

CALIFORNIA NEWS LETTER.

At the recent election, a measure was brought before the voters of California by means of an initiative petition with more than 50,000 signatures, which was to permit counties, cities, towns, districts, and townships, by a majority vote of the people, to fix their own systems of taxation for local purposes. This would not affect the State Revenues in any way.

This measure was supported by the Single Taxers because of the opportunity which it would allow for the various communities to exempt personal property and improvements from taxation. The amendment had the support of such non-partisan bodies as the League of California Municipalities, the State Federation of Labor and the Commonwealth Club. It was indorsed by the Democratic and Socialist State Conventions and was supported by prominent Republican and Progressive leaders, though the State Platforms of the Republican and Progressive parties made no mention of the amendment. The Labor Council of the leading cities of the State gave the measure their active support and it was indorsed by the City Councils of many of the leading municipalities including Alameda, Tulare, Anaheim, San Bernardino, Alviso, Mountain View, Whittier, Burlingame, Calistoga, Palo Alto and others. The press comment on the amendment was prevailingly favorable.

Up to within three weeks of the election, the amendment seemed sure of passage, but about the middle of October the opposition suddenly became very active and having apparently unlimited funds, the opponents of the measure were able to send literature and speakers broad-cast throughout the State, denouncing the amendment as an attack on California's prosperity. Large paid advertisements were placed in the papers up and down the State.

The opposition to the amendment was financed and managed by the State Realty Federation. Contributions were levied upon real estate firms and the real estate men were instructed to send letters to all their clients, urging the defeat of the

amendment. The real estate journals of the State gleefully announce since the election that it was the Real Estate Interests that defeated the amendment.

The proponents of the amendment were supplied with very limited funds and were forced to confine their propagand work almost entirely to the cities. The city of San Francisco gave a majority of about 10,000 in favor of the amendment. The city of Los Angeles nearly 7,000 and other cities gave heavy affirmative votes. The vote in the country districts was generally adverse.

At this date, November 18, with the official returns as yet incomplete, the amendment seems to have failed of passage by something over 20,000 votes.

From a standpoint of the Single Tax, the vote is very gratifying. The amendment was not advanced as a Single Tax measure, but it was opposed as such, and the voters, 150,000 or more in number, who voted for it, showed by so voting that they were not afraid of the Single Tax.

We know where we stand now and within the next two years we hope to conduct such a campaign of education, that our next tax reform proposition will sweep the State.—CLARENCE E. TODD, San Francisco, Calif.

AN interesting dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club was held at Kalil's, Saturday, November 16.

Hon. George L. Record spoke in explanation of his position as a "Bull Mooser." Among the other speakers were Amy Mali Hicks, Charlotte Schetter, John Sherwin Crosby, and Joseph Fels. There were about 300 present and 22 new members were enrolled. Chester C. Platt, Governor-elect Sulzer's secretary, was among the guests.

REMEMBER we have thousands of the Vancouver, Edmonton and German numbers to be had for ten cents a copy in quantities.

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