

stitutional change the immediate remedy for taxation evils in Illinois lies in the same disregard of tax laws as has made Houston, Texas, famous—and prosperous.

S. D.

### What California Has Lost.

The defeat of Home Rule in Taxation in California is as the conservative Los Angeles Graphic remarks, "a triumph for the Miller and Lux monopolists and their ilk." It is more than that, however. It is a postponement of industrial freedom in California. It lengthens by at least two years the time that California labor must submit to injustice and oppression. It is a misfortune which affects in the same way those mistaken ones who opposed it as those who supported it. Fortunately other states will seize the opportunity which California has rejected. That alone will serve to open the eyes of California voters to what they have lost. The "Miller and Lux monopolists and their ilk" will be kept busy indeed should they continue in their attempts to block industrial emancipation.

S. D.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### THE OHIO ELECTION.

Cleveland, O., Nov. 10.

There is comfort for singletaxers in the Ohio election. True, an apparently reactionary state ticket has been elected. On the other hand, the protest against Governor Cox was due primarily to his conscientious and efficient enforcement of undemocratic measures. One of these was a liquor license law, which he threatened to uphold locally with the militia of the State.

More to the point is the centralizing of the assessing function, which has forced a rigorous search for personal property, in contrast with the old custom of self-assessment under locally elected assessors. The people evidently will not tolerate the honest enforcement of a dishonest law. They prefer dishonest enforcement of dishonest laws and conceivably might be persuaded to vote for the honest enforcement of honest laws.

The result in Cuyahoga county is particularly significant. Mayor Baker made a vigorous platform fight against the Board of Commerce tax amendment and boldly ascribed the city's unfavorable financial condition to the \$200,000,000 of land increment that had been privately absorbed in the last four years. He secured the commitment of Cuyahoga county's legislative delegation to a home rule proposal as well as the gradual untaxing of buildings and commodities. As a result, Cuyahoga county went Democratic in a Republican year by 18,000 votes.

Do not overlook, either, the defeat of the Board of Commerce tax proposal, a measure whose meaning was never clear, but which was bad in so far as it was intelligible.

Robert Crosser's bold references to the land question in his fight for re-election also help to prove that plain speaking on the tax question is no longer bad politics in Ohio.

H. P. BOYNTON.

### NON PARTISANISM IN MINNESOTA.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 15, 1914.

The statement in The Public of November 13, that the Socialists elected one member of the Minnesota House of Representatives is both true and false.

Here are the facts: In the State of Minnesota all public officials, except Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Auditor of State, Railway and Warehouse Commissioners and Clerk of the Supreme Court, are elected on a non-partisan basis. None are elected as Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists, Socialists or any other party.

Richard Jones of Duluth, an avowed Socialist, a lawyer, and the youngest man in the Senate, was elected over T. M. Pugh, the oldest man in the last Senate (84). Pugh was a consistent reactionary who has opposed all fundamental democratic and progressive measures for four sessions of the legislature.

Jas. W. Woodfil, another Socialist, was elected to represent the extreme northeast corner of the State, including the counties of Lake and Cook.

Andrew O. Devold, another avowed Socialist, was elected to represent the Eleventh and Twelfth wards of the city of Minneapolis.

It is probable that a majority of both houses will favor legislation looking toward the Singletax.

I think Minnesota is the only State that has a non-partisan legislature, county and city officers and all judges and justices.

C. J. BUELL.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### A LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

Cincinnati, Ohio, November 10.

The Cincinnati Times-Star's staunch support of the protective tariff, and clear and forcible arguments from time to time in favor of the same, lead me, a free trader, to see the benefits of protection, and to suggest even a further and more radical application of the protective principle than has yet been offered by the G. O. P.

We ought to have a tariff wall around the state of Ohio. True, the constitution of the United States forbids any such thing, but constitutions can be changed, and the voice of progress demands that it should be done. We ought to be protected from the cheap labor of Pennsylvania and other states east; we ought to keep out the pauper products of Kentucky and other southern states, and close our western border to Indiana and other cheap western communities.

It can be easily seen that with a high tariff wall around the state, protected now only on the Canadian side, that prices would at once rise, and with them wages, while the moneys received from imports would completely defray the expenses of the state