

of compensation. The wealth collected from the producers for the use of land is an annually recurring levy upon the labor and capital of the community; it is not something that is done and consummated, but something that will be done over and over again. Shall the owners of land be compensated for being denied the privilege of doing this next year, or the year after? And if the state shall decide next year that part of this economic rent, say twenty per cent, since a beginning must somewhere be made—shall be paid into the public treasury (which is the only real solution of the land question, and is, of course, the one favored by Mr. Ogilvy), how shall the land-owner be compensated? Shall it be by remitting half of the proposed tax? The absurdity of the suggestion is too self-evident, and it ought to be clear upon reflection that the whole question of compensation is not a practical one.

There are nearly a score of essays in this little pamphlet, and all will repay reading.

J. D. M.

News—Domestic

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.—(Special Correspondence—Ralph Hoyt.)—Though the result of the California State election in November last was not what Single Taxers hoped for, it was a very thin victory for the party of plutocracy and plunder. The head of the ticket was "counted in" by only about two thousand majority, and had it not been for certain complicated, ridiculous and pernicious provisions contained in the printed ballots (which, of course, militated against the Democratic ticket, and caused thousands of ballots to be thrown out), Franklin K. Lane, the candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket, would have been declared elected, and California would have had a genuine Democratic Single Tax Chief Executive in the Gubernatorial chair for the next four years. As it is, however, the result shows a terrible falling off in the Republican vote since four years ago, when the majority for Gage, candidate for Governor on the so-called Republican ticket, was nearly twenty thousand. Added to this falling off as to the head of the ticket the P. O. P. (Party of Plunder) lost three Congressmen, instead of electing a solid delegation of eight, as was the case four years ago.

Another and still more significant feature of California politics this year is the city election in Los Angeles, which occurred one month later than the State contest. The outcome of that hotly contested struggle was very encouraging to citizens who want good government, and are determined to have it.

Mayor M. P. Snyder was the Democratic candidate for re-election, and the principal interest of the campaign was centered on

him. Next to him in importance was the question of the adoption or rejection of several charter amendments for city government which were of vital interest to every citizen. The amendments were in the direction of needed reform. Snyder was elected Mayor by nearly three thousand plurality, and some of the amendments to the city charter were adopted by a large majority.

The direct legislation amendment provides for both the initiative and the referendum. It gives fifteen per cent. of the legal voters the right to propose an ordinance and cause its submission to the people, in case the city council fails to pass it without alteration. Seven per cent. of the voters may invoke the referendum upon any ordinance passed by the Council, and thereby force its submission to the people for ratification or rejection. Any number of ordinances may be voted upon at any election, but not more than one election can be held in any period of six months. Furthermore, the people may retire any elected officer whose course is unsatisfactory. This can be done by a petition signed by twenty-five per cent. of the electors, asking the council to call a special election. The name of the objectionable officer must appear on the ballot as a candidate, unless he declines. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is to be declared elected.

It is said that Los Angeles is the first city in the world to adopt this reform measure, though it will probably not long be the only one. The direct legislation amendment received the largest majority of any one of the fifteen amendments submitted, the figures showing 12,846 affirmative votes and only 1,042 negatives.

The result of the proposition to thus amend the city charter has since led to the formation of a "Direct Legislation League of California," with Dr. John R. Haynes, of Los Angeles, as president, for the adoption of an amendment to the state constitution providing for direct legislation for the state as a whole, as well as for each county.

Thus it appears that the world does move in the right direction, though very slowly, and only in spots—small spots, too. Meanwhile, the principles of the Single Tax are still alive in Southern California, and are slowly but surely taking hold of people who think independently regarding time-honored superstitions and musty prejudices. No public Single Tax meetings are being held, but people are disposed to read newspaper articles, and other literature with which I supply them, advocating the principles which we believe in. Every few days I hear things from the lips of persons who surprise me by either partially or wholly endorsing the theory of land taxation as the only correct, logical, practicable and just method of raising public revenue.

And the number of men hereabouts who

admire the hercism and the work of Tom L. Johnson is legion.

CONNECTICUT, NEW HAVEN.—The power that the Single Tax philosophy confers on even the humblest, could not be better illustrated than in this city during the past year. With local politics in a state of confusion worse confounded a grand opportunity has been presented to offer a few basic principles in regard to municipal problems.

The coal strike has been taken full advantage of, as well as every other incident of a local nature, and the searchlight of truth has been mercilessly turned on the impotents. The result is a complete breaking up of old rings and old applications, so that few know where they are at.

Ground has been cleared for future action, and ministers in this city to-day who do not understand our position are fully convinced that a Single Taxer is a man to be reckoned with, one who has the courage of his convictions, and has positive knowledge of one thing at least.

We have proved here that courage is a powerful factor in our cause, for having no brilliancy or other gift among us, not even money, we have had to fight along with our own resources, and the result has been marvelous.

Indomitable courage, eternal vigilance, combined with never failing perseverance will work wonders, and the humblest of us have at least these attributes. Place these at the end of the Single Tax lever with justice as the fulcrum, and what can we not move?

The Woman's Single Tax Club is doing good work. We have some of the brightest women in the city with us, and they are spreading the light as only women can do. We, therefore, enter on the new year with exceedingly bright prospects, wishing every success to all our dear friends scattered the world over.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA.—(William Riley Boyd.)—I am compelled to report that we have no organization here; but there are many who are wholly or partly in sympathy with our view of what constitutes just taxation. And here is the field upon which our battle must be fought.

No one is satisfied with present methods of furnishing revenue, but it is difficult to induce legislation along rational lines looking to reform, for the reason that every such effort brings into prominence the contention of the Single Taxer, and raises anew the question so often asked: "Who is the rightful owner of the land?"

Recently in our legislature the General Tax Ordinance was under discussion. It was proposed to place a special tax upon the manufacturer, wholesale and retail dealer, in oleomargarine or other imitations of butter. The measure was so manifestly un-

just that one of the most earnest advocates suggested that a triple tax upon one product was excessive and harsh, a palpable truth, so he proposed to relieve the retailer, exclaiming in loud and earnest tones, "I want a just and equitable system of taxation."

Greatly desiring to bring supply and demand together, I beckoned one of the doorkeepers, handing him a leaflet of my own preparing, setting forth our Cult. He looked it over and I hope digested it, for he continued to oppose the excessive tax as proposed.

The New Orleans *Times-Democrat* has given much space to correspondents, and although the editor is far from the kingdom, the treatment of correspondents pro and con, has been fair and liberal, and we have a strong following in that city.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO.—(Special Correspondence.—J. G. Foyer.)—The Single Tax Party movement in this city has made great strides in the campaign just passed. The daily newspapers have recognized our party on all occasions where other parties were recognized, thus advertising the Single Tax. In this campaign 109,500 issues of the *Chicago Single Taxer* were distributed, and more than \$500 was contributed toward the campaign expenses. This advertising and distribution of papers keeps our librarian busy to supply the demand for Henry George's works. I dare say that nowhere are as many books sold as here. It has become a common occurrence to have a stranger come into our office and purchase all of George's works. A complete Single Tax county ticket appeared upon the official ballot, and nowhere in Cook County could anyone have an excuse for not voting for the Single Tax. This cannot be said of any other city in the world.

The campaign just ended and styled "The Fourth Battle," and our subsequent "Battles" are as follows:

First campaign, including entire Cook County same as election just passed, 500 votes recorded.

Second campaign for Mayor 1,000 votes recorded.

Third campaign, Aldermanic election only, and confined to the city, 1,904 votes recorded.

Fourth campaign, Cook County election, same as the first at the head of this list. 1,500 votes was the highest recorded for any one candidate by the Election Commissioners on the County ticket.

The number of votes cast for all candidates for Representative and Senatorial offices was 6,387. According to the vote cast at our first election in Cook County we have increased considerably. We have been reliably informed that no pains will be taken to obtain a correct count of our ticket until it directly affects the general result.

It is the desire of the Single Tax Party to cast as large a vote as possible, but it is

not the most important with us. We are bringing the attention of the people to the Single Tax, educating them by a most lavish distribution of papers and periodicals of various kinds.

It is the above point I am anxious to make clear. We are not office seekers. As I write this article the postman hands me a card from a student in the university at Madison, Wis., who has noticed the daily articles in the Chicago papers concerning the Single Tax Club, and states that he desires to study the Single Tax, and that he would like to obtain some literature on the subject.

This is a sample of the work we are doing by getting before the people, and the political programme is the best means of getting our principles before the people. There is no doubt of this. In the whole existence of the Chicago Single Tax Club, covering a period of fifteen years, the Club was unable to obtain any notice in the papers of any kind without charge. Since adopting political action everything we do is recorded.

The Socialists have made great gains all over the country through their method of getting into politics. Politics is a dead and senseless thing when an election is not in progress. On election time the ears of the public are open, and this is the time to talk Single Tax.

The Socialists, like the Single Taxers here, are what might be called playing at politics. But can we play politics without becoming familiar with the game as are the old parties, and can it not be said that in order to accomplish our ends we must not only be politicians, but we must elect Single Taxers to office. It has been impossible for a Single Tax publication to be successful from any point of view, either in circulation or financially, yet the Socialists have more than a dozen papers and magazines, with hundreds of thousands of copies circulated each issue, while we receive a paltry few thousand subscribers to our own periodicals. This is due to our policy of trying to convert the Democratic party. You might just as well attempt a journey to China through the bowels of the earth. We are not educating the common people unless we adopt political methods. For the past 23 years Single Taxers have attempted to reform the grafting politicians, with no success. The Socialists entered the political arena and to-day hold the balance of power in Cook County. Every Democratic politician in Chicago and Cook County could have been elected had they received the Socialistic vote. When the Single Taxer learns that the balance of power means more than their personal influence, they will pursue different methods. Personal influence depends upon the number of votes you control. The greater the number the greater the influence. It is said that the Single Tax Party polls a

small vote, and the very ones who pass this remark do all in their power to prevent a large vote. It is not the votes that the Single Tax cast, but what this policy of political action accomplishes.

In the nature of things we observe that the small beginning is the only beginning. In the State of Colorado the Single Tax was called "Home Rule in Taxation," or a false "label," and it lost. Its opponents recognized it as the Single Tax and scared off the voters by identifying the thing. Had the Single Taxers in Colorado just started an educational campaign, informing the voters of the merits of the Single Tax, the result would have been different. The population of the entire State of Colorado is about the size of St. Louis, and the task of educating them is much lighter than here in Chicago. As it is, they must start in afresh. "Loves Labor Lost." After years of earnest work their efforts have been trampled in the dust owing to the ignorance of the people. In the State of Ohio it has been demonstrated that the influence of Tom L. Johnson and his money against the crooked politicians of both parties rolled up a larger majority than ever in the history of the State for the Republicans. I do not speak of this as a defeat of "Johnson," but as a defeat of the Democratic party in that State. As a consequence of the Ohio election, Mayor Johnson has his hands and feet tied with no power of any note to speak of. In order for Mayor Johnson to win in other counties as he did in this last election in Cuyahoga County, he must do as he did in that county. "Educate" the people to reform in all counties. This is his logical course; it is the only course in which he has won. The people do not vote against the Single Tax because they do not want it, but because they do not understand it. We are now preparing for the coming spring election for Mayor. What our program will be is undecided as yet. Nevertheless, the Single Tax banner will be thrown to the breeze, and as great an effort as before will be put forth to advertise our principles.

OHIO, CINCINNATI.—(Special Correspondence.—Joseph L. Schraer.)—The failure to properly celebrate the anniversary of our departed leader has dampened the ardor of some Single Taxers in this vicinity. Outside of the work of individuals, very little is being done in an organized way, except what is being done through the Vine Street Church.

This grand and noble institution is making great strides in behalf of humanity, and its fearless pastor, with the aid of others, is leaving nothing undone to hasten the day when men shall really be free and enjoy the blessings that an All-Wise Father has created for all. Too much in praise cannot be said of this church, as it has nearly always stood for the rights of the

oppressed as against those of the oppressor. It has been the refuge of the chattel slave in times past, and again becomes the home of those who are trying to overthrow a rotten system that keeps men in ignorance of their just rights.

This church asserts man's right to heaven here. It teaches him how to abolish poverty. It teaches men to have faith in a Creator who has made all things well; faith that the ills of humanity are due, not to the blunders of the Creator, but to man's indifference to truth, and to his transgression of natural laws.

It has faith in man; faith that he would rather do right than wrong; faith that if he were free his own inborn love of truth and right would be his salvation. This church is enlisting men in the holy crusade for economic liberty; firing their hearts with zeal for the public good; leading them to the republic that is to be through the simple ways of justice and peace. It teaches that the noblest conception of God is that of a father who loves all of his children. It follows that men are brothers, and that the fruits of Justice and Love between man and man, nation and nation, are proof of a vital religion.

Faith in God involves the belief that there are natural laws touching every part of our life, and that by discovering and obeying these laws men may create the conditions of their own happiness. Bodily, political and social disease are an evidence of the violation of natural law. We exalt the virtue of open-mindedness, that men may readily accept each new truth that leads to a better understanding of these laws.

It is the aim of this pulpit to help men to adjust their life to the righteousness of natural law, that they may become more brotherly, that their politics may be purified, that social conditions may be made more just, that the material as well as the moral—the communal as well as the individual life may be improved.

Liberty, Fraternity, Progress, Justice, Love—these are the ideals of this church, and we claim for our field of service the entire life of man, believing the highest form of worship to be an intelligent devotion to the good of a World-Wide Humanity.

If any person believes his life could be made more useful to the world, and, therefore, more profitable to himself by uniting with this church, he is cordially invited to make application for membership, as several from distant States have already done.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA.—There is nothing of special interest now going on in Philadelphia in Single Tax work. The Single Tax Society is holding its regular weekly meetings as usual, where economic questions are discussed. The meetings are

held at 1305 Arch Street every Wednesday evening.

The Henry George Club is holding its winter course of meetings at Industrial Hall on Sunday evenings. A good programme is being provided by the able and painstaking work of Mrs. Dr. Dickson. Among the more prominent speakers so far have been Bolton Hall, Prof. Lybarger and Prof. Daniel Batchellor.

The most important Single Tax work being done in this city are the very excellent articles in *The North American* every Sunday, by Henry George, Jr. The clearness of statement, excellent taste, sane judgment, and fairness with which he handles his subjects are sure to work good for the cause.

News—Foreign

MONTREAL.

Although we have not been setting the world on fire up here, a few words from us may be appreciated by some of your readers.

It is but a dull story that we have to tell, and one which assuredly would never be read by any but Single Taxers. For what significance can a few meetings, a lecture or two, and a petition to the City Council have to any who do not hold the key to the riddle, and who consequently are at a loss to know why we should continue this apparently fruitless, though endless agitation to have the taxes placed on land values.

We began our meetings about October, after a summer's idleness, according to our custom. At this meeting, several papers having a bearing upon the coal strike were read. We were favored by the presence of a coal mine engineer and owner, who had some remarks to make upon the subject, which, though, as you may readily understand, not favorable to our view, were fair and dispassionate from his standpoint.

It may read like presumptuous egotism to those who have not seen the light, yet it is true, that nothing can be more convincing of the truths of our philosophy, to a straight reasoner, than a comparison of the arguments advanced by single taxers and their opponents. Possibly to the general public the latter may carry more conviction, but to us they appear to lose the point of the argument altogether, concentrating their attentions upon an array of statistics which may mean anything or nothing, rather than upon those principles of justice which must in the end prevail. And so we see our visitor attempting to show that there was no profit, or very little, in coal mining, that very few coal mining companies paid dividends for many years after they started operations; that these dividends were very small.