

alted by a tax upon improvements and tangible personal property; and

Whereas, Through the imposition of the sales tax and tax upon improvements and tangible property prices of necessities have been advanced and rents are advancing; and

Whereas, the last four sessions of the California State Federation of Labor have denounced these conditions and unanimously pledged all proper efforts towards their elimination through the adoption of an appropriate constitutional amendment; and

Whereas, Such an amendment was improperly struck off the ballot by the Supreme Court last year, and such act was condemned by this convention a year ago in Sacramento at the same time reaffirming the intention of the Convention to keep the issue before the people of the State at the earliest possible moment; and

Whereas, A like amendment will be submitted to the voters of the State at the coming general election; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we reiterate our position heretofore taken on the subject and pledge our support to the abolition of the sales tax and of the taxation on improvements and tangible personal property and transfer of taxation now resting upon them to land values as contemplated by the amendment, and we further request and direct the Executive Council to do all in its power to bring about the success of the pending constitutional amendment."

The resolution was introduced by Mr. Buzzell, Secretary of the Los Angeles Labor Council, reported favorably by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the convention of more than 900 delegates unanimously. This action was taken understandingly by every man and woman for the printed proceeding showing the introduction of the resolution and its tenor was in the hands of every member for nearly three days before the final action of the body.

The importance of the resolution may be measured in large degree by the fact that the State Federation has increased in numbers over 100,000 within the past twelve months and now includes about 250,000 of the voters of the state. Of course, in addition to this number we have heretofore secured the indorsement of the Railroad Brotherhoods with their many thousands of members, and have no reason to doubt that the C.I.O. organization will fail to take the same general course.

We note with pleasure the fact the the new State Federation president is Cornelius J. Haggerty of Los Angeles, whose name has been upon our letterheads from the beginning, and of whose activity and earnest support we are assured. The same is true as to the State Secretary, Edward Vandeleur, while the remaining members of the State Executive Board are pronouncedly friends of the undertaking.

Having arrived, as stated above, about to the end of the work on the new proposition, we shall, within a few days, submit it to the attorney-general of the state for the summary which he is required to make of every measure submitted under the initiative, and which summary appears at the top of all petitions. Upon the completion of this work by him, we will begin the circulation of the petitions.

I have heretofore noted in your columns the change which was made by the legislature as to the sub-title in twenty words, which formerly was a requisite. Under the new law, at the top of every page bearing signatures will appear a repetition of the attorney-general's summary. We will no longer be subjected to the construction or misconstruction of a twenty word statement of the measure, the exercise of which power threw us off the ballot a year ago. This operation cannot be repeated.

Immediate important work will be the procurement of 187,000 valid signatures to the new petition. This work is gigantic, but there is no reason to anticipate any failure on our part, in securing the needed signatures. This is something we can set down as settled.

That we are entering upon a bitter campaign may not be doubted. The forces opposing us are thoroughly aware of their danger, the question being once presented, as we are presenting it, before the entire voting population of the state. Only a couple of days ago in Los Angeles a friend was called up and asked to contribute \$250 to a fund being raised by the Chamber of Commerce to prevent the ruin which the sponsor represented would come to the state if our proposition were to prevail. His appeal failed of its purpose in this instance,

but the money to be raised against us may well run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A week or two ago, without definite knowledge of what our proposition would be, the Real Estate Boards of the state declared opposition to any such measure as anticipated would be proposed at the next general election. So the opposition is awake, and so, on the other hand, should all our friends throughout the United States be awakened to the situation; they should recognize the fact that this contest may well represent the turning point in the progress of our movement.

Our friends believed and opponents manifestly feared that had our measure gone to the poles a year ago we would have met success. There are reasons to believe that our position today is stronger than then and that we are justified in anticipating success despite the tremendous forces opposing us.—JACKSON H. RALSTON.

The Henry George Congress in Detroit

THE Twelfth Henry George Congress will be held at the Hotel Statler in Detroit on October 14, 15 and 16. It will be memorable in that, for the first time, an attempt will be made to form a permanent organization that shall be nation-wide. Mr. A. Laurence Smith, 2460 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, will be the chairman. He is giving his time and earnest effort to make this gathering worthy of the occasion and has ideas of his own which he will present to the Congress for far-reaching plans for the future.

We are unable to announce at this time the probable attendance from this city and adjacent points, but quite a number are preparing to attend.

We append the tentative programme which is as follows:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 9:00 A. M. Registration.
- 10:00 A. M. Address of Welcome.
Response: Hon. George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, Pa.
President, Henry George Foundation of America.
Address: Aim of this Convention, Henry C. L. Forler, Detroit, Mich.
- 12:30 Luncheon.
- 2:00 P. M. Chairman: Mrs. Anna George deMille, New York, N. Y.
Progress Report—The Henry George School of Social Science.
Speakers: Frank Chodorov, New York, N. Y., Business Manager, H. G. S. S. S.
Discussion: Plans to Promote the School Activities.
- 8:00 P. M. Chairman: Dr. A. G. Studer, Detroit, Mich., General Secretary, Detroit Y. M. C. A.
Subject: Slums, Housing and the Single Tax.
Subject: Unemployment and the Single Tax. David Gibson, Cleveland, Ohio.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 10:00 A. M. Chairman: Edward White, Kansas City, Missouri.
Subject: Declaration of Principles.
Subject: The Aim of Single Taxers. Warren S. Blauvelt, Troy, New York.
Subject: Coordination of Ideas. Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany, N. Y.

Discussion.

Subject: A Model Constitutional Amendment. F. B. McConaughy, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Discussion.

12:30 P. M. Luncheon for Trustees and Advisory Commission of the Henry George Foundation.

2:00 P. M. Chairman: Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Subject: Plans for Promoting the Single Tax. My Ideas for Active Work. Edward White, Kansas City, Mo. Otto Cullman, Chicago, Ill. Jane McEvoy. Washington, D. C.

(Have Chairman announce that discussion and questions can follow after all speakers have finished.)

Discussion.

7:00 P. M. Annual Henry George Foundation Banquet.

Toastmaster.

Speakers.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

10:00 A. M. Chairman:
Subject: Shall We Try to Concentrate all the Single Tax Activities in One State?

Speakers: Chas. H. Ingersoll, New York, N. Y.; Percy R. Williams, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Harold S. Buttenheim, New York, N. Y.

Discussion.

12:30 Luncheon.

2:00 P. M. Chairman: Dr. Mark Milliken, Hamilton, Ohio.

Subject: Organization for Action.

Speaker: Hon. George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Death of Billy Radcliffe

FRIEND of Henry George and Tom L. Johnson, active Single Taxer for many years, Billy Radcliffe died July 31. He had suffered a stroke four days before and his age and weakened condition gave little hope for his recovery.

"Billy" Radcliffe—he was always so known—had a hotel in Youngstown, Ohio, and this was a Mecca for visiting Single Taxers for many years. Our friend was a rapid-fire speaker with a resonant voice.

President McKinley spoke once in Youngstown and commented on the Single Tax, speaking of it as "a tax on land." Billy Radcliffe asked permission to correct the speaker. "The Single Tax is not a tax on land," he explained, "but a tax on land values." Mr. McKinley, who was always oracular and solemn, replied with a self-satisfied air, "Well what is the difference between land and land values?" and Billy shouted at the top of his voice, "The value."

The audience saw the point and responded with loud applause, much to Mr. McKinley's discomfort.

Our friend lived long enough to see the advancement of the cause, and hailed the advent of the Henry George School with the high hopes which all of us feel.

His life was an inspiration to us all. He never lost his faith and helped according to his means. His presence at the Cincinnati Henry George Congress last year is pleasantly remembered, as well as the short speech he

made, saying with the old time Radcliffe sense of humor, "I am eighty-six years of age and live in eighty-six street."

We are glad to record that his son John Radcliffe is interested in the cause his father served and will be heard from in the future. He expects to be present at the Henry George Congress in Detroit in October of this year.

Funeral services for this splendid veteran were held in Youngstown at which Hon. Peter Witt paid a tribute to his memory.

Billy Radcliffe

THE older generation of Youngstown residents heard with regret of the death of William Q. Radcliffe, known to thousands here and in Cleveland as "Billy" Radcliffe, chief agent in bringing the Single Tax theory to public attention in this district.

In the early nineties and even before that everybody in Youngstown knew Billy Radcliffe. Beginning his career as a street salesman working from a buggy or wagon, singing comic songs to attract an audience, he combined his favorite hobby with his sales talk. That hobby was Henry George's proposal to abolish all taxes save one Single Tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements on it.

After a successful period as a street salesman, Mr. Radcliffe became proprietor of the hotel which bore his name at Wick Ave. and Commerce St. It was town down a few years ago in preparation for elimination of the Erie grade crossing. Whether selling from a wagon or operating a hotel, Mr. Radcliffe kept preaching Single Tax, notably as a leading member of the Reform Club which met in Town Hall to discuss current problems and usually ended by discussing the Single Tax.

As a recognized apostle of the Henry George movement Mr. Radcliffe was given wider opportunity in Cleveland, where Tom L. Johnson, the liberal mayor, appointed him to various positions of trust and influence.

Billy Radcliffe's economic theories have not found general acceptance, but his character was sound. Youngstown bids him a regretful goodbye with pleasant recollections of a colorful personality and an uncompromising integrity.—Youngstown, Ohio, *Vindicator*.

PRAISE FOR PETER WITT

At the funeral recently held of Wm. Q. Radcliffe at Youngstown, O., Peter Witt of Cleveland spoke following the regular burial services. He praised Mr. Radcliffe very highly for his persistent devotion to Henry George. Read some striking passages from "Progress and Poverty" on the future and the future life, and the possibilities that would develop with the adoption of George's philosophy. Peter is a life-long believer in Single Tax. Able and willing to defend it against all opponents in the press or on the platform. He lectures with a punch that no other in America can equal. Anyone who hears Peter Witt lecture remembers him forever. Get him on your lecture platform.—*The Amalgamated Journal*.

WHEN it was proposed in the British parliament to levy a 7 per cent direct tax on the people, Pitt declared that such a tax would cause revolution, but that with an indirect tax, such as the tariff, "the last rag could be taxed off the workman's back and the last crust out of his children's mouths!" People would attribute their hard condition to "hard times," as they do today, instead of to the unbearable burden of indirect taxation.