

California

DO Single Taxers want the Single Tax? This challenge hurled at avowed Single Taxers stung them to the quick, especially when that pointed interrogation was raised by one who, for the want of a better name, was called a radical.

When Dr. McGlynn and Henry George died, the movement followed "the line of least resistance." That is to say, the easiest way of doing nothing, and still remain respectable but not out-classed, because there was no George or McGlynn to take their place.

In the West, militants entered practical politics in order to secure the tools of Democracy. This move was accomplished. Many of those in charge of the work sacrificed the philosophy of Henry George on the altar of political expediency. The assumed mouthpiece of the movement, the Fels Fund Commission, hung its faith on those who had been associated with the movement to secure political democracy, forgetting that the real work had been done a quarter of a century ago, by militant Single Taxers, Populists and other radicals. In this way the movement lost its soul and became a mere money-machine, and when an obscure anarchist hurled a bomb into the ranks of respectability the explosion that took place resulted in two campaigns in California for straight Single Tax. Let us take an inventory.

We have cleaned house and found out who wants Single Tax now, and that is worth all the cost. Besides, we have held the flag of fundamental democracy high above the trenches in the midst of the world's greatest tragedy. A little band of George men went through this campaign with the radicalism of George unsullied as a war measure. "Food will win the war" and "Food comes from the land," was the lesson taught in this campaign.

Only half the registered electorate voted; the feeling on the war was all-absorbing; weeks before election influenza closed all public meetings. The Democrats had no candidate for Governor, owing to a fluke in the primary laws, and the campaign died. The people were afraid to assemble in crowds at the polls, or were too depressed to care. The result of the election was a failure, and there is no means of telling what our strength was. About one-third of the vote in the cities was cast on the Amendment, including registered and unregistered voters. This, however, is no indication of the unpopularity of the bill this year over that of two years ago.

Of course, the Los Angeles headquarters was staggered for the moment, and before parting with him, Luke North stated he was going to continue the fight, but thought some changes might be made. He thought he would drop the name "Great Adventure" and substitute "Single Tax," and add general propaganda for next year.

I find the San Francisco office of the same opinion regarding the necessity of a change.

Judge Maguire, though an invalid, is as wide awake as a schoolboy, and his eyes sparkled with the old fire as he told me we must not retrace a step from the position taken

in the last campaign on straight Single Tax. But he, too, thought the name must be changed to Henry George Single Tax. For it matters not what degree of Single Tax is urged, it is George who is its leader, and there is no stronger campaigner than George.

The reconstruction period is upon us, four billion taxes just for interest, equal to the economic rent of the United States. The race is between the Democracy of George and the Autocracy of privilege which invites the disorder of the present situation in Europe, and will come here unless we sound the clarion of advance.

Bernard Hartley, Room 611, 948 Market street, will conduct an educational campaign in California. This office was the headquarters for the Great Adventure in San Francisco, and Hartley was in charge during the campaign, and has the respect and confidence of all sides. He is an old member of the Chicago Club.

The feeling in the West is that political action should be governed by local conditions. A party may be right under some conditions, but the West is growing away from parties, not toward them. Some States have nearly a pure political democracy. Nor is it necessary in California to form an extensive organization, for it is too easily captured by the enemy. Only the faithful tried and true who follow George should lead it, let those follow who will. J. R. HERMANN.

The Result in California

IN California the good fight has been fought, with the result that the vote for the Great Adventure amendment is about half the vote of 1916. But the actual percentage over 1916 has not materially decreased, and in Los Angeles, the most conservative city in the State, we appear to have held our own.

The epidemic prevented public meetings, and the campaign committee depended entirely on the distribution of literature. *The Great Adventure* weekly was sent to every registered voter in the State. Gerrit Johnson's letters were widely printed in the press, as were the appeals of J. R. Hermann. In the San Francisco *Bulletin* Prof. Brodeaur carried on a debate through successive numbers with Mr. Kern, of the anti-Single Tax forces, and in the *Orchard and Farm* Luke North debated with the same gentleman.

The enemies of the Single Tax advertised against it in the newspapers, street cars and billboards. A reactionary wave swept the State, and our understanding at this writing is that none of the amendments were approved.

We append the vote for the four largest counties of the State as printed in the *Great Adventure* weekly just received.

	— 1916 —		— 1918 —	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Alameda	30,262	55,472	10,135	32,746
Los Angeles	63,606	174,788	33,398	92,782
San Diego	11,615	18,374	5,336	12,735
San Francisco	51,439	73,801	18,207	50,317