

## NEWS—DOMESTIC.

## PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT BY STATES.

**CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.**—The single tax cause in California is progressing, though not as rapidly as ardent friends of the movement desire. The demand for literature in Southern California is increasing. The office of Ralph Hoyt, at 241 Douglas Building, Los Angeles, is headquarters for single taxers in that portion of the State, and every man and woman of our faith who visits Los Angeles is cordially invited to call there, and "feel at home." Also to obtain literature for free distribution.

Mr. Hoyt continues to furnish single tax articles regularly for a large number of newspapers in California and elsewhere.

On the first of this month the active advocates of our principles organized what they call "The Tom Johnson Municipal Club" of Los Angeles. The object of the organization is to promote just taxation, as represented by the able and courageous Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. Though the club appeals to and will admit to membership all respectable men and women desirous to join it, regardless of political affiliations or preferences, uncompromising single taxers are and will continue to be the controlling factors of the organization. The first public meeting will be held within a few weeks, when the club hopes to be fairly launched for the great campaign in behalf of equal rights for all with special privileges to none. The officers are as follows; President, Ralph Hoyt; Vice-President, Wm. S. Creighton; Recording Secretary, H. S. Dessau; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Ethel P. Bailey; Treasurer, J. H. Blagge.

An executive committee of five members, with the President as Chairman, was also chosen. It is the intention to open correspondence with numerous persons throughout the country, and get in touch with as many single taxers and other progressive thinkers of the right kind as possible.

Following is the preamble adopted, which precedes a brief constitution:

"Lovers of the Great Republic, as conceived and shaped by the genius of Jefferson and exemplified in the administrations of his immediate successors in the Presidential chair—

"Those apprehending the infallible truth that Democracy and special privilege cannot live together, the preservation and maintenance of the one involving the overthrow and destruction of the other—

"Those hostile to the idea of an Imperial Republic, with colonial dependencies, and those who recognize that Home Rule embraces within its proper scope and purview the exercise of local option in taxation—

"Those who contend that important public utilities should be controlled and administered by the chosen servants of the people in the interests of the common welfare, and that the ideal and only proper source of governmental revenues is the communal product

(ground rent), exempting the individual product derived from labor—

"All citizens awakened to an enthusiastic appreciation of the progressive administration of the city affairs of Cleveland, Ohio, under the guidance of a Mayor imbued with the sentiments set forth in this preamble, have united in the organization of the TOM JOHNSON MUNICIPAL CLUB, OF LOS ANGELES, and have subscribed their names to the following constitution:"

Hon. Joseph Leggett, the well-known writer and orator of San Francisco, continues to pour "hot shot" into landlordism every week, through the columns of that fearless and worthy paper, the *Star*. He also, occasionally, succeeds in working an article into the *Examiner*, which paper has once more opened its columns for the discussion of economic questions.

All single taxers in California have their eyes turned toward Mayor Tom Johnson, and eagerly read everything they can get hold of relating to his grand work in Ohio. They also feel a deep interest in the approaching local option campaign in Colorado, and it is possible that the Golden State may, later on, send one or two speakers into the Silver State to help insure a victory.

**SAN FRANCISCO** (Special, Edgar Pomeroy)—It was under the auspices of the San Francisco society that the Henry George Memorial Services were held in the now historic Metropolitan Temple, in San Francisco. Chas. K. Stern, the President of the society, presided. Judge Maguire and Rev. Robert Whitaker, author of "Smith's Valley," "Wanted: An Original Deed," etc., were to have addressed the meeting, but owing to the death of Mrs. Whitaker the latter was unable to be present. Judge Maguire delivered an impressive oration, loaded with love for the cause and logic for the scholar. Undoubtedly new men were won over to common sense at the meeting.

The great water front and teamsters' and machinists' strike is at its height. Things are tied up pretty thoroughly. Grain and hay lies waiting to be moved from the fields to the markets. Rain is threatening. The Employers' Association—the real promoters of the strike—are determined to destroy the labor unions. It is hard in such exciting times, in the heat of the struggle, to get men to come and reason together, but on Labor Day our indefatigable champion, James G. Maguire, addressed an immense throng in San Francisco and I herewith quote from his address:

## NO FREEDOM OF CONTRACT.

So long as organized labor stands for liberty, equality and justice—the principles symbolized by the flag of our country, borne so conspicuously in every hand to-day—as its ultimate end and aim it should have and will have the sympathy of all real supporters of these principles, in spite of any seeming inconsistencies into which it may be forced in its unequal struggle against the powers

of monopoly which now dominate our industrial system.

The most effective charge made against the labor unions is that their system interferes with the personal liberties and rights of individual employers and employees and interferes with the freedom of contract which is an essential element of personal liberty. It must be conceded that the trades union system does interfere with the freedom of individual contracts, and to that extent it is violative of one of the great principles for which the unions stand as an ultimate; but that interference is nominal only because under the present monopoly system of industry there is no such thing as freedom of contract on the part of laborers seeking employment. Freedom of contract involves economic freedom on the part of the laborer—an alternative and opportunity to reject the employment and support himself by the independent application of his labor to the natural sources of subsistence. Laborers have not that alternative now, nor will they have it until monopoly ceases to maintain its control of industry. When that happy time shall come no man will more earnestly demand of labor its natural right of freedom of contract than I, but in that day labor will have no difficulty in securing and maintaining that freedom. Until that time shall come it is idle to say that labor unions interfere with freedom of contracts on the part of laborers, for if the labor unions were obliterated laborers would have no such freedom.

Ernest H. Crosby's splendid article in the *Examiner's* Symposium is giving great satisfaction to single taxers here. The whole article ought to be republished in pamphlet form by single taxers and distributed in strike centers.

We have just received a new and we hope in the future a prominent and earnest new member; our worthy president has just received a ten-pound baby girl. The single taxers of Oakland feel as if they all have a right to the young lady, so long has W. C. Beck been identified with the movement in this city.

The Pilgrim Brotherhood, a Congregational organization of Oakland, undertook to debate: "Resolved: That Capital and Labor can be brought into harmonious relations." The subject was well handled by churchmen and Socialists, but the views of all were pessimistic, and no practical methods, even by the acknowledgment of those taking part in the discussion, were available. After adjournment the Single Taxers got in their work on the side.

The conditions in Oakland call for hard propaganda work on the part of single taxers. The city is handed over by the present council, body and soul, to the gas and water companies, not to speak of the street railroads. Water rates are going way up, landlords are increasing rents in proportion to water rates, and we are truly between the devil and the water. The newspapers will not publish single tax articles, or even corres-

pondence from single taxers. "Kicking" is general. To meet a deficit the council has passed a new license law. They levy a tax on all signs on stores, sidewalks, offices, &c. What a howl the merchants are making, but not even they point the council to the value of franchises or watered stock.

The Single Tax League will resume meetings on Tuesday, October 1, when the *Review* will be presented for subscribers, etc. I find members of the San Francisco society ignorant of its existence and delighted to hear of its publication. We wish the *Review* long life and prosperity.

San Francisco, Special Correspondence  
Stephen Potter.—At all our meetings it is our custom to sell literature and circulate cards inviting application for single tax literature. The sales on this occasion were large, and the applications for literature numerous, indicating that the Judge's words had inspired further inquiry on the part of such of his listeners as were not already single taxers. From time to time we have gained many recruits through this method of following up the work of our speakers at public meetings, and we anticipate that the harvest will be equally good from this our last appeal to the public. Since the visit of Rev. Herbert Bigelow to San Francisco we have held no public meetings, but our work has been in the nature of the distribution of literature, which we have done on a very large scale, and there is no nook or cranny of the State hardly which we have not reached. Nor have we stopped at the limits of the State. Mr. Wells Drury, a journalist of high repute in this community, contributed a number of single tax articles for the Nevada press, with the gratifying result that we were inundated with applications from that State, and several contributing members to the support of the San Francisco Society were obtained from this source, and a very large number of converts secured. Mr. Emmuleuth, who is doing such grand work in the Hawaiian Islands, has kept in communication with us, and through his mediumship our philosophy is taking root in those far away islands. We have not failed to take advantage of the existing differences between our merchants and their employees, and suitable literature has been placed in the hands of the contending parties constantly from the beginning of the trouble. The headquarters of the unions and local libraries are kept well supplied, and every public meeting finds our representatives active in the work of distribution, and we find the demand fully equal to the supply. One detail of our work is the furnishing to inquirers for information regarding the single tax of 120 four months' subscriptions to Vierth's *Why?* and this list, owing to the many inquiries received, will probably be doubled at our next business meeting, which meetings are held monthly. Over ten thousand pieces of literature of various kinds have been

circulated in San Francisco since the beginning of the strike. In addition to this class of work social meetings are being held at the residences of the members, to which inquirers are invited, and this form of propaganda will be continued through the winter months. It has also been suggested that a series of public meetings be held, but this suggestion has not yet taken shape.

ILLINOIS, Chicago.—Too much cannot be said in praise of the persistent effort to establish the single tax in this city. The Chicago single tax club has taken up the stand for practical politics, it is now on the eve of its third campaign, which will take place the coming spring. Our results have been gratifying, to say the least. Our second campaign doubled the vote of the first and our coming campaign can be nothing but good in its influence. The *Chicago Chronicle* of this city has had the endorsement of the club for the abolition of personal property taxes, and the paper publishes all articles received on this question. A great field is now opened here, as the taxes on personal property can not be abolished without State legislation for local option in taxation. The club has been distributing hundreds of thousands of papers and leaflets throughout the State and city, and many inquiries come from various parts of the State, which denote the activity resulting from our efforts. The movement has been a success from the start, the members are better pleased to talk the truth than to follow leaders who stand for absurdities. We now see hope in our movement that heretofore has been lying dormant except when we had a chance to choose between bad and evil by endorsing either of the old parties.

MAINE, Bangor.—Miss Anita Trueman lectured on the evening of September 28 at this place in the Y. M. C. A. building. She was well received.

MICHIGAN, Detroit, Sept. 19.—The Ripper police department and some of the tough elements of the city have entered upon the systematic persecution of Tom Bawden, whose single tax wagon has been on our Campus Martius or public square almost every warm evening for five years. It is a wagon from which Crosby, John Z. White, Rev. H. S. Bigelow and other single taxers have spoken.

Bawden, though often indiscreet in his allusions to religion and to persons, and although he sometimes uses vulgar and profane words and expressions in his speeches, is a sincere single taxer and has many converts among the poorer classes who crowd around his wagon eagerly.

But his bitter tongue has offended the land monopolists, the respectable rich class, represented by the commissioner of police who holds office by the grace of the State Legislature and Senator McMillan, and he has equally offended the tough elements as represented by the notorious ex-convict, Billy

Considine, a saloon keeper in this city.

Considine is supposed to have been responsible for the attempt to blow up Bawden's wagon with a giant firecracker last summer. He was standing close to the wagon at the time, and it is certain that he was not there because of any sympathy with the single tax cause. The crowd thought that Billy was the guilty person, and chased him through several alleys and disfigured him considerably in a lawless way.

The police commissioner, last May, issued an order that Bawden should refrain from speaking on the Campus Martius, and attempted to enforce this order by a squad of mounted policemen. It led to a riot, in which several persons were seriously hurt, the mob siding with Bawden. This so frightened the commissioner that he announced he would have no more to do with the Campus Martius. Mayor Maybury and some of the newspapers openly espoused Bawden's side of the dispute and denounced the police commissioner for his arbitrary assumption of power.

The police commissioner retired in good order, apparently defeated, but he bided his time. After the assassination of President McKinley, when popular feeling was running exceedingly high, he had police officers stand close to Bawden's wagon while Tom was speaking, with orders to arrest him on the slightest excuse.

Bawden was arrested on Sept. 10, on the charge of violating the city ordinance against disorderly conduct. The disorderly conduct consisted of alleged utterances of an irreverent and seditious nature.

As Bawden was being conducted to jail the crowd pressed close to his heels. Billy Considine was there, and he is charged with having knocked down one of Bawden's converts, a bright young man named Anthony Walich, who, still feeble from his illness in the Spanish-American war, was unable to defend himself. The Spanish war veteran's only offense against Considine appears to have been that of having been shoved against the tough in the crowd.

Bawden's friends were not permitted to see him that night, and an application to give bail was refused until the next morning. It should be understood that it has not been the practice in Detroit to make arrests for violations of ordinances—the accused are merely summoned to appear in court.

Bawden was found guilty by a jury in the police court, the prejudice and feeling caused by the assassination being used for all it was worth. So powerful was this that Mayor Maybury and the newspapers deserted Bawden utterly. The charge that he used words that would appear to be anarchistic is too thin to bear examination in times of sober judgment. Bawden was merely using the assassination to point a single tax moral, and distinctly expressed sympathy with the President and horror at the crime. He did it in a clumsy way and may have been mis-

understood by some who were filled with passion.

He has appealed the case to the recorder's court, and if beaten there, will take it to the State Supreme Court; for the right of free speech on the public streets is involved. The police commissioner has announced that Bawden will not be permitted to speak on the Campus on any subject, although others speakers and the Salvation Army are not disturbed.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS.—We have to-day presented to the public library of this city by permission of the library board, a bust of Henry George. It is to be placed in the newspaper reading room, where the common people, whose friend and champion we was, most congregate.

The Rev. S. W. Sample leaves this city Monday or Tuesday, expecting to take up his residence in Denver, assuming the work left leaderless by the death of the lamented Myron Reed.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY.—The Kansas City Single Tax Association has sent one thousand additional copies of its special 90-page booklet to the Australian Tax League at 312 Jackson Building, Denver, Colo. A good-sized cash contribution is also planned for the help of the Colorado campaign.

Mayor Reed of Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Craddock of Kansas City, Kansas, have each sent their checks for ten dollars towards the work of the Single Tax Association.

At the discussions during the past year of the Kansas City Economic League the single taxers propounded fully ten questions to every one asked by others.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS.—(Special Correspondence L. P. Custer.) On the 25th of September the St. Louis Single Tax League held a memorial meeting as a tribute to our departed friend and brother member, John J. McCann. Prof. J. W. Caldwell and Dr. Wm. Preston Hill delivered addresses, in which eloquence and pathos were equally blended and out of which was rounded as beautiful and glowing a tribute to the memory of a departed spirit as was ever paid. Dr. Hill is a capitalist and owner of vast landed possessions. He has been a contributor to the cause for some years, but only recently participated actively in the work of the League. His elocution and diction were simply masterful, and the force of his delivery was terrific. His effort took everybody by storm. While many of us were on familiar terms with the Doctor we didn't know he possessed such qualities of oratory as were shown, hence the surprise was perfect. Prof. Caldwell at one time occupied the pulpit, and is a well-known speaker of distinction. In his case we knew what to expect and were not disappointed. Another new face and power as an orator was brought to the front at this meeting—a Mr. Cook, who came forward to participate in this tribute to the memory of his friend, and was called upon. He responded briefly, but with such eloquence as has seldom been heard

within our single tax doors. Mr. Cook has never affiliated with our organization, but we hope to enlist him now. The following testimonial and the following resolutions were adopted by the League:

"The Bard of Avon tells us that

All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women merely actors.  
All have their entrances and exits,  
And each one in his time plays many parts.

"John J. McCann has played his part in the great tragedy of social life hereabouts and has taken his exit from earthly activities. It can be truthfully said of him that he tried to so live and act as to leave the world a little better than when he came into it. This, in our estimation, is the grandest endeavor that men can aspire to.

"He was a disciple of Henry George and the most conspicuous member of this organization; most conspicuous because he initiated measures that brought him into conflict with the 'powers that be,' i. e., special interests and public officials influenced thereby, and was landed in jail for refusing to be a party to a species of legal blackmail for the privilege of engaging in a lawful and legitimate occupation. He sought to point out to the people that these special interests were being favored by public servants in the assessment and collection of taxes and, as an object lesson, which all might see, suffered incarceration in our city workhouse rather than submit to being officially robbed, (licensed.)

"This heroic self-sacrifice in order to advance a great principle, raised him high in the esteem of thousands of people, not alone in this community, but all over the world, and he received numerous evidences of it in the form of communications from persons residing in this country and abroad. Many of his fellow citizens in the State and here in his home city pay homage to his memory for what he did in behalf of public righteousness, and sometime this regard for him will be crystalized into legislation and a monument will rear its apex toward the sky as a tardy recognition from a benefited people for what he did for them.

"Although the esteem of his fellow-men was a great consolation to him, his individual fortunes and general welfare suffered. He was warned that such would be the case, but duty, as he saw it, called and he never wavered. His law practice and real estate business was wrecked, but that made no difference to a mind like his. No loved ones were dependent upon him and he refused to selfishly consider his own personal interests as of more consequence than those of the masses, whose interests he felt required sacrifices from some one. But the strain under which he subjected himself, previous to and in connection with the court proceedings leading up to his workhouse experience, made sad inroads upon his physical powers and finally brought him low, and

now his bodily remains lie mouldering beneath a spreading tree in Calvary, while his spirit goes marching on.

"To the memory of John J. McCann this organization owes much. He fought his battles with the powers that be and permitted the League to reap the credit and prestige, never considering his personal interests as involved; therefore, in conformity to these declarations, be it

*Resolved:* That this testimonial and accompanying resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the League; that the press be offered a copy and that they be properly engrossed and presented to the family of the deceased brother as a token of our regard for him while he was in our midst.

*Resolved:* That a copy be sent to each of the different single tax publications in this and foreign countries in order that those who appreciated his labors for justice may be apprised of his retirement from the earthly stage he trod so acceptably."

Only a short time previous to McCann's death the League was called upon to hold services in honor of the memory of another valuable member departed, Mr. J. W. Evans, an attorney, formerly of Omaha. Mr. Evans was a powerful speaker and an earnest disciple of Henry George, though he seldom found time to participate actively in the movement, being a very busy man.

Mr. Evans visited Mexico to look after some landed interests and contracted small-pox from which he died.

Our Henry George anniversary celebration takes place on Wednesday evening, Oct. 9. Dr. Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati will deliver the principal address. Dr. Hill and Mr. Cook, referred to above, will participate and the daughter of one of our wheel horses, Gus Menger, Miss Eva Menger, will play a violin solo, accompanied on the piano by Miss Forshaw, daughter of another of the faithful. We anticipate a successful meeting.

Dr. Bigelow goes from here to Jefferson City and will probably speak in the hall of the House of Representatives, after which he returns to Cincinnati for his pulpit engagement the following Sunday.

An international conference of single taxers is on tapis. I have consulted Louis F. Post and received from him a letter favorable to such an undertaking to be held here in St. Louis during the World's Fair in 1903, and having been empowered by our local League to act as provisional secretary pending formal organization and call, I have prepared a letter inviting correspondence on the subject, which, together with a copy of Post's letter, I will soon send out to all single tax publications and friendly papers generally, in this and foreign countries. Our World's Fair promises to be the grandest ever projected, and the time will be ripe for another conference, and I believe it a good idea to start the agitation at once.

NEW YORK.—Mr. P. A. Potter, representing the New York Tax Reform Association, has been in Niagara county for about a month

teaching tax reform. He is meeting with some success, but the indomitable ignorance of some of the local officials is illustrated in an instance reported by the *Niagara Falls Gazette*:

"At the conclusion of his argument Mr. Potter asked the council to pass resolutions endorsing the proposition to do away with the bond and mortgage tax and for general tax reform.

Alderman Maloney, when he had completed, asked several questions regarding the exemption of bonds from taxation and then made positive declaration of his feelings on the matter, which were clearly in opposition to those of the Tax Reform Association.

"If any such thing as that ever passed," he said, "J. Pierpont Morgan would own every city in the State in a year's time."

"Alderman Maloney was considering the unlimited bonding of cities without taxation, and when Mr. Potter tried to explain that a limit could be fixed at any percentage, he did not hear, but continued:

"I for one would not vote for any such resolution as that. Anything that J. Pierpont Morgan wants the people better fight shy of." Then some one moved that the regular order of business be taken up, and the incident of tax reform closed with no further action."

Alderman Maloney is evidently fitted for the position he occupies if he imagines that taxes on bonds and mortgages are paid by Mr. Morgan and his class. Such taxes are paid by the people as a whole, who are the borrowers: but to explain why to Alderman Maloney would probably be a waste of time.

NEW YORK, BUFFALO.—There seems to be no single tax news here to speak of. Club meetings continue, but we have had no outside speakers except, in August, Mr. Bellanger of Fairhope Colony and Miss Margaret Haley, the enterprising Chicago school teacher who, with Miss Goggin, has uncovered so much untaxed property in Illinois. Both meetings were most interesting.

The local campaign this fall is warming up. A. J. Elias, Democratic candidate for the mayoralty nomination, is making a vigorous canvass on a platform in which equality of assessments, taxation of franchises, and encouragement to industry are prominent demands.

OHIO, COLUMBUS.—More than a year has passed since the Columbus Single Tax Association has held a meeting and there is no immediate prospect of any meetings in the future. The organization, however, is not defunct, and should occasion justify would be called together for active work. Its members prefer to work as individuals in other organizations and much effective work has been done. Our president, J. S. Maclean, recently gave an excellent single tax address at a banquet given by the Columbus Board of Trade, at which were present several hundred of the leading business and pro-

fessional men of the city. With rapier-like wit Mr. Maclean thrust upon his hearers lesson after lesson on single tax, both with and without the label, and as each point was made the applause, loud and prolonged, showed that single tax doctrines were taking strong hold of the members of this community.

The agitation of the taxation question by Mr. Johnson is stimulating imitation in Columbus as well as other parts of the State and nation. Mr. Carlos Trevitt, an ex-candidate for nomination as representative on the Democratic ticket, has brought suit to enforce the Auditor of this county to put the Union Depot Company's property on the tax duplicate for \$760,000.00 instead of \$400,000.00, the Auditor having refused to increase the assessment notwithstanding the action of the County and State Boards of Equalization in valuing the property at \$750,000.00, which is about one-third of its value.

One of the attorneys having the case in charge is E. L. Hyneman, ex-secretary of the first Ohio single tax league.

Equalization of taxation is being forced upon the notice of Ohioans from many sides, and some radical action is quite sure to be taken toward this end by the next legislature.

The *Press-Post* has been going through a sea of trouble with its news writers who formed a News Writers' Union and undertook to dictate to the owners what should go into its columns. The typos joined the news writers and succeeded in preventing the issuing of the paper for several days. This trouble has been settled by the defeat of the news writers, the typos have gone back to their cases, and the *Press-Post* has come out as *The Press* under the management of Ellis O. Jones. The new manager and owner is a Yale graduate, class of '98, who has recently been converted to the single tax.

He is a young man of strong and independent character and fearless in his advocacy of social reforms. While the *Press-Post* has been favorable to single tax and social reform, the *Press* will exert a still stronger influence for single tax under the direction of its new manager.

OHIO, CINCINNATI.—(Special Correspondence of S. Danziger.) The birthday of Henry George was celebrated in Cincinnati this year as it never has been celebrated before. September 2 coming on a Monday and being a legal holiday furnished the opportunity for holding meetings to commemorate this event on two successive days. This opportunity was utilized. On Sunday, Sept. 1, meetings were held in the morning and in the evening at Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow's church (the Vine Street Congregational), and on the evening of Monday, Sept. 2, the banquet of the Henry George Club was held at Chester Park.

The Sunday morning meeting was addressed by Henry George, Jr., and Hon. John Emmeluth of Honolulu, a member of

the Hawaiian House of Representatives, the leader of the Home Rule party, the majority party in that body, and at the same time a most ardent single tax worker. Mr. George's address was on the life and the works of his father, and had the good effect of stimulating a desire to study our principles on the part of a number of the uninitiated who had attended. Mr. Emmeluth told of the work being done in Hawaii, where it seems the prospects for the early adoption of the single tax are unusually bright. At the recent session of the Legislature he was appointed on a committee similar to the one headed by Senator Bucklin of Colorado, and he intends shortly to visit New Zealand and Australia to collect the facts for his report to the Legislature at its next session.

At the Sunday evening meeting addresses were delivered by Mr. George and by former Attorney-General Frank S. Monnett. The Steel Trust and the steel strike was the subject on which both speakers dwelt. Mr. Monnett, who is not yet a single taxer, gave an excellent diagnosis of the disease and Mr. George, on following him, thoroughly explained the remedy. The attendance at this meeting was extraordinarily good. The church was filled so that when the meeting opened standing room was all that the later comers were able to get.

The banquet of the Henry George Club held on Monday evening was the most successful event of this kind ever held here. The price was one dollar a plate and the attendance was 140. The speakers were Henry George, Jr., Frank S. Monnett and Hon. John Emmeluth. The daily papers gave good accounts of all these meetings. The *Commercial Tribune* was especially liberal in this matter, as it published long extracts from Mr. George's address.

The *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune*, although it is the local McKinleyite organ, has of late been very accommodating to us. It has not only opened its columns to communications from us, but has engaged in editorial controversy with some of the writers and does not bar out the replies to these editorials. At the present writing three controversies are being carried on in its columns, one on the "favorable balance of trade" fallacy, another on the private ownership of land, and a third on the best method of taxation. It is needless to say that all of these discussions are between single taxers and supporters of existing conditions. Single taxers of Southern Ohio should show their appreciation of the *Commercial Tribune's* fairness and liberality in this matter by giving it the preference in buying papers.

The ability of Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow as a lecturer and propagandist has become recognized so generally that an organization has been perfected, called the Bigelow Lecture Bureau, the object of which is to keep him permanently in the lecture field. The bureau

is now prepared to send Mr. Bigelow to any place within a reasonable distance of Cincinnati to deliver lectures, making no other charge for his services than the bare expenses of his trip. All communications on matters concerning this bureau should be addressed to the Secretary, Daniel Kiefer, 3596 Wilson avenue.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—(Special Correspondence J. B. Vining.) Interest in single tax matters has never been so active in Ohio as during the past spring and summer. This is entirely due to the return of Tom L. Johnson and the injection of his vim and originality into municipal and State politics. It is doubtful if any one has ever been more thoroughly quoted and criticised, by friend and foe, than has Mayor Johnson during the last few months. His actions have been watched and commented upon, all over the country, until the *New York Journal*, in naming the three most prominent Democrats in the United States, placed Tom L. Johnson at the head of the list. It is now an old story, how his fellow democrats to the number of 14,000 signed a petition asking him to be their candidate for Mayor of Cleveland. He made the most vigorous fight ever known locally in a municipal campaign, and was elected by a majority of 6,000; the largest ever given a Democrat. This, in a Republican city. Since then *what Tom is doing* has been the chief topic of discussion. Leading papers, all over the country, publish interviews and signed articles from the Mayor on municipal questions. His opinions command attention. His traducers, who kept harping about him not being sincere, have been silenced. People are coming to know that he is a man who has a guiding principle, even though they cannot understand him. Some day the world will know and appreciate his worth and nobility. With his wonderful business sagacity, his keen power to judge men and measures, he has undertaken to bring this city out of its sleepy, provincial ways; to make of it a metropolitan city, worthy of its size and opportunities. Old streets are kept clean and new ones paved. Improvement is the order of the day in every department of the city government. Political assessments have been stopped. City employees understand that they are to earn their salaries. Corporations have been forced to deal fairly with the city. Over \$22,000,000 has been added to the tax duplicate and much more is to be added. The rights and the needs of the city are being looked after and protected, whether it is a ton of coal or a million dollar contract. True to his promise, he is giving his whole time and attention to the city's problems. He is no ordinary man, and will yet be the means of bringing to the world the glad tidings of the good things promised in the teachings of Henry George. Not long ago a Republican said to Mr. Johnson: "Tom, I believe in what you are doing, it is all right, but I cannot go your single tax." To which the Mayor answered, "Why, my dear sir, what I am doing is single

tax. My life and actions are based on the teachings of Henry George and I weigh all questions by his philosophy." It is well for the world to watch this man, for if he lives history will not be complete without recording the fight made for the doctrines of Henry George by his friend and follower, Tom L. Johnson.

With the advent of their leader, the single taxers of the State have taken on new life and are giving their best efforts to assist the many projects of our Mayor. Of course, the work now being done in Ohio is not known as the single tax, but by any other name it is just as sure to add to the human happiness advancement. All over the State the George men have taken up the fight for equality in taxation. They are the leaven of the Democratic party, which will leaven the whole lump. The Ohio Single Tax League has also taken on new life.

At a conference held in Columbus, O., on June 1 and 2, a new constitution was adopted, placing the management of the League's affairs under a governing board, consisting of Frank H. Howe, Columbus; W. W. Kile, Dayton; B. A. Roloson, Lima; F. T. Moree, Portsmouth; Samuel Danziger, Cincinnati; and Wm. Radcliffe, President, Youngstown; J. G. Pomerene, Vice President, Cleveland; J. B. Vining, Secretary-Treasurer, Cleveland. Headquarters are now in this city, which is recognized as the single tax center, and are under the direct supervision of the Secretary-Treasurer, working with the advice of the Governing Board and Executive Committee.

This League has laid out a line of work for the year which is sure to prove of great service to the cause.

Some of the work now being done and planned follows: We have been sending \$20 per month to O. P. Hyde for the support of the 'Polen Single Tax Lecture Bureau.' Mr. Hyde has kept Mr. Polen, an able speaker and worker, in the field for the past eight months—part of the time at his own expense., This work is being done by earnest, able men and deserves the hearty aid of Ohio single taxers.

The Cincinnati Single Tax Club has organized a lecture bureau to place Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow in the field. Mr. Bigelow is well known as one of the most brilliant writers and speakers in our cause.

J. R. Herman, a well-known single tax speaker, who has been devoting his time for some years to single tax work, is now in Colorado, helping in the fight. He comes highly recommended for this class of work by Louis F. Post, Frank Vierth and others. The Ohio Single Tax League has endorsed the Colorado fight by resolutions and sending them the League's check for \$100, and will help to keep Mr. Herman there for the next eighteen months.

Frank Vierth, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has, in the monthly *Why*, one of the best means of propaganda yet devised; for the past six months we have been using from 500 to 1,500 copies per month. During the next year we

hope to double the number.

Single tax books have been placed in a number of college libraries; also in book-stores to be sold on commission; large numbers of small tracts have been distributed, and racks for holding same have been put in shops and stores. One of Mr. George's latest essays, "The Utility and Futility of Strikes," is being sent into districts where there are "strikes" and lockouts."

A news clipping bureau is being conducted by the secretary. Over 5,000 clippings have been sent out in the last three months. A directory of leading single taxers is being compiled, also of the papers favorable to single tax. This newspaper service is growing and promises to be one of the best fields we have entered. One thousand copies of Senator Bucklin's report have been sent into seventeen counties of Ohio; 3,000 more copies will go out during the next month.

A stock of literature containing over 1,200 volumes of single tax books and about 20,000 tracts is now in the hands of the secretary to be furnished at wholesale or free.

We send a copy of any of Henry George's books, paper covered, at 20 cents per copy, postpaid, or will send free a copy of *Progress and Poverty* to any one who will agree to read the book, then pass it along to a friend.

On September 2, the birthday of Henry George, a most interesting meeting was held in Association Hall. This was given under the auspices of the O. S. T. L., and was considered by all as the best we have ever held in this city. From Cleveland, Mr. Bigelow made an eastern trip, speaking at Youngstown, Warren, Pittsburg, New York, Baltimore and Piedmont.

The ever ready and original Billy Radcliffe, S. T., President of the O. S. T. L., got out a very striking paper on George's natal day, entitled "Clippings," in which the life of the prophet was extolled and his words quoted. Billy can always be counted on to get up something good.

J. G. Pomerene, an old-time single taxer, and secretary of Mayor Johnson's Equalization Board, that "boosted" the tax values of some of our street railway and lighting corporations, has been nominated by the Democrats for State Senator.

Robert C. Wright, Mayor of Glenville, a suburb of Cleveland, has been nominated for County Auditor. Mr. Wright is a single tax convert of Louis F. Post's, and will be an aid to tax reform if elected, which he very likely will be.

Home Rule for Ohio will go forward this year with great strength. Many candidates for the Legislature are pledged to the movement, and other forces are working. The matter was started this summer at the Bar Association meeting, held at Put-in-Bay, when A. F. Broomhall, of Troy, O., an old-time single taxer, led the discussion. He was largely instrumental in the success of the Home Rule resolutions adopted. This same work has been taken up by the Ohio State Board of Commerce, under the direction of

Allen Ripley Foote, editor of *Public Policy*, of Chicago. Mr. Foote feels sure that Local Option in Taxation will become a law in Ohio this year.

OHIO, MARIETTA.—The Polen Single Tax Lecture Bureau keeps Rev. John M. Polen actively engaged in single tax work in Ohio and West Virginia throughout the summer months.

The Marietta Single Tax Club commemorated Henry George's birthday by holding a social and oyster supper Monday evening, September 2. Rev. E. A. Coil, pastor of the Unitarian church, a charter member of the Marietta Single Tax Club and one of its trustees since its incorporation, gave a talk on the life of Henry George and read extracts from the *Life of Henry George* by Henry George, Jr. Rev. Coil has been and is a tower of strength in the single tax cause.

The club has rented a basement in a business block in a central location in the city. It is only half below the sidewalk, and easily accessible. We will have one room for a kitchen and dining room, one for a smoking room, and two other rooms for meeting and reading rooms.

We propose to have it as comfortable and homelike as possible for frequenters, and to keep reading rooms open to the public day and evening. We will have no competition when we commence, as there is nothing like it in the city.

We intend to follow the same order in our weekly meetings as last winter. We will read *Progress and Poverty* by course, the reader reading with the understanding that he is subject to interruption at any point by comment or question.

We pursued that course last winter, and read about half of the book, and always had interesting and instructive meetings. Sometimes we did not get much reading done.

There are points where we would like to send Rev. Polen if we had more money that we cannot send him to for lack of expense money. We have to keep him in fields where he can work with least expense.

In summer that is in country districts. In winter he can only visit railroad points, and mostly where there are no single taxers to help bear expenses, so that we have to pay all the traveling and hotel expenses.

Contributions to the Polen Lecture Bureau will help to increase the efficiency of his work.

On September 8 Rev. Mr. Polen went to Cincinnati at the request of Mr. Bigelow to fill the pulpit of the Vine street church during its pastor's absence.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA. (Special Correspondence, Florence A. Burling.)—The principal work of our society this summer has been carrying on open air meetings nearly every night in the week in different parts of the city. The Wednesday and Sunday meetings were held on the plaza of City Hall, and the audience has sometimes been as large as 600 or 700 people.

On Sunday evening, September 1, we had



a memorial meeting to celebrate Henry George's birthday, in the large hall of Odd Fellows' Temple, at which Mr. W. L. Ross presided and the speakers were Dr. S. Solis-Cohen and Messrs. MacGregor and John H. Crosby, of New York. Mr. H. V. Hetzel read letters from Tom L. Johnson, Rev. Herbert Bigelow, Henry George, Jr., and Louis Post, expressing their regret at being unable to be present. Mr. Richard Chambers recited the chapter "The Central Truth," from *Progress and Poverty*.

All the events of the last two weeks make reformers wonder what will be the immediate future for our cause. Whether we shall be allowed to continue holding meetings or not is a question—here, at least—for we are rather in disrepute among our highly moral officials because of our part in the fight for free speech last spring, in which unfortunately, Emma Goldman was the immediate cause. However, any vigilance of that kind will be only temporary, I presume.

But a meeting of Hebrews to talk over plans for a co-operative society was suppressed last week. The outlook is dark, but sometime we shall win.

RHODE ISLAND, PROVIDENCE.—This summer for the first time the single taxers of Rhode Island have held a series of open air meetings. It was decided in the first place that this kind of propaganda should be restricted to the City of Providence. It was also thought best to select a residential rather than a business section of the city in which to have the meetings.

Under the leadership of Dr. J. H. McLoughlin, chairman of the Legislation Committee of the Henry George Club, Mr. George D. Liddell, successful out-door rallies have been conducted in two or more localities in the third ward. For an hour before the speaking began a transparency bearing single tax mottoes and an announcement of the meeting was driven about the neighborhood. In addition to expositions of the single tax doctrine by the orators of the cause, questions and objections propounded by the audience aroused very animated discussions.

Among the single taxers who have participated as speakers, besides the two gentlemen above named, are Messrs. Joseph McDonald and Edward Barker, both of Pawtucket, Dr. Garvin, of Lonsdale, and, from Providence, Edwin C. Pierce, Esq., and Dr. Edward E. Moore. Mr. Edward D. Burleigh, of Philadelphia, who spends his summer vacations in Rhode Island, also kindly consented to speak on one evening.

It is believed that many persons of both sexes, by attendance upon these meetings, have for the first time acquired a knowledge of the single tax, that converts have been made, and that a number have become so far interested as to attend the monthly suppers of the club to be held during the coming winter, which, according to custom, will be addressed by guests from other States.

The political activity of the single taxers just now is directed to the obtaining of a

change in the State constitution which will enable 5,000 voters to propose any specific and particular amendment to that instrument and have it submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection. A State option of this nature seems to offer the best means of securing the single tax, or any other important reform desired by a large body of voters. It is the desire and will be the effort of a State Executive Committee, composed of labor unionists, single taxers and members of other reform organizations, to make the constitutional initiative the leading issue in the State campaign now about to begin. The means which may be used to this end are, instruction of the public upon the right and necessity of complete control of the organic law by the people, the pledging of candidates for the General Assembly and for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, and, so far as possible, the concentration of votes upon such as promise to support the constitutional initiative.

TEXAS, EL PASO.—Croasdale single taxers are not numerous in El Paso, but the philosophy is quite generally understood and approved. Some forty or fifty names, several of them of prominent and influential citizens, have been willingly signed to the following simple bond of union:

"We, the undersigned, believing that the adoption of a single tax upon the communal value of land, exclusive of all improvements in or upon land, would result in great material benefit, hereby subscribe ourselves as members of the El Paso Single Tax Association."

During the past year nearly a thousand copies of the little missionary publication "Why?" which contained "An Entering Wedge," have been distributed. At the present time are sending sample subscriptions of *The Public* to influential men, and have just sent the two bound volumes of *Progress and Poverty* to Jose I. Limantoar, Secretary of the Treasury, City of Mexico, with a letter from the secretary.

There is inspiration enough everywhere for single tax propaganda, but in El Paso there is only too apparent the glaring iniquity of land speculation and daily contact with custom-house robbery.

WASHINGTON, TACOMA.—On the anniversary of George's birth the boys here gave their usual celebration, this time accompanied by a banquet. The entertainment took place at the Lincoln apartments, and something over a hundred were present. O. P. Erickson, late of Minneapolis, Minn., acted as toastmaster, and a very agreeable and capable one he proved to be.

The acquisition of young men like George F. Cotterill and Charles G. Heifner means a great deal to the cause. Cotterill you have probably heard of before, as he has been with us some time, but Heifner's first public address on the subject was given at our banquet, and a splendid presentation he made of our philosophy. He is a democratic Democrat and will be heard from in the near future. By the way, there has been organized

in this city under the auspices of the University Association, of Chicago, an "Economic League." It has taken in a great many of the "representative" citizens and the single taxers are well represented. Every month we are to have a lecture by some distinguished economist. Last month we had a Prof. Fuller, of Chicago. Next month we are to have Henry Demarest Lloyd, then Richard T. Ely, and others to follow. During the interim the League is to have debates once a month. In October the debate is to be on the single tax, and Mr. Heifner will speak for the affirmative in all probability.

WEST VIRGINIA, PARKERSBURG.—There is no news on strictly single tax lines. Tom L. Johnson is making every one talk about the present unfair valuations of railroads and street car lines as compared to homes and farms. Our State promises to become a second Pennsylvania, as big tracts of coal and timber lands and oil tracts are held at very low figures when the land appraiser is about, but sell for millions more to syndicates later on. Our railroads are not appraised by the same men who value the homes and farms for taxation, but by a State board, who go about in private cars with plenty of good things aboard and never see anything to value except a single line of two rails.

We have one good law in this State. The land is appraised separately from the houses, and so itemized on the tax tickets. This is all right as far as it goes, but as the improvements (if to the amount of \$100) are assessed every year, and the land values only once in ten years, it works a great hardship to the improver.

WISCONSIN, OSHKOSH.—(*Special Correspondence*, John Harrington.) In the July number of the *Review* you refer at page 54 to a new Wisconsin law for the taxation of mortgages. My impression is that the law you refer to was vetoed by the Governor.

However, we secured an important law in Wisconsin, and have done it so quietly that no one seems to have heard of it; while in other States efforts to secure the same law have constantly failed. The law I refer to is Chapter 92, Laws of 1901, and provides for the separate assessment of land and the buildings and improvements. It amends Section 1052 of the Revised Statutes by adding at the end thereof the following words:

"In one column he (the assessor) shall enter the value of the land, exclusive of the buildings thereon; in a separate column under the head 'improvements,' he shall enter the value of such buildings, together with machinery and fixtures therein, if any, not separately assessable as personal property; and in the third column he shall enter the value of both land and improvements."

It has been my privilege to draft the above law and secure its introduction into the last two Legislatures of this State. Two years ago it passed the Senate and was killed in the Assembly. Last Winter, however, it passed both houses and was signed by the Governor. The present summer it was applied to the assessments throughout the State.

Its direct effect will be to increase the assessment of vacant land in cities. It has been not unusual to find vacant lots assessed at 25 to 35 per cent. of their market value, while an improved lot adjoining, including the buildings, was assessed at 60 to 70 per cent. of the market value. The assessor is now compelled to assess each lot as if it were vacant, and to assess the buildings separately. Consequently he must assess adjoining lots alike, or explain why not to an injured and indignant voter. It enables the assessor to see things he never saw before.

An indirect benefit of this law is that it gives single taxers, and others interested, an opportunity of securing definite information as to the relative values of land and of the buildings and improvements thereon. And another indirect benefit is that it completely answers an argument or assertion often made by anti-single taxers, namely, that land and the improvements thereon are so commingled that they cannot be separated for purposes of assessment. Still another possible benefit will be that when the time comes, as it must, that the buildings and improvements on land will be exempt, the formal part of the separation will already have been made. I think the very fact that it is made will aid in bringing about the proper exemptions at an earlier date, and the fact that the value of land and buildings are separated can be used as an argument by single taxers; whereas if they were still assessed together that fact would constitute, or at least be used as, an argument by those in favor of the present system of confusion and injustice.

WISCONSIN, POLAR.—The Legislature at its session last winter created a new county office, the purpose of which is to supervise the assessments of the various taxing units in each of the counties of the State. E. Nordman is a candidate for the office, and he is a single taxer. If he is elected it will be because of his views on taxation.

The *Metropolitan Magazine* for October contains an article from the pen of the editor of the *Review* which appears under a convenient pen name on Tom L. Johnson. We quote the concluding paragraph:

"What are Johnson's hopes? I violate no confidence when I say they are the destruction of private monopoly in land; that the three-cent carfare and ultimate ownership of street railroads are but a small part of social reform which it is the object of Johnson's life to make the law of the land. The conservative classes will do well to reckon with this man and his ultimate aim, for it deals with no matters of such small importance as street car lines. Society may rudely awaken to the fact that while it is helping Johnson to snatch such minor privileges from private monopoly he has reached with his disintegrating purposes the very foundations of the House of Have. Right or wrong, sound or unsound in his economics, society may just as well begin to regard this "reformed monopolist" as a dangerous man, for he is its sworn enemy and is pledged to its destruction. Were he a dreamer

he might be dismissed from our thoughts, or even tolerated; but he is practical, determined, and behind his careless exterior is a settled purpose and an iron will."

### News—Foreign.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

(Special Correspondence—Cranford Vaugan, Adelaide.)

There has been an alarming slump in jingo stocks lately, which even the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York did not allay. This State, at any rate, will send no more troops to South Africa, and the general impression is that the money spent on decoration for the representatives of Royalty could have been put to a much better use. I had an encounter a week or so ago with a reverend gentleman upon the interesting question of Christianity and war, and it was surprising to see the number of people who are heartily disgusted with the attitude of the Church generally towards the Boer war. And with the death of jingoism, the road for reform has become clear again.

We are happy to be able to record the election of W. E. H. Coombe, an out-and-out Georgian, for the Barossa electorate in this State. Mr. Coombe will be a tower of strength to the cause, as he is a fine speaker, and has plenty of balance. He seconds the address in reply to-morrow in the House.

There has been a strong agitation to place municipalities under the Land and Values Assessment Act, but the legal opponents of the movement have cunningly inserted some clauses in the Act which practically make it unworkable. We are setting this right, but it means delay again. The farming areas were excluded from the operations of the act, but our friends in the District Councils are making a strong effort to secure the benefits of the measure for the primary producers, as well as for the cities. That success will attend our efforts here, I have no doubt, for figures have been prepared which show exactly what each farmer would have to pay, and by which he will be able to see the exact benefits in £. s. d. which flow to him from the reform. When the farmers once begin to see the benefits of land values taxation, our cause is won, for they constitute the great opposing force to our movement. Thus we see in this new move a great deal more than meets the eye; we are attempting to shift our Legislature by stirring up an appeal for land values taxation from the very last quarter from which it could be expected. Whatever the success of the manoeuvre is, you shall hear of it.

Next to the settlement of the tariff—a matter which promises to shift possibly the Federal Government out of office—the treatment of the Federal Territory is the greatest question of importance before the Commonwealth Parliament. There is, I believe, a large majority in both Houses averse to "alienating," as they call it, the land acquired for the new territory and city. I hope they do

not merely keep the shell and part with the kernel. What we are after, of course, is the rental value that will accrue, the retaining of which will offer one of the finest object lessons to the world possible. I can say, without fear of exaggeration, that a majority of both Houses of the Federal Legislature are with us. Care will have to be exercised, however, for speculators and land gamblers see many thousands sticking out over the settlement of this question, and a strong effort will be made to influence weak members.

Proportional Representation, another question which the single taxers have made their own, has made wonderful strides since the election of the Tasmanian representatives to the Federal Parliament under that system. The usual objection to its being "too cumbersome for the average elector" has been shivered into atoms by the returns of the informal voting which occurred in the different States. Under this entirely new system Tasmania has the smallest percentage of informal votes throughout the Commonwealth, the figures being, Tasmania, 2.23%; South Australia, 2.34%; Queensland, 4.4%; Victoria, 5.9%, and New South Wales (owing to multiplicity of candidates for the Senate), over 25%. Figures like these show either that the intelligence of the average elector is fully equal to the task set before him, or that Tasmania can boast of far more intelligent electors than any other State—a contingency which all the rest of Australia will hasten to contradict. Moreover, the conference of returning officers—the real opponents of the reform—favored the adoption of the contingent vote for single electorates. Now the contingent vote necessitates the same use of figures as the Hare-Spence system, and therefore the returning officers have cut the ground from under their own feet. Three members of the Federal Ministry are in favor of the reform, and a large number of members. Next week Sir Edward Braddon, possibly Senator McGregor (leader of the labor party), and many others, will speak for the reform at the Adelaide Town Hall. I look forward to its adoption by the States and the Federal Government in the very near future.

#### MANILA, P. I.

The officers of the United States Army at Manila have addressed a remarkable letter to Judge Taft of the Philippine Commission reciting the high cost of living in Manila. Rents have doubled and in some cases quadrupled, so that officers and their families find their salaries inadequate for any but the poorest accommodations. Many have been forced to live outside of Manila in consequence. The lands of the city are rapidly being taken up by a real estate syndicate and rents are going up. The officers point out that the only remedy is the taxation of land values in order that the syndicate may be broken up.

The recent letter of the British consul at Manila to his Government is confirmatory of the complaint of our army officers. The British consul says: