

## News From Many States

**CALIFORNIA.** All the leaders in the Great Adventure movement at State headquarters are in favor of a more radical measure than the present proposed amendment.

An amendment is now being considered similar to the Oregon proposal, that would begin with the provisions of our present measure but set a fixed date when the whole rental value of the land shall be taken in taxation. If found to be practical such a measure will be submitted; if not, the present bill will be adhered to.

Legal experts friendly to our programme are now carefully considering the matter. There will be no backward step. There is harmony within the ranks of the Great Adventure and reorganization is moving ahead.

George A. Briggs, of Kern County, Calif., formerly of the Fels Fund Commission, has joined forces with the Great Adventure and is taking an active part in the work. He is thoroughly convinced that the demand for complete Single Tax is the only sane and sound policy to pursue.

**MAINE.** A convention of Maine Single Taxers for the organization of a State Party met in June. Following are the members of the State Committee: Dr. A. W. Plummer, Lisbon Falls, State Chairman; S. K. Ballard, Auburn, State Treasurer; F. D. Lyford, Lewiston, State Secretary; Dr. W. B. Moulton, Portland; Geo. E. Kittredge, South Portland; Dr. John W. Bowers, Portland; Elmer E. Knowles, Portland; D. O. Moulton, Portland; H. G. Casey, Auburn; Rev. J. T. Crosby, Auburn; Herbert Lucas, Auburn; Frank B. Hayes, Lewiston; Geo. S. Pettengill, Lewiston; Arthur N. Pettengill, Lewiston; Fred A. Bailey, Auburn; W. E. Jackson, Auburn; L. C. Bateman, Lewiston; W. A. Noyes, Lewiston; Eugene M. Edwards, Lisbon; Chas. Field, Auburn; Thomas Marsden, Portland; Geneva L. Casey, Auburn; Howell M. Pratt; and Mrs. Electa R. Pratt, and Margaret B. DeGarmo, Portland. Active work to capture the State for the Single Tax will begin at once.

James A. Robinson, in his recent tour of the New England States, found Maine the most encouraging and enthusiastic of all the Eastern States visited. In this State there was a surprising unanimity of conviction on the question of Party action. Not a single man or woman expressed a doubt of its wisdom. Already in several cities preparations are under way for vigorous local campaigning.

At the State Convention many came from great distances. Letters and telegrams poured in. Maine has not hitherto been considered peculiarly favorable fighting ground for the Single Tax, and so the spirit aroused among our Maine friends is a complete revelation.

**MASSACHUSETTS.** The State Committee of the Single Tax Party of Massachusetts, has been organized, with Dr. C. S. Millet, of Boston, as State Chairman, and M. C. O'Neill, of Boston, as State Secretary. Members of the State Committee are Albert J. Orem, of Boston; H. E. Clifford, Newton Center; Oliver R. Cook, Worcester; W. L. Crossman, Revere; A. K. Cross, Ashland; Lincoln Crowell,

Sandwich; Frank Grant, Westfield; W. W. Gray, Lynn; James R. Carret, Boston; Rupert B. Rogers, Boston; E. T. Hartman, Boston; Reginald Moill Hull, Boston; Chas. E. Nicholls, Boston; L. M. Poroeis, Gloucester; John Orth, Boston; Emanuel Petersen, Wakefield; Elizabeth Towne, Holyoke; Mrs. Lucy Waters Phelps, Millbury; Hollis C. Joy, now in Belgium; and Fiske Warren, Harvard.

Much regret has been expressed by a number of the members of the Massachusetts Single Tax League that they are prevented by their charter from a formal endorsement of the Party. It is gratifying to state, however, that even those among them who have not yet concluded to cast their fortunes with the Party are many who have manifested great interest in the new movement, and have volunteered suggestions of value. An interesting and lengthy communication from Prof. Lewis J. Johnson was received by the Platform Committee at the recent National Convention, with suggestions for the framers of that platform. It is to be regretted that owing to Prof. Johnson's absorption in the purely educational work in which he is engaged that we are deprived for the time being of the valuable services he would be able to render as a Party member.

**MICHIGAN.** President A. Laurence Smith, of the Michigan Site Value Tax League, promises financial support for any Single Tax campaign agreed upon at a conference of Single Taxers. Naturally he believes Michigan affords good fighting ground, and, moreover, it is ground well seeded with Single Tax ideas.

Single Taxers in this State have circulated over 200,000 pieces of literature the last two years. But there are 700,000 male voters in Michigan to whom have been added 600,000 women. But even in this State, where Single Taxers have been working for a decade, not more than two in eight voters have any idea of our principles.

Judson Grenell is making a "Survey" of the possibility of advance for Michigan by making Ann Arbor, the State University city, the center of agitation. Here will be gathered this Fall 8,000 to 10,000 students, the majority from Michigan, but representing every State in the Union, and between 30 and 40 different nations. It seems to Mr. Grenell a good place for a national and international campaign for the Single Tax.

**NEW JERSEY.** The work of securing signatures to the nominating petitions for Mr. Mark M. Dintenfuss for governor, has now been completed. Complete or partial assembly nominations are under way in a number of counties. The system in New Jersey is different from that of New York. In the former State the vote for assembly candidates is by counties.

Open air meetings are being held in this State, under the management of Mr. Reis. Mr. W. J. Wallace has visited a number of counties with his auto to induce the formation of county organizations and to secure desirable nominees for the assembly. He has been very successful in inducing quite a number of men of prominence to stand as Party nominees for the Great Restoration.

The progress of the cause in this State will be watched with interest. There is entire unanimity among the old line Single Taxers in this State in support of the Party, and they are joining with the new men and women who are coming in as enthusiastic converts.

NEW YORK. The New York Single Tax Party headquarters at 246 West 14th street, is the center of great activity these days. Messrs. Watts and Fowles have charge of the canvassers for signatures to nominating petitions. Mr. Joseph Dana Miller is the Party's nominee for President of the Board of Aldermen, the highest local office to be filled in the coming Fall elections, and effort is being made to place on the ballot as many nominees for the State legislature as the funds and workers at the command of the Party will permit.

It should be said for the information of our friends that it is more difficult to secure a place on the ballot in this State for even local nominees than it is in some States for the highest State offices. It should occasion some concern to all those who believe in democratic institutions to know that we are confronted with almost insuperable obstacles in this State that are deliberately and confessedly designed to prevent independent nominations.

In the meantime the work of converting the people goes on. Open air meetings in different parts of the city are being held by that sterling friend of the cause, George Lloyd, and assisting him in his speaking campaign are Messrs. Chodorov, Goldsmith, Watts, Reis, Mrs. Haxo, Miss Sims and others.

OKLAHOMA. Senator James Spurlock has introduced a bill into the legislature which he believes "will check the tendency toward radicalism and socialism." Senator Spurlock would assess the taxes on the value of land exclusively. He believes his measure will prevent speculation and encourage home owning. The Senator says: "It will fall on those best able to pay the taxes and those who reap the greatest benefits from public improvements."

OHIO. The *Ohio State Journal*, published every morning at Columbus and read by politicians during the session of the General Assembly, prints a great deal of Single Tax matter. The *Cleveland Citizen*, though published by a Socialist, Mr. Max Hayes, is also liberal in its policy toward Single Tax communications.

John Z. White addressed the forum of the North Congregational Church at Cleveland on June 8th.

The *Ohio Site Taxer*, a monthly paper is published by William Hallenkamp, at Columbus, who is in charge of the organization work of the Ohio Single Tax League.

Billy Radcliffe, Single Taxer, addressed the Men's Club of Calvary Baptist Church at Cleveland on June 24, and held his audience for nearly two hours. Pamphlets were distributed. It has been the policy to cover every meeting with a pamphlet outlining some phase of the speaker's address.

OREGON. Oregon is in the ring. The first 1,000 initi-

ative signatures have been secured and filing with the county clerk for verification has been begun. There must be 10,000 verified signatures. Then the measure will be on the ballot and ready for voting in November, 1920. J. R. Hermann is on the job to the best of his ability. He and Mrs. Christina Mock, the secretary, have addressed over 60 different local unions on the measure.

While the unions, as ever, are occupied with boycotts, strikes, lockouts, agreements with employers, their own petty politics and other side issues, some of them realize the importance of the movement. Few of their leaders openly antagonize the Single Tax—very few. It is the orthodox thing to affirm it in an academic way, but to point out the transcendent importance over all of the meat cutter's boycott, or the building of the Labor Temple, or something else.

The burden falls on a very few. It takes money to pay office rent, printing bills, telephone and electric light.

All J. R. Hermann wants is a little positive encouragement. All the theoretic Single Taxers need is to exchange some of their coin with him for a supply of his enthusiasm.

There are a number of workers associated with him, one of whom, George Bylander, has himself secured 300 signatures. George Bylander is not as much of a hero as you might suppose, and he is not invited to the high social functions of the aristocracy when given in Portland. He reports that people sign the petition gladly and seem to know all about what the Single Tax is. They tell him it will curb the land monopolist, and they don't care how quick.

The big papers are dodging the Single Tax issue. They give some publicity, however, to J.R. Hermann's pertinacity of purpose.

The measure is 100 per cent. Single Tax.

RHODE ISLAND. The first meeting of the Single Tax Party of Rhode Island was held at Warren, Pa., on June 25. A Provisional State Committee was formed, the officers being Arthur H. Morino, Provisional State Chairman, and Maurice Phillips, Provisional Secretary. The prospects for a vigorous Party campaign in Rhode Island are very bright.

The *Bulletin* of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association continues to be issued, the last issue containing some figures showing what would be the result in about forty cities and towns of a resort to land value taxation in lieu of improvements, without changing the existing rate upon either tangible or intangible personal property.

## The League of Nations

ITS more clear-sighted supporters are acutely aware that their attempts to create a supernatural political authority, which eliminates the possibilities of war, must fail as long as the economic rivalries of the past, which were the main buttress of the armament craze, are allowed to continue with unabated ferocity. *The Single Taxer*, Winnipeg, Can.