

## News from Many States

**CALIFORNIA.** This State now begins to show signs of renewed activity in the ranks of the Single Tax movement. Roy R. Waterbury, president of the California Single Tax League has given up his law practice in San Francisco and will give his entire time to the movement.

There is a prospect that J. W. Bengough and John Z. White will both take part in the campaign.

The Anti-Single Taxers are getting busy and have appointed John P. Steele to the position of managing director of the "Peoples Anti-Single Tax League." He expects to reorganize in every county in the State. On the first of January it is their purpose to start initiative petitions in all parts of the State for the purpose of securing a law that will require the signatures of at least 25% of the voters for Governor at the last election on any petition pertaining to taxation before it can have a place on the ballot. This organization tried to get the legislature to pass a law last Winter that would hamstring the Single Tax by first crippling the initiative and referendum, but the Governor disapproved of the proposition and it was abandoned in so far as the legislature was concerned.

It is the belief of the managers of the Great Adventure and of the California Single Tax League that the two organizations can reach more people and make more converts by working for the amendment as separate organizations. The following message has been approved by the Executive Committees of the Great Adventure League and of the California Single Tax League and it is to be signed by leading members of both organizations.

"After much earnest effort practically all of the various factions of Single Taxers and Land Reformers, and particularly The Great Adventure League and California Single Tax League (embracing the Los Angeles Single Tax League and the Bay District Single Tax Club) have come to an agreement on the kind of measure to be presented to the voters of California.

"This agreement was the result of many conferences, and an unswerving determination on the part of those interested to bring about that unity of action, and each group gladly pays tribute to the other for its willingness to give full consideration to its views. Naturally such a measure embodies mutual readjustments. Some will hold the bill is too conservative, others too radical, but the guiding principle in its formation was to adopt a progressive measure sufficiently fundamental to meet the economic needs of the hour, and which at the same time would—when properly presented and understood—be convincing to the voters. Our attorneys believe it is legally sound and we believe it is clear and convincing.

"For many reasons, which Single Taxers outside the State might not appreciate as thoroughly as those who have been actively engaged here in previous campaigns, it has been thought best for The Great Adventure and the California Single Tax League to maintain their separate organizations. Each has an influence and a standing with differ-

ent groups and types. Friction and duplications of effort will be avoided to the fullest extent and a determination to secure a majority of votes for the measure will be the only aim of all.

"Securing signatures to place the measure on the ballot—as well as the campaign after that—means the expenditure of considerable money, and funds will be required beyond the ability of California Single Taxers to supply. This great advance in the direction of our ultimate aim can be secured if money for an aggressive campaign can be obtained. The Privileged Interests of the State are well organized and will have an unlimited campaign fund at their disposal to defeat such an attack on their privileges but we believe that we can win in spite of this if our united efforts are backed up by the contributions of those who are with us in spirit.

"Those who desire to contribute may remit as they prefer either to the Great Adventure fund or the California Single Tax League. Remittances to the Great Adventure should be sent to The Great Adventure League, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles, T. A. Robinson, Treasurer, and remittances to the Single Tax League to R. E. Chadwick, Treasurer, American Bank Building, Los Angeles, Cal."

Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson has arranged for six neighborhood meetings to be held at as many different homes in Los Angeles and vicinity. These gatherings are in the interest of the Single Tax Amendment. The following speakers among others have consented to address the meetings. R. E. Chadwick, Walter Gould Lincoln, Dr. Adah H. Patterson, J. H. Ryckman, Lona Ingham Robinson, J. H. McEldowney, Martha Y. Salyer and Wm. L. Ross.

Single Taxers in Los Angeles and vicinity who are interested in promoting these meetings are requested to communicate with Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, Chairman of the Committee, 332 N. Maryland Ave., Glendale, Cal.

Mr. Edmund Norton is pursuing his lecture work, addressing five organizations in the month of September. At the invitation of Prof. Larrabee, of Harvard, now lecturing in California, he spoke to the students of the University of California for an hour on the Single Tax. Addressing between seven and eight thousand in 14 talks in eleven days is Mr. Norton's record, which it would certainly be hard to duplicate. These meetings have included the striking car railway men. It will be of interest to know that Mr. Norton was born in 1859, in New York City, just two blocks away from the present Single Tax Party headquarters.

A mass meeting of all Single Taxers of San Francisco and vicinity, called by President Joseph S. Thompson, of the Bay District Single Tax League, was held in the Assembly Hall of the Phelan Building, for the purpose of considering the next Single Tax amendment to be placed before the voters of California at the ensuing election. Dr. H. F. Dessau, of Oakland, Vice-President of the Club, presided. A report was made by Roy R. Waterbury, President of the California Single Tax League, of the progress made in getting the various factions of Single Taxers together

throughout the State. He also presented the measure recently agreed upon by the Great Adventure of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Single Tax League. The measure, after thorough discussion, was adopted at the meeting. This assures that it will receive the support of all Single Tax organizations in California and go before the people at the next general election.

The Bay District Single Tax Club was addressed at its regular weekly meeting by Mr. F. H. Monroe, of Chicago, President of the Henry George Lecture Association, who told of the progress of the Single Tax movement in Canada and the various States of the Union. Among other things Mr. Monroe told of the recent decision of the Board of Aldermen of Vancouver, B. C., to restore, as a war measure, 50% of the tax formerly abolished on improvements in that city. Victoria, he said, still continues to raise its public revenues from the taxation on land values only.

**MARYLAND.** "Plutocracy's Last Stronghold" was a term Mr. Bryan once applied to the United States Senate before the amendment providing for the direct election of senators became effective.

In truth it seems as if the greatest of Plutocracy's many strongholds has always been the courts. Certain landed interests in Baltimore, fearful of a popular verdict upon the measures, applied for an injunction to keep two proposed Charter Amendments relating to taxation from being printed upon the ballots this Fall.

By an overwhelming vote last year the citizens of Baltimore adopted a so-called Home Rule Charter, so as to come under the provisions of a recent amendment to the State Constitution. This amendment provided that a Charter adopted under its provisions could be amended by the voters, the amendment being proposed by resolution of the Mayor and City Council or by petitions signed by ten thousand registered voters. Nearly twenty-two thousand voters petitioned for each of the measures referred to. The first measure was to make undeveloped property in the Old Annex of Baltimore pay the full city rate. The second was to exempt from taxation all merchandise held for sale and to provide for the gradual reduction of the tax upon buildings in 10% annual instalments down to 50% of the regular city rate. This last is similar to the so-called "Pittsburgh Plan of Taxation," which has been in successful operation in Pittsburgh and Scranton since 1913, except that the reduction was to be annual instead of tri-ennial as in those places.

A lively campaign was in progress when proceedings were interrupted by a ruling of the Maryland Court of Appeals reversing the decision of a local court, which had refused an injunction, and ordering the measures to be kept off the ballot on the ground that they were in excess of the powers granted to Baltimore by the Home Rule provision of the State Constitution. The ruling further stated that the reasons will be given out later. As the counties of Maryland under this Constitutional provision have been given a grant of powers under which they can adopt a Charter and deter-

mine what classes of property shall be levied on, and as all incorporated towns in the State have like powers in the matter of taxation, it is certainly strange that the citizens of Baltimore have not the same privilege.

It is unfortunate that the campaign could not have been carried to a conclusion and the sentiment of Baltimore voters obtained with respect to the proposed changes. The adoption of the Annex measure was regarded as almost certain, and the other proposal had at least a good fighting chance, notwithstanding the lack of newspaper support and the organized opposition of the local Real Estate Board. Ten of the eleven members of the Home Rule Charter Commission had announced their intention of supporting both measures.

**NEW JERSEY.** The vote for Mark M. Dintenfass, Single Tax candidate for Governor, is 1246, and the average assembly vote as given in the official returns is as follows: Republican, 208,589; Democrat, 177,662; Socialist, 16,340 Single Tax 3,417; National Prohibition, 3,293.

Single Taxers had Assembly candidates in only six of the 21 Assembly Districts of the State, Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex, Union, and Monmouth. The effort will be made to organize at once the remaining 15 Assembly Districts to insure a full State ticket in the next election. Following is the Single Tax vote for Assembly in Essex County:

R. M. Bedell, 517; W.C. Thompson, 465; H.G. Loew, 387; H. B. Ackerson, 435; P. S. Marcellus, 387; J. E. Stegner, 397; Wm. A. Rock, 438; F. L. Pollard, 419; J. V. P. Parkes, 411; F. T. Leach, 392; Alf. Bourgeois, 362; Wm. J. Wallace, 457.

Following is the Single Tax vote for the Assembly in Hudson: William B. DuBois, 863; James T. Proctor, 718; Hugh J. Brennan, 840; Joseph Larsche, 609; William H. Weber, 878; Louis V. Stanley, 670; Frank Wagner, 779; Samuel R. Shoup, 586; Adolph G. Lohshe, 671; Frederick R. Thoma, 602; J. William Oliver, 771; Isaac Ingleson, 641.

The following candidates for Boulevard Commissioners received a vote as follows: James Walsh, 853; George E. Divers, 834;.

Following is the vote for Freeholders: William H. Boyd, 743; William Keddle, 804; John A. Scott, 775. Thomas S. Zierow, candidate for County Clerk, received 418 votes, and Chas. A. Goldzier, candidate for State Senator, 725. The highest vote was that polled for Frederick H. Otto, candidate for Register of Deeds, whose vote was 1,085. These votes, on the whole, constitute a remarkably good showing, and make an encouraging beginning.

**NEW YORK.** Encouraged by the interest aroused by their recent campaign in this city, Single Taxers here have taken steps to secure the use of school rooms for Sunday night lectures by prominent men in the movement. Mr. VanVeen has been elected Chairman of the Committee having this matter in charge. A series of public lectures will be given in the month of December in the rooms of the Morris High School, in the Bronx, where distinguished

advocates of our cause will hold forth on Sunday evenings. A number of men inside and outside the party have volunteered their services for this work.

**OHIO.** In 1918, Ohio Single Taxers announced that they would, in 1919, submit a constitutional amendment on taxation. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce immediately got busy, and, with the aid of the banks, without newspaper publicity, secured enough signatures, in three weeks, to submit a Classification amendment. This was carried in 1918 by 30,000. But it was in direct conflict with another comparatively unimportant amendment which the legislature had submitted, and which was carried by a larger majority, and the Supreme Court very properly ruled that the Classification amendment was invalid.

No one mourned its fate. It was a ridiculous measure, starting out by granting the legislature absolutely full power in taxation, and next proceeding to tell just what kind of a law must be passed.

Last Spring the legislature submitted a better Classification amendment which Single Taxers supported. Nearly every business organization in Ohio endorsed it, but it was simply snowed under at the election on Nov. 4. It required all property to be assessed as heretofore, but granted power to the legislature to fix different rates on different classes of property.

The campaign of the Ohio Board of Commerce and the daily press in favor of the Classification amendment was unintelligent if not intentionally misleading. They claimed that under Classification there would be "Lower Taxes, Greater Revenue," and that real estate would be relieved of its "unjust burden."

Land speculators organized as the "Home Protective League" and fought the amendment on the ground that it would add to real estate's "unjust burden." They also declared that it was a step toward the Single Tax.

Single Taxers distributed many thousand copies of a pamphlet to show how the amendment could be used for the common good.

One of the prominent workers for the amendment issued a statement saying that if the amendment carried, the legislature would require all banks to pay to the State annually a tax of three-tenths of one per cent. on all bank deposits, and that the banks would not be permitted to charge a cent for the enormous clerical labor involved in such a method. As most bank deposits now escape taxation entirely, this announcement of a tax which could not be evaded except by having no bank deposit, probably lost many votes for the amendment.

The banks and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce said Classification would bring relief to real estate owners; the antis said it would not; the Single Taxers said it would be used to relieve all industry and raise more revenue from land values.

As all Ohio municipalities and school districts are struggling with deficits in their treasuries, the next legislature will be urged to impose an income tax, a tax on mineral

products as they come from the mines, a special auto tax according to size and weight, and an occupation tax.

In Cleveland's municipal election, Edmund B. Haserodt, although he got a large vote as an independent candidate for Mayor, was defeated. He boldly proclaimed the policy of taking ground rent for common purposes, and his principal oratorical supporters were Single Taxers—Edmund Vance Cook, the famous verse writer, and Marvin C. Harrison.

**PENNSYLVANIA.** For years Single Taxers of Pennsylvania have been wondering when and how we could bring about the adoption of the Single Tax. With the recent election returns in our hand we have no reason to longer delay answering ourselves that heretofore perplexing question. We are now fully convinced that we can bring about the adoption of the Single Tax. We also know just how we can do it, namely, by informing the public in a popular way, and giving them an opportunity to record themselves in favor of our purpose in increasing numbers at the polls.

While in Pennsylvania no State campaign was in operation, the vote in counties where committees are in existence and where local campaigns were conducted, showed decided increases. Philadelphia, of course, is the hub of the wheel in Pennsylvania, and the vote cast for the various candidates there is as follows:

For Mayor, Oliver McKnight 333; for Controller, James A. Robinson 1,016; for Recorder of Deeds, Timothy J. Connelly 1,659; for County Commissioners, George Haug 827, and Thomas Kavanaugh 1,139; for Sheriff, William Hagan 827; for Coroner, William R. Cline 737. Michael J. Conway, who was in both the Single Tax and Democratic columns, received 28,758 votes.

Some of the Single Tax candidates for the Council from the various districts in Philadelphia received good votes, Thomas J. McCaffrey, 344; Jos. Chamberlain, 188; Frank Pfromer, 81; Frederick Mayer, 171; Oliver Wingert, 103. As 21 Councilmen were to be elected throughout the city, these councilmanic votes show fine local interest in our candidates. While, as was naturally expected, the vote for our Mayoralty candidate was very low, comparatively, it is more than twice the vote of the Mayoralty candidate first put on the ballot by our party four years ago.

A better idea of the increased number of the voters who desire to record themselves in favor of advancing the Single Tax can be had by comparing the largest vote this year which was received by Mr. Timothy J. Connelly, candidate for Recorder of Deeds, which amounted to 1,659, with highest vote at the last local election in Philadelphia, which was two years ago. The highest vote then cast was 532 for T. G. Wilson, candidate for Magistrate. It will be seen that there has been since then more than a two-hundred per cent. increase in the votes cast for the leading candidate.

In Montgomery County the highest vote was cast for Benjamin Riles for County Controller, and was a little less than one per cent. of the entire vote cast for all parties in the county. Montgomery County is largely rural and has



no large city in it. In sections where we have workers standing actively for the cause the per cent. of the vote ran much higher, in some places six and seven per cent. of the entire vote being cast.

The vote in Delaware County, where, for the first time, Single Taxers have had a ticket in the field, is as follows:

Register of Wills, Robt. J. Richardson, 112; Recorder of Deeds, Harry W. Hetzel, 200; District Attorney, W. S. Wright, 178; County Commissioner, John W. Dix, 173; County Treasurer, A. J. Scannell, 102; Coroner, J. H. Bruner, 156; Director of Poor, A. E. Haslam, 177.

The highest vote for Socialist in Delaware County is 319, as compared with the highest Single Tax vote of 200. This is the first County ticket in Delaware County for the Single Tax Party. Last year at the State election the Single Tax ticket in Delaware County polled 41 votes. The vote this year therefore shows a 300 per cent. increase.

**OREGON.** The Oregon movement is now fairly on its way. It is becoming more popular as it becomes more widely known. We append the measure to be voted on at the next general election:

Section 1 of Article IX of the constitution of the State of Oregon shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

**SECTION 1.** From July 1, 1925, all revenues necessary for the maintenance of State, county, municipal and district government shall be raised by a tax on the value of land irrespective of improvements in or on it; and therefore the full rental value of land, irrespective of improvements shall be taken in lieu of all other taxes for the maintenance of government, and for such other purposes as the people may direct. The intent of this amendment is to forever prevent the exploitation of the individual through the monopoly of natural or community-made values and opportunities.

The *Tax Liberator* is a paper issued for this campaign and circulated mainly among the farmers. An edition of twenty thousand has been provided for.

Mr. Harry Willock, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has provided many thousands of his admirable pamphlet, "Unused Democracy" for circulation among the voters of Oregon.

The *Journal*, of Portland, is printing letters from J. R. Hermann and others.

The Executive Council of the Oregon State Federation of Labor adopted the following recommendation at the annual session held in Bend, October 12:

"Your executive board desires to make a recommendation concerning the Single Tax campaign now in progress under the direction of the Oregon Single Tax League. Each time that any measure of this nature has been proposed The Union movement of Oregon has given some help. Three years ago the Federation (Oregon State Federation of Labor) initiated the People's Land and Loan Measure and took the lead in the campaign that followed. (Here follows full text of the Measure.)

This Measure will accomplish the same results intended by the People's Land and Loan Measure, to wit:

The shifting of the burden of taxation from industry to privilege, with the consequent opening of the natural resources to use. This result would go far toward solving the wage question, for the reason that if a worker became dissatisfied with a job he could go out and make a job for himself.

Because of the benefits to be gained by a successful campaign for this measure your executive board recommends that the unions of this State contribute to the Single Tax campaign an amount equal to five cents per member, said funds to be distributed under the supervision of the executive board."

The above recommendations were concurred in by the State Convention and sent to a referendum of all of the locals.

**TEXAS.** As reported before, organized labor in this State has declared for Single Tax in no doubtful terms for the past five years. The last two meetings of the State Federation has demanded the submission of an Amendment to the Constitution exempting all improvements and personal property from taxation. This demand is gradually reaching the rank and file of Labor. Our programme is strictly educational propaganda.

Single Tax advocates have reached many farmers, but have not as yet touched them en masse. Two years ago the Non-Partisan League started to organize in Texas, but owing to war conditions and possible bitterness, quit work. Now they are again at work and Texas will prove a good field.

Leading labor men have initiated a State-wide movement to be known as the Labor Non-Partisan League and will admit wage earners and others not eligible to the Farmers' Non-Partisan League. Among the principles set forth is, "Taxation of land values and exemption of improvements."

Texas politics has long been hampered by the "hero" spirit. Prominent men have their loyal followers and principles take a secondary place. The Non-Partisan League movement will fuse two important groups, Labor and the Farmers, break down barriers of personal strength, bring new forceful men to the front and again make principles and policies the issues. Here is ground for hope.

There is a host of Single Taxers scattered throughout the State. A pioneer, George W. Knight, of San Marcos, died last year. He lived a quiet, earnest and useful life. He left the following epitaph to be engraved upon his tombstone:

**GEORGE W. KNIGHT**

**SINGLE TAXER**

He served here sixty-eight years

"He lived for an eternal truth and even his humble grave will point the way of light."

LAND was never private property in that personal sense in which we speak of a thing as our own.—FROUDE.