenting their plea.

In nearly every case where a large increase in the percentage of votes in 1918 is shown, the county is one where tenancy and poverty are rife. Indeed ours is a message of good tidings to the poor and oppressed, and the vote in Missouri shows that many of these are "inclining their ears to hear the truth."

Canada

THE Canadian Council of Agriculture demands a League of Nations, Free Trade and the Taxation of Land Values. It condemns the protective tariff as a wasteful and costly method of raising national revenue. Recognizing that the tariff reductions recommended will result in greatly diminished revenue the Council advocates that other taxation be imposed, and places first "a direct tax on all unimproved land values, including all natural resources." Inheritance and income taxes are also favored.

"The Hudson's Bay Company claimed exemption, under the terms of its land grant from the Federal Government, in the matter of a special tax imposed upon vacant land in the province of Saskatchewan. The appeal court has upheld the law."

Following are significant paragraphs from the *Veteran*, organ of the war veterans of Canada. It will show how Secretary Lane's scheme, which is really modelled on the Canadian plan, is regarded by the soldiers of the Dominion.

Referring to the fact that there is no accessible land for the soldiers though millions of acres are held by speculators, it says:

"The question as to how these idle acres shall be recovered for public use is a question which belongs to our statesmen. * * * It is inconceivable that further exemption should be afforded to the owners of immense tracts of unused land, until such time as the labor and energy of surrounding settlers has increased its value."

"If the Government's dictum, that "food will win the war," was really believed by its sponsors, it is a peculiar fact that the required amendments to the Soldier Settlement Act could not be made by order-in-council. Many wider enactments have been perpetrated under this form of government, a number of which struck at the very root of human liberty and privilege. Personal liberty—that hitherto most sacred and inviolable human right—has not been exempt in the process of welding the power and resources of the nation into the set purpose of victory. But while a policy of "work or fight" has been adopted for the manhood of Canada, and one hundred thousand men have been drafted into the army as a consequence of national necessity, no corresponding policy has been devised to deal with Canada's secondary great asset—the land."

"Definite promises have been made by the Government that provision would be made for such veterans as desired to take up farming. The great stumbling block that now prevents these promises being kept appears to be the very speculative interests which have ever been the curse of Canada. * * * It is understood that the growers of the West vigorously protest against the purchase of land without a scheme including taxation of land values, because valuation by the holders of land should serve as the basis of taxation or of purchase. * * * We ask Hon. Mr. Meighen two questions:—(1) whether the grain growers are not right, and (2) what the government proposes to do toward procuring land for the agricultural settlement of returned soldiers? * * * What are the government's ideas about land settlement? Are the veterans to be sent to die of melancholia in sub-artic valleys north of Edmonton, or are the Hudson's Bay Company and divers land-hog corporations and speculators to have their holdings in more temperate and habit-