

tense desire, and the reasonable ability, to deal sanely with the problems which that opportunity presents.

May the proceedings at Boston, like the large Singletax vote in Missouri, Oregon, Seattle and Everett, and the actual victory at Everett, furnish further proof of the forward movement upon which those of us who try to look below the surface in political affairs, believe that the Singletax cause has entered in the United States.



We say nothing of the evidence which the election of at least nine outright Singletaxers to Congress affords that the Singletax movement is now a forward movement. Nor do we point for that purpose to the election of Singletax members of legislatures in different States. Nor yet to the fact that the Land-Commissioner-elect of one great State and the Governor-elect of another are outspoken Singletaxers. They were elected as representatives of progressive policies less definite than the Singletax. Their election therefore gives no indication of affirmative Singletax sentiment in their respective regions, such as is disclosed by the Initiative vote in Missouri and Oregon. But the fact that these outspoken Singletaxers could be elected to Congress, to legislatures, to a Land-Commissionership, to a Governorship, on any platform, is evidence of the beating down of hostile barriers which the Singletax movement has done in these recent years.

By the presence at Boston of those Congressmen and legislators and that Land-Commissioner and that Governor, or any of them, the work of the Conference and the future of the movement would be distinctly promoted. But in the direct Singletax vote in Oregon and Missouri alone, there is a basis for going forward, the bare promise of which only three years ago would have seemed almost millennial to the Singletaxers of the United States.

CONDENSED EDITORIALS

CAPITALIZING MURDER.

A modern writer has made use of Voltaire's famous test to illustrate the lack of a realizing sense of the effect of their doings by the "promoters" of high finance. Voltaire asked the reader to conceive that he had a button before him, the effect of pressing which would be to obtain for himself his dearest wish—love, fame, wealth, power or what not; and at the same time to cause the death of some unknown human being in China. Would he hesitate to press the button?

While the financier's choice of action in the withdrawal from the public of the means of production,

transportation and distribution and the values of land and water, inevitably causes, by indirection, untold suffering through deprivation of opportunity, pain and death itself to numberless human beings, as the effect is remote and unknown like that upon Voltaire's Chinaman, it must be charitably assumed that the moral responsibility is not felt or incurred.

But there is one sphere of operations into which high finance has often been tempted to enter where the moral responsibility cannot be denied or evaded—the taking up and underwriting of loans directly intended for the purpose of carrying on war.

It would seem that, if righteous public opinion still has any influence, good men might be impelled to exert it by refusing to count among their friends individuals, however eminent in the financial world, who lend themselves to this devilish work.

ERVING WINSLOW.



RAILROAD REGULATION.

In 1903 an Act of Congress was passed requiring railroads engaged in interstate commerce to use certain safety appliances.

In February, 1907, one of the companies was operating a train of five cars, two of which were engaged in interstate traffic, the other three carrying goods within the boundaries of a single State.

Should the five cars have safety appliances? Or had Congress jurisdiction over only two?

In 1911 the United States Supreme Court decided that the five should have the appliances; if the other three met with disaster the mere fact that they were not going out of the State would not save the two cars that were.

It took something over four years to decide this point.

The facts are stated in Bulletin No. 98 of the Bureau of Labor. They throw some light on railroad regulation as it is.

WM. E. MCKENNA.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

TAXATION! HOME RULE IN CALIFORNIA.

The only information we have on the Home-Rule-in-Taxation amendment up to the 8th is that the total vote in about 60 counties is 138,535 favorable, and 166,731 against, with 20 more counties to hear from. The vote in San Francisco was 37,975 in favor, and 28,379 against. Los Angeles City gave a favorable majority of 6,702, which it is expected will be increased to 10,000 when the returns of that county are reported. In Alameda County the vote was 17,434 yes, and 24,324 no. San Diego was first reported to have given an adverse vote, but later advices give a large favorable majority. The cities of Fresno and Vallejo are said to have favored the amendment.



Our campaign was conducted vigorously, but with little money. Many newspapers all over the State

supported the amendment. James H. Barry gave his Star to our cause. The Scripps papers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, Berkeley and Fresno had many powerful editorials in support of the amendment, and devoted their news columns largely to it. The San Francisco Bulletin and the Los Angeles Express favored the amendment editorially and published much news of it. Mr. Percy Millbury, editor of the Lakeport Press, not only gave the assistance of his own paper to the measure, but also regularly wrote letters to the press in his part of the State explaining it. Phil Francis had some masterly editorials in his column of the San Francisco Call, in which he punctured the thick hides of the reactionaries who opposed the amendment. We had the support of the California League of Municipalities, and many of the cities of the State.

An address in favor of the amendment was issued to the Women of California by Mrs. Fremont Older, Mrs. Lillian Harris Coffin (president of the New Era League of Women's Clubs), Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe Watson (president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs), Mrs. Lloyd Osborne (daughter-in-law of the late Robert Louis Stevenson), Miss Mary Fairbrother (president of the Women's Political Club), Mrs. Elizabeth Gerberding, Mrs. James H. Barry, Mrs. Hannah Nolan and many other of California's prominent women.

Much of the credit for the splendid vote the amendment received is due to the ceaseless and untiring energy of our campaign manager, Clarence E. Todd, and his helpful wife.

This election has stirred the people of California to a serious consideration of the tax question. The opposition continually charged that the amendment was "the Singletax in disguise," and also reiterated many times that "any change in our present tax system must lead to the Singletax." So thousands are now asking: "What is the Singletax?" The papers of the State are anxious to give this news to their readers. There is no prejudice against the philosophy of the Prophet of San Francisco in California.



Our campaign commenced but a few months before the election. It was almost impossible to reach all parts of the great area of California, and organize an unknown force in that short time. But now that we are in the fight and have felt the power of the enemy, we are certain of ultimate victory. The election was but a preliminary skirmish in a contest that will continue until California has adopted a just system of taxation.

San Francisco, Cal.,
1263 Oak Street.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.



THE SINGLETAX FIGHT IN MISSOURI.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 8, 1912.

The expected has happened. We are beaten, but not to a finish. We have really won a great victory, for we have started Missouri on the road to study wealth production and distribution as it never has been studied before. The hysteria of the farmer

of the past few months will soon pass away, and I believe he will be open to reason.

In many places in this county the election officers openly gave out word that they were to know how every man voted on the Amendments. Nothing was neglected that would intimidate against voting for the Amendments. In one county the chairmen of the Democratic, Republican and Progressive central committees issued a joint call for a meeting on Monday before election to perfect arrangements not only to defeat the Amendments, but even to see that no votes were cast for them. I presume that similar arrangements were made in other counties.

Up to within ten days of the election the indications were that we would carry Kansas City, but at the last the opposition filled the city full of scare literature and frenzied appeals to the poor man to save his home, until many of them were too confused to think clearly on the question.

In Kansas City on No. 6, 62½ per cent of the total vote was cast. In the county outside of the city 57 per cent. On No. 7, 59 per cent voted on it in the city and in the county 56 per cent. The vote as now reported is as follows:

No. 6—City	Yes	12,364	No	21,575
No. 6—County	Yes	933	No	5,884
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Total	Yes	13,297	No	27,459
No. 7—City	Yes	13,878	No	18,057
No. 7—County	Yes	1,095	No	5,622
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Total	Yes	14,973	No	23,679

The report from St. Joseph is as follows:

No. 6—City	Yes	2,722	No	6,975
No. 6—County	Yes	137	No	2,645
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Total	Yes	2,859	No	9,620
No. 7—City	Yes	2,890	No	5,094
No. 7—County	Yes	233	No	2,117
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Total	Yes	3,123	No	7,211

The country vote, while negligible in this election, does not necessarily indicate that the country is not open for this question. The last three weeks of the campaign showed more active interest by the farmers in trying to understand the question than appeared in the cities.

If the work of agitation can be wisely carried on during the next two years, these measures will receive as strong support in the country as the city. I confidently believe that many of the country papers will now be glad to open their columns for frank discussion.

WM. A. BLACK.



LAND VALUE TAXATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London, Oct. 25.

Outhwaite, Raffan, Hemmerde and Wedgwood (all members of Parliament) are speaking nightly, and the Lord Advocate for Scotland (Mr. Ure) is speaking day and night, holding up the banner of the taxation of land values in his usual vigorous way.

The war in the East occupies the bulk of newspaper space. Lloyd George was quite right in hanging up his opening speech on the land question.