

were supposed to be in favor of the amendment; this was the situation at the beginning of the campaign. The leeches on the body politic—the landlords and speculators—organized an "ANTI" League and behold, their President was one of the leading Democrats of the State, their Secretary was the chairman of the bureau of literature of the Democratic party during the former campaign, and all of the leading speakers against us were members of the Democratic party; the party here is the microcosm of the macrocosm. These phlegmatic, pot-house political parasites went into hysterics in their vague mumblemouthing of our measure, calling us every vile and contemptible epithet that their weird imagination could conceive or their bleared mind could invent; as a result we learned our friends and the friends of mankind, and better yet, we learned ourselves; we were enabled to cull from the rubbish those who are in earnest to remedy the wrongs we suffer from.

Formerly the Democratic party stood for a conceivable principle, and possibly would have attempted to inaugurate a change had they not been led astray by the ponderous stuffed prophet of fishing proclivity, who in the name of Democracy established the virulent aristocracy of privilege and sugar.

We hoped for redemption under the leadership of Altgeld and Bryan; noble statesmen politicians, outnumbered many to one; our hopes are withered and gone; the pendulum is swinging backwards to the mists and fumes of falsehood. A few years ago the growth of radical thought was more than rapid—it seemed that the day was not far distant when true reform would be counted with the deeds of history; now in the gloaming we see nothing but a dismal, direful darkness, a hopeless, rayless void. Look at the kaleidoscopic panorama for a moment. The Republican party advocates privilege and the protection of wild animals, with once in a while a chirp of civilizing the brown man in the distant seas. The Democratic party's only audible yelp is "anti." Like the Irishman, who, when he landed at Castle Garden, inquired whether we had a government here, being told we had, replied: "Well, I'm agin it." Not only are the leaders of "The Eastern Democracy" agin the pseudo doctrines of the Republicans, but the Western wing, so far as we have had any experience is concerned, is against everything that tends for the betterment of the race.

Can we go to the Socialists? No. They do not pretend to be able to do anything for the suffering and disinherited dreamers, designless and hopeful; they offer no remedy and no method. Only a dream; class consciousness, whatever that may mean, is their slogan. Their success would bring upon us a dreariness beside which the dismal swamp would be an Utopian paradise. What are we to do in this chaotic condi-

tion? Volney said that the cupidity of the upper classes and the stupidity of the lower classes had been the cause of the ruin of empires. What words of wisdom. The cupidity of the leaders and the stupidity of the rank and file (in the tin pail procession) not only has crucified the Declaration of Independence, but destroyed every vestige of equality to America or before the law, and we are to become a colonial empire.

We are aware that the lightnings of Jupiter are being gathered, and at the next National Convention of Democracy the bolt will sever the rotten shell that has furnished shade for so long. What are we to do? Were it not for the gallant fight of Hon. Tom L. Johnson in Ohio, there would be no question on this point, but under the situation, it seems to me that the best thing is to be in a thorough organized condition, have our delegates at the place of the convention, knocking, knocking for an entrance, and when the division occurs open our arms to those who feel like going with the democratic Democratic patriots. By so doing, we can gather some help and show that we believe in the principles. Remember that right and justice never get grey headed or bald, like Cupid. They drink from the fountain of perpetual youth. If we can collect together and with concerted action, no doubt we can make ourselves felt, and then we will be on the high road to make the doctrines of our lives a living reality. Only when that day arrives will we be able to say that we have done our duty, we have not lived in vain. My conclusions are therefore to organize, send delegates to the convention, apply for admission, as did the silver forces in St. Louis, and then take the political field for good, never to cease until the day is won and the earth becomes in reality a place for human beings to live upon.

Sincerely and fraternally yours in a common cause.

EDWIN N. BURDICK,
Chairman Australasian Tax Campaign Committee.

News—Domestic.

ALABAMA, DAPHNE.—(Special Correspondence.—E. Q. Norton.)—Of late there has been much interest aroused in this State upon the tax question. Every Legislature, since Alabama became a State, has modified the tax laws and still they are as unsatisfactory as ever; in fact, more so, since the people are getting educated to the idea that there is no possible hope of making our present system (?) of taxation any more effective or less objectionable.

The *Montgomery Journal* has started in with a series of articles, showing some of the inequalities of the present system, more especially the varying returns as made by

the sixty-six counties of the State. The Montgomery *Advertiser* and the Birmingham *Age-Herald* take every opportunity to show up the shortcomings of the system, while other papers either copy from them or hit the system a blow at frequent intervals.

ALABAMA, FAIRHOPE.—(Special Correspondence—E. B. Gaston.)—The attention attracted to "Fairhope" by Prof. Belangee's trip and the numerous newspaper articles about the colony which have recently appeared, have caused a great increase in the inquiries for fuller information received by the Secretary, and many of the inquirers ask for information about the Single Tax generally, as well as its application at Fairhope.

Three recent visitors—all machinists, from Chicago, were members of a club of ten, who had just about closed a bargain to purchase jointly four hundred acres—forty acres apiece, across the bay, in Mobile County, at \$15.00 an acre or \$6,000. After fully investigating our plan, seeing what we had accomplished under it and grasping its promise for the future, they left, expressing their determination to throw up their purchase plan, and get their friends to join with them in coming to Fairhope and taking land of the colony. They declared that the practical application of the principle at Fairhope, as explained to them, had enabled them to understand the Single Tax better than they had ever done before.

The reputation of Fairhoppers as enterprising people—people who do things—was indicated in a recent item in the Mobile *Daily Herald*, referring to a proposed direct road along the bay shore between Fairhope and Montrose, the next village above. Said the *Herald* writer: "The Fairhope people have taken the matter in hand, which is equivalent to saying that it will be carried to a successful conclusion." We had to say to the *Herald*, that the announcement was premature; that the Fairhope people were having about all they could do to attend to their own roads, and that one serious obstacle to our taking the matter up was an appreciation of the fact that the owners of vacant land along the proposed road—and most of it is vacant—would reap an unearned and therefore undeserved advantage in the increase of their land values because of our enterprise. To-day we had an Educational Rally at Fairhope—one of a series of meetings being held throughout the county, by arrangement of our County Superintendent of Education. It was held in our beautiful wooded park, by the water's edge. In a paper the writer attacked the undemocratic school law of this county, which places all the schools of the county in charge of an Educational Board—all the members of which, save one, are appointed by the State Superintendent of Education. He showed how the burden

of maintaining schools could be placed according to benefits enjoyed by putting it on land values for land was the only form of *property* (of course we objected to calling it *property*) which was increased in value by good schools. There were a goodly number of non Single Taxers present, but before the close of the meeting a resolution protesting against the sale of another foot of school land, but insisting that it be held for lease so that the schools might profit by its increasing value, was adopted with enthusiastic unanimity and seemed heartily appreciated by the County Superintendent and the County Attorney, who were present.

At the rate applications for land are coming in, our agricultural land will soon be pretty well exhausted. Help to increase our land area is the one thing we feel entitled to ask Single Tax friends everywhere. Land is so cheap here now that a little money will go a long way in that direction.

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.—(Special Correspondence.—Ralph Hoyt.)—In May, this season, I had the pleasure of meeting in San Francisco several of the leading and active Single Taxers of the windy city, and learning how the good work progresses thereabouts. I found Judge Maguire, as usual, "up to his eyes" in law business, but still the same ardent, unswerving, warm-hearted advocate of our principles, and hopeful as to the outcome. A more faithful, conscientious champion of human rights than James G. Maguire does not live.

Joseph Leggett, too, is one of God's noblemen, and a tremendous power for the advancement of our principles. His frequent newspaper articles and his occasional public speeches are models of instructiveness, sound logic and thrilling facts that appeal to every candid reader or listener so as to leave a lasting impression on the mind. His thorough knowledge of important historic facts and events is marvelous, and his memory seems to scarcely have any limit.

Among other faithful advocates of the good cause in 'Frisco and on the East Side of the Bay are a score or more of equally good men, of less prominence than the two already mentioned, but earnest, active according to the time they can afford to spare from their business demands, and true as steel when any proposition arises that seems to them a disguised enemy posing under the name of Democracy.

Single Taxers in the North, like those in Southern California, are all enthusiastic admirers of Mayor Tom L. Johnson, the man of many victories, whose achievements in Ohio are astounding the nation. One prominent business man in this city, a sound Single Taxer, who lived in Cleveland years ago, there became acquainted with Johnson. His admiration for the winning Mayor is stronger than words can express. On the

other hand he also knew Mark Hanna, right there in his own city, and he does not hesitate to say what sort of a man Hanna was and is, and how he was regarded by honest citizens of Cleveland. He informs me that all attempts of Republican talkers and newspapers to whitewash Hanna can have no weight with people who know the man as he and other residents of Cleveland know him. They declare him to be tricky, selfish, cold-blooded, unscrupulous.

Whether Johnson becomes the presidential candidate or not, the true democracy of California will insist on a ticket headed by a real Democrat, with a suitable running mate, and a platform that bristles all over with Jeffersonian principles clearly stated.

I must not omit to mention the fact that while in San Francisco I once more had the privilege of a chat with my friend James H. Barry, the well known editor and proprietor of *The Star*, who for more than a year has been suffering from a most painful and dangerous illness. Though still in an enfeebled condition he is putting in several hours of hard work in his office daily, and getting out one of the best and strongest papers ever printed on the American continent. A truer Single Taxer than Barry can be found nowhere; and as a man he is loved and esteemed by all good people who know him.

The inquiries for Single Tax literature among residents and visitors is slowly but steadily increasing. Thus far I have been able to supply all applicants. However, if any of my Single Tax brethren in the East can spare a few packages of good reading on our lines I will be glad to receive it, and it shall be put into the hands of those who are hungering for the truth.

CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO.—(Special Correspondence.—Stephen Potter.)—On the 2d of May William Lloyd Garrison addressed the Single Tax Society at California Academy of Sciences hall on the subject "The Destruction of Privilege Essential to the Survival of Democracy." The house was crowded to the doors, and the speaker was warmly received. The address was a masterpiece, and will prove of great value as a propaganda document. The society has had ten thousand copies printed for gratuitous distribution, and, while they last, they will be sent to our friends in any part of the country, if they will make application. Address the San Francisco Single Tax Society, Room 5, 7th floor, Mills Building.

An incident worthy of note by Single Taxers is a legal fight that has developed in this city over the privilege of using for advertising purposes the blank wall space on one side of a tall building on Market Street. The wall towers above the adjoining structure, presenting a windowless surface fifty feet high by seventy five feet wide that is plainly in view from the street for a distance of several blocks. An advertising company

has been using this wall for display purposes under a lease from the owners, paying for the privilege a rental of \$75 a month. This lease recently expired, and a short option was granted to the advertising company pending a renewal of the lease. Before the expiration of the option, however, a third party made a higher bid, and the owner refused to renew the lease to the holder of the option unless it met the increase in rental offered by the new bidder. A quarrel ensued, the outcome being that the advertising company secured a lease of the roof of the adjoining low building and of the air above it, relying upon the established rule of law that a property owner owns all from the middle of the earth beneath to the dome of the heavens above the surface area which marks his holding. In the meantime the owner made a contract with the new bidder for the rental of the wall, but the advertising company sued out an injunction restraining any person from suspending any ladders or painters' perches over the rented roof, or in any way trespassing upon the space above it, and thus remained master of the situation. The matter is now pending in the courts.

COLORADO, DENVER.—(Special Correspondence.—E. O. Bailey.) Ex-Senator James W. Bucklin, of Grand Junction, has been suffering since last January with acute inflammatory rheumatism, and at the present time is very seriously ill.

Mrs. Sample, wife of the Rev. S. W. Sample, of Denver, well known to Single Taxers, died June 1st. Mr. Sample's bereavement elicits sincere sympathy from his numerous friends throughout the State. He is a man of exceptional talent, who has sacrificed much for the cause of reform, and his loss becomes, in a great measure, ours also.

Mr. J. R. Herman, foremost Single Tax advocate of Denver, expects to visit his old home in Iowa next Fall. He contemplates making several addresses through Nebraska upon both the monetary question and the Single Tax. His efforts in support of the latter, in Colorado, have been very effective.

J. A. Edgerton, editorial writer for the *Rocky Mountain News*, has issued a call to "Advanced Democrats," "former Republicans," "Populists," "Single Taxers," "Moderate Socialists," and "all other reformers" to attend a convention to be held in Denver, July 27th inst., for the purpose of forming a new political organization, with a platform upon which all earnest reformers may stand, and by means of which a new crusade against social and economic evils may be carried on.

His outline of principles includes "Government ownership of railroads and telegraphs; a government brought nearer the people through direct legislation, and popular election of Senators; and land for occu-

pancy and use, rather than for speculation."

The prospects for a large attendance seem encouraging.

Mr. Edgerton is Secretary of the National Committee of the People's Party, and this creation of a third party takes the place of a proposed revival of the People's Party. All reformers, who feel the guilt attached to their support of either of the dominant parties will do well to assist in making a national movement of this affair. It promises the only avenue through which the fundamental reforms so necessary may be obtained and a set of principles upon which the numerous reform parties and organizations can agree.

This call was published in the June 18th issue of the *Nebraska Independent*.

Colorado Socialists have had an "open battle" with the enemy, that promises to make or destroy them in this State.

Bishop N. C. Matz, of the Catholic Diocese of Denver, made a bitter attack upon Socialism in a recent address from the pulpit, severely arraigning the Western Federation of Miners for adopting Socialism as a political creed. The address was given prominence in the local papers and aroused the fury of Socialists all over the State. They replied to him through the *Rocky Mountain News* and exchanged some heated volleys.

The editor of the *News* took up the controversy and added several half page articles, discussing "Fundamentals," to the detriment, no doubt, of Socialism. The Single Tax was barely referred to by Bishop Matz who classified it as a part of the pernicious policy of the Socialists, but who immediately apologized for the landlordism of the earth by promising the poor and the landless, positions as landlords in heaven. He was taken to task for this and suffered from satire and ridicule.

Undoubtedly the direct effect of this agitation will be to increase the activity of the Socialists and the antagonism of the Catholic Church, to the injury of both.

Chas. R. Burger, Single Taxer, and democratic candidate for representative from Colorado Springs district last fall, visited in New York City the latter part of June.

The Charter Convention of the New Denver City and County has been in session since June 1st. Indications point to adoption of the Initiative and Referendum, the Recall and Ownership by the City of all Public Utilities.

Denver Single Taxers "get into print" frequently, but have no active organization at present.

KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE.—(Special Correspondence.—Joseph Quigley.)—I have good news for your readers. A constitutional amendment will be voted on in this State giving the cities home rule in taxation. In this city the movement started. The business men want manufacturers exempt from

taxation for a period of years, and if once secured there is little fear that taxes will ever again be reimposed by the voluntary action of the voters. The present law allows five years exemption. November the 3rd is the day on which the vote will be taken. From now on we may expect that there will be much discussion and some consequent education along the lines of true economic reform.

MASSACHUSETTS, WOLLASTON.—(Special Correspondence.—Eliza Stowe Twitchell.)—The growth of the Single Tax principle in Massachusetts is not alone determined by the work of our League; but may, perhaps, be more properly measured by the public addresses of those engaged in maintaining the present order of industrial slavery, and who rely chiefly upon evolution to bring harmony between opposing forces; to discover North Poles; and perfect wireless telegraphy. Behold how great is this new god, Evolution!

It is a matter of much significance that the Hon. Carrol D. Wright took for the subject of his recent Phi Beta Kappa oration, at Harvard, that of "Romantic Socialism," in which he left the modern editorial writer of an independent daily far behind in so arguing both sides of a subject as to leave the reader in doubt which side he was advocating. He so polished his address with wit and learning that when it was ended his hearers were hypnotized into the belief that no one need fear Socialism, since it was harmless, helpful, and hurtful. In brief, his address was more scholarly than Mark Hanna's simple "Let well enough alone," but it answered the same purpose, beguiling the ear and heart with eloquence, sprinkled with choice quotations from the heart of that noble reformer, Whittier. Think of it! Perhaps, in some far off time, some of our periods and fancies may be used to patch together paragraphs that argue for "letting well enough alone."

The eloquence that is now being poured out in Baccalaureate sermons and in class-day orations on such subjects as "friendship," "virtue," and even that of "liberty" and "self-sacrifice," in the abstract, is enough to make saints and heroes of us all; but for a first class, up-to-date speech, no subject is quite so "pat" as the labor question veiled under the bewildering phrase of "Romantic Socialism."

There you have a straw which clearly indicates which way the wind is blowing; and this lively breeze has been set in motion in that direction by the growth of our reform which "has for its chief, a Principle, and for its weapon, an Idea."

The work of our League has already been set forth at length in the *REVIEW*, describing the two banquets given during the winter, one to professional Economists, the other to landlords. But a word or two

might be said regarding some features that were omitted from the printed report.

At the first banquet, the Economists were given the task of describing the nature of ground rent. One gave this as the current, classical definition, "Rent is a differential gain." One declared it impossible to form correct definitions of anything outside the exact science of mathematics. A long discussion followed as to whether the amount of land in market was a fixed quantity or not; and also upon what depended its value. One was sure that its value was affected by population; but whether ground rent was an unearned increment, must be determined by studying each particular case, that "customary ways of looking at things had, and should have, great weight, for such was the price we all must pay for social stability. One professor declared there was no essential difference between rent and interest, that the difference, if any, depended upon the subjective view of the beholder. This discussion seemed likely to go on interminably, while I sat writing nervously to hear someone declare that ground rent is a social product. But they said everything about rent that could be thought of but this. Once or twice they came so near to this great truth, that it flashed into their faces and almost burnt them, and they gracefully drew back.

At length one professor made bold to defend "the surplus—if there were surplus—earnings of private monopoly in franchises," saying, "the masses are desperately afraid somebody will make something." This thought struck fire, touching as it did practical affairs, and to my great joy a professor rose and made a ringing, impromptu speech, one not set down on the programme, and therefore not given in the report. He struck out from the shoulder, in clear, logical, Single Tax fashion. Said "ground rent was a social product," and "society had a right to claim its own, and when the time came that it saw fit so to do, it could and would pass laws to that effect. That the people did object, and had a right to object, to a few individuals enriching themselves at the expense of the public." And this speech, coming from one of their own number, was received by a good round of applause. That applause was the most significant event of the evening. It showed more clearly than anything else, the "possible agreements" among thinking minds upon the important subject of ground rent.

At the next banquet our President delivered to landlords an address upon ground rent, in which he declared again and again, that "ground rent is a social product," that "to the producer belongs the product," that it is not so much the monopoly of land that is oppressing capital and labor, as it is the private appropriation of ground rent—the social product.

Over 5,000 copies of this address together with hundreds of copies of Thomas G. Shear-

man's Natural Taxation have been sent to writers, teachers and colleges, indeed men of high positions in schools and colleges, have asked for them, and have been generously supplied. This address, so startling with its array of facts and figures will be used in class room, and by lecturers.

Surely the heaven is working. Who would disturb the mystery of its growth?

MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON.—Besides the work done by the League the Boston Single Tax Society holds open-air meetings on Boston Common for two hours every Sunday afternoon from the time the weather is favorable until late in the fall. Often Single Taxers who happen to be in the city over Sunday come around and help out with a speech. Prof. James Bellangee of Fairhope, Ala., spoke and answered questions for an hour and a half on June 14th. Usually Edward Doherty and W. L. Crossman are the only speakers.

Last summer and fall these two men held open-air meetings during week day evenings at Sullivan Square, Charlestown, Central Square, East Boston, Roxbury Crossing and Central Square, Cambridge. They have commenced the same educational work this season. Tracts are distributed and books sold. The crowds usually listen attentively.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY.—(Special Correspondence.—A. E. Swearingen.)—The flood is past and Kansas City is assuming her normal conditions.

Much loss was sustained—perhaps 25 to 50 lives—and \$10,000,000 property damage. There is room for reflection here, but this is not news in the sense you perhaps desire.

There is one move in Kansas City that is of vital interest to Single Taxers.

During August next we vote on a bond issue. Kansas City some years since bought a water plant, and this is now in need of funds for betterment and under the tension a general bond scheme has been evolved—one that will provide a fund for improving the grounds already bought by Kansas City for Park and Boulevard purposes. These grounds and boulevards have all been condemned—bought and built during the past seven years without issuing bonds, but by assessing direct Tax Bills on land values in benefit districts. These Tax Bills are payable in twenty installments by the individual land-owners. The plan (as all Single Taxers will believe) has worked admirably, and to-day Kansas City is in possession of and completing the very finest system of Parks and Boulevards—with Walks, Lakes, Facades, Pagoda, Sunken Gardens, Groves, Observation Points, Cliff Drives. It is safe to say no city in the United States has accomplished in a century by the bond system or indirect tax system, what Kansas City has accomplished in seven years by a direct land tax. And now in the coming election we are asked to vote for bonds to

"improve the vast grounds the city has already taken." We Single Taxers are naturally asking why not use the same system for improvement that was used to gain possession of such grounds. All acknowledge that it worked admirably.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS.—(Special Correspondence.—L. P. Custer.)—The St. Louis Single Tax League gave a dinner on the evening of the 16th of May which, perhaps, was the most successful ever held under its auspices. Louis F. Post was the principal speaker of the occasion and Dr. William Preston Hill, now of Tucson, Ariz., formerly of St. Louis, and an honored member of the League, was the guest of the evening. Dr. Hill was the first speaker on the programme, his subject being: "Direct Legislation," and he made a most eloquent plea for this great democratic principle. For real eloquence and strength of statement, Dr. Hill's speech was no doubt not only first in delivery but first in merit, but this is no disparagement of the other speakers. Dr. Hill is an orator. His equipment for oratorical utterance is superb in every way. He has the presence, the language, the voice and the force, and the latter feature embodies none of the characteristics of rant in its exercise.

The other speakers besides Messrs. Post and Hill were Dr. Frank G. Tyrrell, of the Mt. Cabanne Christian Church; Col. Richard Dalton of Saverton, Mo., formerly Collector of this Port, under Grover Cleveland's administration; Dr. Wm. F. Peck, of the Spiritual Unity Congregation of this city, and who was associated with Mr. George in an organization formed for the purpose of considering the Land Question in California, when he, (Dr. Peck) was a resident of San Francisco, and George was just emerging into prominence as the author of "Progress and Poverty." Dr. Peck's address dealt with his acquaintanceship with our dead leader, and he spoke most eloquently and interestingly. Mr. N. O. Nelson, the St. Louis manufacturer and a splendid friend of the movement, spoke briefly, and Dr. Abraham Nelson, of the Non-Sectarian Christian Church, opened the proceedings preliminary to the serving of the dinner, by invoking the Divine favor upon our meeting. Prof. F. M. Crunden, of the St. Louis Public Library, was to have acted as Master of Ceremonies, but became indisposed late in the day and we pressed into service Wm. Marion Reedy, Publisher of *The Mirror*, a weekly publication here, devoted to the milder phases of the social and industrial questions of the day and to society doings. Mr. Reedy has been reading Post for a year or two now, has inserted contributions from his pen in special numbers, and has become impressed with our philosophy to some extent, but whether he is wholly converted to our faith yet, it is hard to say. He denies that such is the case, but he has shown some suspicious symptoms that to the

dyed-in-the-wool adherent, who is able to read between the lines, seems almost convincing evidence of conversion. I must not forget to mention that the proceedings wound up by the introduction of a young East St. Louis, Ill., High School student, who is not only young but small of stature, and who is as bright as a new dollar. He made a most felicitous little impromptu speech, incorporating a quotation from an address he had previously made in support of the Single Tax in a debate at the High School in the City at the other end of our big bridge, some time in the early Spring. His name is Master C. P. Webb and he is a promising subject for the Single Tax movement.

Dr. Hill was not only accorded the distinction of being designated our guest for the evening, because he is an honored member of the League and is returning on a visit to the city, but for the reason that he has done monumental work for direct legislation in Missouri. Without his support financially and morally it is doubtful if we would now have pending in this State for vote of the people next year, a Constitutional Amendment incorporating into our organic laws, the best measure for direct legislation, in many respects, that has ever been offered in any State of the Union. There are some restrictive features in the measure that will make it difficult to use it, but the enabling act itself, if adopted by the people, is splendid. For instance, it gives direct legislation, in the best sense of that term. In other words, it confers powers to enact laws without the intervention of the Legislature. Under its provisions a bill can be drawn, a petition for its submission to the people secured, and a vote upon it be had at the following general election without any legislator having anything to do with it. This is a double advantage: It saves two years in time, because the submission of measures by a legislative body must be to the people at the "next general election," which is two years subsequent to its own election, and it prevents the mutilation of bills by corrupt men, who are used by special interests to further their ends in legislative matters and to see that nothing gets through that will enable the people to balk their designs.

Mr. S. L. Moser, who was associated with the late John J. McCann in the "Equal Taxation Committee" of the St. Louis Single Tax League for several years, and through which committee so much was accomplished in bringing about the taxation of franchises in this State, has been the active agent in support of Dr. Hill's work. He spent several weeks at Jefferson City, lining up the members of the Legislature for the measure, and keeping track of the opposition, so as to prevent its being side-tracked or mutilated, and, with the exceptions noted, got it through in good form. He is now conducting a campaign for its adoption,

Dr. Hill still rendering the principal support, financially and morally.

It has been several years since your correspondent has been entirely free of official responsibility in our local League, but at this time he has no official connection with the organization. After the dinner was given and everything squared up he advised adjournment for the summer but the majority of those present at the meeting where the matter was considered, desired to continue the meetings weekly, therefore he stepped aside, and the old stand-by of the League, Stephen M. Ryan, sometimes denominated "the shoemaker philosopher," was chosen as president, and another old member, Melvin H. Palmer, secretary. Mr. Frank K. Ryan, an attorney of prominence in the city, was elected to the important position of financial secretary, and Mr. Henry Priemeyer remains the treasurer until his successor shall have been chosen.

There is some agitation for the holding of an International Conference during our World's Fair next year, but so far nothing tangible for its realization has been accomplished. There is no doubt it can be made an unqualified success without any great amount of sacrifice, if taken hold of by the proper person.

The Louisiana Purchase Fair is going to be the biggest and best thing of its kind ever held. Double the amount of money and space (ground area) that was used at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago will be utilized here. More than twelve hundred acres will be enclosed within the grounds, and the exhibits are going to be extraordinary as compared with the Chicago Fair.

OHIO, CLEVELAND.—(Special Correspondence.—J. B. Vining.)—Never since my connection with the Single Tax movement in Ohio, now some fifteen years, has there been the activity among "George" men, and also the opportunity to do practical, intelligent work for the cause.

This has been brought about by the advent of Tom L. Johnson in local politics. Through his efforts during the past two years, the question of unequal taxation has been brought to the attention of the voters, as never before. Upon the members of the coming Legislature, will depend the progress of this movement; therefore, nothing will be left undone which will aid in the election of men who have correct, advanced ideas on taxation, and the proper functions of government.

This fight will not be made for the purpose of sending any particular man to the Senate, nor, for that matter, for the sole purpose of defeating Mark Hanna for this office. On this question, the average Single Taxer is quite indifferent.

It should also be understood absolutely that Mayor Johnson does not desire the senatorship. He would not accept the office

under any consideration. He regards it as one where he could practically do nothing along the lines we are all interested in. He may be compelled, from the circumstances which arise, to accept the nomination for governor, but he would prefer not to do that. At any rate, the fight will be made along the line of getting the Legislature, so that such laws as are required may be passed. If the Mayor accepts the nomination for Governor, which it is to be hoped he will not, he will still make his fight on securing the Legislature just the same.

It is pretty generally known that in the last Legislature, there were eight "Democrats" (so called) that ignored their party principles when they voted with the Republicans to give the Cincinnati street car lines a forty-four-year lease. There were eight of these Democrats who furthered the interests of the corporations, and they afterwards were known as the "eight black sheep" of the Ohio Legislature. Johnson notified them that he would do what he could to prevent their ever representing (or misrepresenting) the Democratic party again. He told them that he would oppose their renomination, and if they were renominated, would oppose their election. Six of them were discreet enough not to be candidates. One who aspired to a renomination, afterwards gave it up, and the eighth attempted to make the race. Mayor Johnson lubricated his automobile, and started for the seat of war. He made a canvass of the county, speaking at a number of places, and inviting any friend of the corporation candidate to meet him in debate or ask questions. As a result of his contest, the "black sheep," although supported by the local organization, was defeated.

During this summer and fall, this fight will be carried into every county in the State, where we have a fighting chance. In this work, the Single Tax men, under the direction of the Ohio Single Tax League, propose to take an important part. Mr. Radcliffe has already started on this campaign, and we are now sending out letters to our friends, asking their aid to keep him in the field. Mayor Johnson has promised his help financially and otherwise.

My last letter announced that O. P. Hyde, of Marietta, was a candidate for Mayor. I am glad now to tell your readers that Mr. Hyde was elected. Thus, one by one, the Crosdaler's are getting into public life, and are thus forcing our ideas to the front. Daniel Kiefer, Mr. Bigelow's intimate friend and co-worker, is meeting with great success with the Bigelow Press Bureau. He now has seventy-five papers that are printing each week extracts of Mr. Bigelow's Sunday evening sermon. Of course, they are all full of the "George" philosophy; thus the seeds of truth are ever being sown. He is also doing a great work with the vacant lots in Cincinnati, which are being

cultivated something after the "Pingree Potato Patch" plan.

As a final word: Watch Ohio and Mayor Johnson, and if you have a cent to help in the fight, kindly remember the address of the Secretary of the Ohio Single Tax League, and send the funds that we so much need.

GOOD WORK IN HOUSTON.

The Houston Daily *Post* gives an account of the meeting of the Manufacturers Association of that city last month which appointed a committee to wait upon the Board of Appraisement to discuss with them the question of the taxation of buildings, equipment, and material of the local manufacturers. Messrs. Pastoriza and Dougherty made addresses before the Board of Appraisement, and entered pleas for local option in taxation. Mr. Pastoriza spoke as follows:

"The Manufacturers Association was organized from a desire to have those engaged in manufacturing and commercial pursuits brought into closer affiliation and touch, and thereby advance their individual interest, and at the same time foster and develop the industrial possibilities of our city to the utmost.

We expect to attain our desire in two ways. First, by removing or neutralizing such obstacles of a financial nature as tend to unjustly burden or obstruct the starting or carrying on of manufacturing: secondly, by cultivating in this community and State a public sentiment favorable to demand and use of home made goods of all kinds. Feeling that our interests as citizens of Houston were your interests, and to the extent that they were in your hands as city officials, we had but to make you acquainted with our object to bespeak such assistance as your official obligations would permit. To that end, this committee has been appointed to wait upon and confer with you in regard to such an adjustment of the coming city tax assessment upon factories, as will to some extent advance the first object of our association and the growing interests of the city property holders.

In asking a careful and considerate adjustment on this class of property, it may be said in reply that we are urging an untried novelty—to those so impressed, our committee would like to call their attention to the numerous advertisements of towns North and South, to be seen in manufacturing and commercial journals, offering suitable sites free and exemption from taxation for a term of years, and it is a fact well known that the existence of many of the cotton factory towns in Georgia and the Carolinas are to be attributed to this feature.

The latest object lesson of this kind that presents itself for consideration, is the almost marvelous business expansion tak-

ing place in New Orleans, whose awakening from the Rip Van Winkle lethargy of a half century is credited to the business association piloted by our former citizen, Tom Richardson, and who are using "the exemption of manufacturers from taxation" as the strongest argument to induce capital to locate with them, and help build up their city.

Because of what is being done elsewhere, we do not ask that you exempt our factories from taxation entirely, we know that the constitution of our State would prevent it, however much you might desire to, but we do feel that we are justified in asking that you use the discretion that is vested in you by assessing the plant and buildings of our factories at a low valuation and make up the difference by assessing vacant lots at their full value. Vacant lots give employment to no one, while factories feed and clothe thousands.

Remember that it does not pay to tax heavily that which you desire to retain or secure, and certainly you desire factories. Houston will become a great city if we have a large number of factories, and if you let it be known throughout the United States that it is the policy of Houston to favor manufacturers by assessing their plants and machinery at a nominal figure, it will not be long before those who contemplate starting a factory in Texas will make a bee line for Houston.

If we insist upon assessing the plants and buildings of factories at their full value, we will cripple those already in existence and prevent new ones from being established in our midst.

We trust that you gentlemen will weigh these few remarks with consideration, and when you reach on the assessment roll the name of a manufacturer, you will bear in mind what we have said to you to-day."

Mr. Dougherty's speech was a plea for the adoption of a resolution by the board calling upon the State Legislature to amend the Constitution so as to permit cities to exempt manufacturing plants from taxation for a limited period of years.

News—Foreign.

MONTREAL.

An event has occurred in Montreal during the past quarter which I feel justified in saying has done more for the cause of Single Tax than perhaps all the other meetings which have been held and all the pamphlets which have been distributed since our association was formed.

We have had a practical demonstration of the logical working out of a vicious and unfair system of taxation and of the foolishness of expecting a wrong system to work rightly.

This has been vouchsafed to us through