

secured, the Oregon Single Taxers will use a page of this paper and flood Oregon with the issue.

Meetings are held in the library every week. Early in January, Lincoln Steffens spoke in the New Labor Temple, the first meeting held in that hall. He redeemed himself largely from the speech made a year ago, and stated that Marxian socialism had not been a howling success in Russia. Mr. U'Ren presided at this meeting.

The Oregon Labor Press in attacking Mr. Hermann, for whom it apparently cherishes an animosity, says: "We have no quarrel with the Single Tax."

The names on the Petition lists are being copied, sixteen thousand in Portland alone, and literature will be needed to send to all these names. The great need is literature, in Oregon as elsewhere.

Rhode Island Wakes Up.

SINGLE TAXERS of Providence welcomed Robert C. Macauley on Sunday, January 1st, where he spoke under the auspices of the Church Community Forum on "The Moral Basis of Taxation." The *Providence Journal* gave a good report of the address. We quote in part:

"He set forth as a remedy for all the evils that, in his opinion, are resultant of the taxation system of the Federal and municipal governments of the country, the Single Tax plan, by which taxes on everything but land values would be done away with.

"The heritage of the people from God," said the speaker, "is the earth. Through the centuries grasping people have assumed property rights to the lands of the world, forcing other people to pay them for the privilege of living on the land and using it to bring forth various products. It is our coming to believe that a few people own the earth that results now in 7,000,000 in America being unemployed, 10,000,000 being paupers, and only 5 per cent. of the population of the country having a share in its lands.

"The only right a man has to own property is to have produced it himself or to hold a bill of sale from the one who did."

Toronto's Tax Exemption Petition

ONE of the most interesting campaigns in the history of the movement in Ontario, was inaugurated on Sept. 1st, when a representative committee of Toronto Single Taxers, including Ald. Honeyford—our champion in the City Council—organized to make the Municipal Tax Exemption Act effective in Toronto.

The amendment of the Act, that permitted this action, is as follows:

Where a petition signed by at least ten per cent. of the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws is presented to the council on or before the first day of November in any year, praying for the submission of a by-law under

this Act and setting out in the petition the percentage of exemption desired each year, it shall be the duty of the council to submit a by-law in conformity with the petition to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws on the day fixed for holding the poll at the next annual municipal election, and if the voting is in favor of the by-law it shall be the duty of the council to forthwith pass the by-law, and such by-law shall not be repealed except as provided in section 11.

The petition form circulated by volunteer and paid workers, read as follows:

"THEREFORE we, the undersigned, hereby petition the Council of the City of Toronto that, under and in accordance with the said Act as amended, there be duly submitted to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws, at the next annual municipal election after the presentation to council of this petition a by-law exempting from taxation for all purposes including school purposes for the first year in which the by-law takes effect 10 per cent. of the assessed value of improvements, income and business assessment, and from year to year thereafter an additional 10 per cent. of such assessed value until the whole of such assessed value is so exempted from taxation."

Ward captains were appointed, literature was prepared and distributed, meetings were held in the Labor Temple and other important centers.

Though our objective was 10,000 names, the required number of signatures or 10% of those on the civic list would be about 7,200.

On Nov. 1st, 6,000 signatures had been secured without the aid of any of the city papers, though they gave the movement much criticism and general publicity.

As the necessary number of names was not secured in time to force the hands of the Council, this year, it was decided to continue the work until 10,000 or 12,000 signatures had been received, and present a monster petition to the 1922 Council.

By December 15th, it was found that 12,000 property owners had signed our petition, and nearly 1,000 municipal voters. Nearly \$1,000 was subscribed for the expenses of the campaign, and above all, many new friends were discovered for the movement.

A number of college students assisted in this work and incidentally, had their first lessons in the political economy of Henry George.

It is encouraging to know that not only is Premier Drury, of Ontario, a Single Taxer, but so also is the Hon. T. A. Crerar, the able leader of the National Progressive Party, with a following of 64 members, elected to the Federal House, on Dec. 6th, and all pledged to the Taxation of Land Values as a means of securing national revenue.

Late in the year Alderman Resk, our chief opponent in the City Council, introduced a motion, asking that the electors be permitted by vote to repeal the partial exemption of homes by-laws, so unanimously adopted by the