

News From Many States

ARKANSAS. A. S. Rieff, who is running for State Auditor on a Single Tax platform, and of whose candidacy mention was made in our last issue, has been in public life for twenty-five years and has a great many friends all over the State. He will distribute campaign literature broadcast to the farmers of the State, to whom he intends to make a strong personal appeal. He is practically assured of the labor vote of the State.

For the purpose of wide distribution of this literature he asks financial contributions. Those desiring to make donations for this purpose may address Hon. A. S. Rieff, Russellville, Ark.

CALIFORNIA. The most important work being done in California at the present time is getting signatures to the initiative petitions. George A. Briggs, of the Great Adventure League, is superintending this work with the assistance of C. F. Hunt, of the California Single Tax League. Roy R. Waterbury is handling the work in the San Francisco district. Work in this direction is being pushed as fast as the receipt of funds permits in the hope of getting it out of the way as soon as possible in order that educational campaign work can be started. This is most important as the H. C. of L. combined with rent profiteering has made many of the voters dissatisfied, and if Single Taxers can secure money enough to get the message before every voter in the State the amendment stands a good chance of carrying. It is a time of rapid changes and people are seeking a way out of the difficulties that confront them.

The Anti-Single Tax League is very active and continues to warn the people to beware of the "pernicious amendment" to be voted upon at the November election. They are busily engaged trying to secure evidence to the effect that in places where the Single Tax has been partially applied it has not been successful. First they tried Vancouver, and recently the Secretary of the Los Angeles Realty Board wrote to Mobile for information relative to Fairhope, asking if the Single Tax had not met with "indifferent success" there. The reply from E. Q. Norton stated that if State laws permitted, Single Tax would exist not only in Fairhope but in many other communities in Southern Alabama. We don't know why they go so far from home to find out how the Single Tax works as it is being used for irrigation purposes right in California—in Modesto, and one or two other districts.

The enemy—unable to find legitimate reasons why the Single Tax should not be adopted—continues to misrepresent, and one of their false assertions, which the Los Angeles *Times* prints from time to time, is that Single Taxers are drawing \$50,000 a year from the Fels Fund. The *Times* devoted a column editorial almost wholly to this recently.

One of the hopeful signs of the times is the real interest being manifested by labor organizations in the Single Tax.

Paul Scharrenberg, Secretary-Treasurer of the State organization of the American Federation of Labor, and editor of the *Seaman's Journal*, recently published an article favoring ground rent going into the public treasury. At the State Convention of Organized Building Trades, held at Bakersfield, Single Tax addresses were made by W. L. Ross and James McCleery. Both were received with enthusiasm. The chairman, J. P. McCarthy, read a letter from the Anti-Single Tax League in which they asked to speak before the convention. He laughingly said that the request had come a little late and refused to consider the matter.

Mr. S. C. Graham, president of one of the large land companies, debated the Single Tax with W. L. Ross, on April 5th, before the Business Women's Civic Club. Mr. Graham's main objection seemed to be that people owning land would not be compensated should the full Single Tax be applied.

Regular weekly meetings are being held here by the Committee of Forty-Eight. Most of its members are in sympathy with Single Tax principles. John Z. White spoke at one of these meetings and all were much pleased with his brilliant talk. Mr. White has also made other addresses in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and other points.

The San Francisco Single Tax Club has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Mr. Joseph S. Thompson, president of the Pacific Electric Mfg. Co., being elected President, and Mr. John Encell Wilson, representative for California on the Committee of Forty-eight, being elected Secretary. The Club proposes shortly to re-organize by establishing three associations to be known as San Francisco Single Tax Club, Oakland Single Tax Club and Richmond Single Tax Club.

The Committee of Forty-eight has endorsed the Single Tax amendment.

NEW YORK. The New York Single Tax Party has rented new headquarters at 32 E. 13th street, this city. A meeting will soon be called to undertake the nomination of a city ticket. Street meetings will begin at once, and friends of the movement in Greater New York are notified that their services as speakers and distributors of literature will be in demand from now on. Money, too, is needed for the work here, and Single Taxers in the city where George lived and died are urged to help. The workers at the New York headquarters are a live group, but this fight takes money.

OHIO. A convention of the Single Tax Party of Ohio was held at the Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, on April 21. There were fifty in attendance. The purpose of the convention was the adoption of a Single Tax platform and the nomination of a full State ticket. The nominations are as follows:

For Governor, E. H. Foote, 3010 Berkshire Road, Cleve-

land Heights. Lieut.-Gov., W. O. Blase, 15 South Hazel street, Youngstown. Secretary of State, Jasper Shuman, 604 Stickney avenue, Toledo. Auditor of State, J. H. Kauffman, P. O. Box 1914, Columbus. Treasurer of State, George Edwards, Youngstown. Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Jos. W. Gottlieb, 354 E. Federal street, Youngstown. Judge of Supreme Court, Frank R. Field, 8 Renner Bldg., Youngstown. Judge of Supreme Court, E. L. Clark, 3440 Deming avenue, Columbus. Judge of Supreme Court, (2-year unexpired term), George Cook, 1337 East 93rd street, Cleveland. U. S. Senator, Henry B. Strong, 2230 East 83rd street, Cleveland.

The National Single Tax Party platform was endorsed and the following named gentlemen were elected officers of State Executive Committee: George Edwards, Youngstown, Chairman; Thos. J. Dolan, 2073 W. 81st street, Cleveland, Secretary; R. C. Barnum, Cleveland, Treasurer.

The Ohio platform is very brief and is as follows:

We demand the abolishment of all taxes, both direct and indirect, except the SINGLE TAX, which shall take for public purposes the full rental value of land, exclusive of improvements and all other products of labor.

The newspapers of Ohio have given some publicity to the new party. The *Press*, of Cleveland, has noted the nominations, and in an interview with Thos. J. Dolan, quotes the latter as saying, "We are getting into the field for a real political fight." It prints the portrait of E. H. Foote, the Single Tax Party's candidate for Governor, with a biographical sketch. The *Plaindealer* also notes the nominations. In the *Cleveland Citizen*, one of the representative labor papers of Ohio, the indefatigable Secretary of the Party, Thos. J. Dolan, appeals in a most forceful way to the labor movement with which he has been long identified to take up the Single Tax politically, since a party committed to it is now in the field.

Arrangements are being made for the calling of a County Convention to place in nomination a full county ticket.

OREGON. The Single Taxers of Oregon filed their initiative petition with the Secretary of State on May 2. The law has been complied with to the smallest detail, but our friends do not propose to take any chances, but are going ahead to secure more signatures, regarding it as one of the best methods of propaganda. The campaign will open at once.

The *Oregonian* has mysteriously ceased to attack, and is strangely silent. The *Telegram* says the appearance of the amendment on the ballot is a good thing, since it will bring out the vote. The *Journal* has published leading editorials admitting that the present system cannot be defended but refraining from commenting on the Single Tax amendment.

The endorsement of the measure by the State Federation of Labor is certain to line up the labor vote of the State in its favor.

J. R. Hermann is indefatigable in his communications to the labor press of Oregon. Money is needed to push

the campaign, and appeals are being sent out. Large quantities of literature have been contributed by Mr. Harry H. Willock, of Pittsburgh.

TEXAS. Six candidates for Governor, four for Lieutenant-Governor and none of them stand for anything beyond conventional utterances. I say none, because they all want office and none of them want to stand for any measure that might jeopardize that ambition. One leading candidate has mildly proposed a graduated land tax. Another leading candidate says he is "opposed to any new fangled tax ideas." All who are familiar with the average political campaign know that the majority of candidates measure their words to fit the local audiences. Texas is no exception this year.

John Z. White recently made a tour of the State, speaking some eighteen times in eleven cities. Reports indicate good results. These speeches in the main were made before business men's clubs. White, as is generally known, treats the subject from the fiscal point of view, and makes his appeal on the basis of business. Such appeals are needed, but it is only a small part of the force needed to win.

The writer recently made a three weeks' trip through East and North Texas, planned to meet with Labor organizations in their annual conventions. I spoke before six conventions, concluding with the State Federation of Labor. I also spoke before several Labor locals, and at one Rotary Club luncheon. The response that Labor gives the Single Tax is gratifying. We did not ask any of the Conventions to pass resolutions this year except the State Federation. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Texas State Federation of Labor has declared for the Single Tax on land values and the third consecutive year that their resolution demanded the submission of an amendment to exempt all personal property and improvements from taxation. It has practically become a part of the conscious thought of organized Labor men of this State.

For the past two years the State Federation has invited representatives of farmers to meet with them. There is a marked feeling of co-operation growing up between these two large groups, and we have a right to look forward to a still greater political bond between the working farmer and the organized Labor man. Texas is coming hopefully to the front and promises to be one of the first States to adopt the Single Tax principle. WM. A. BLACK.

WHERE wages are highest, there will be the largest production, and the most equitable distribution of wealth. There will invention be the most active, and the brain best guide the hand. There will be the greatest comfort, the widest diffusion of knowledge, the purest morals, and the truest patriotism.—HENRY GEORGE.

As we go to press we learn of the death of our old friend, Emanuel M. Klein, long a worker for the SINGLE TAX in this city. Mr. Klein was Secretary and Treasurer of the Manhattan Single Tax Club for eight years.