

twentieth of the country's area has but 1,694 owners. That such concentration is not confined to timber lands seems certain. The next census should gather complete information concerning that matter. In the meantime such investigations as Commissioner Davies has just made are to be commended and should be extended to take in all classes of land ownership. s. d.



Methods of Propaganda.

Mr. C. B. Fillebrown presents in the *Christian Science Monitor* of July 11, under the caption "Thirty Years of Henry George," a review of the *Singletax* movement of the world, and endeavors to show why the idea has made so little progress in this country, and how the difficulty can be overcome. The alleged lack of progress, he charges, is due to the unwise course of the American *Singletaxers* in connecting the idea of Henry George with numerous kindred ideas, and particularly to their efforts to ally with various current political movements. "The political method, as a means of putting the single tax on the statute books," he says in conclusion, "has been abundantly tried and found wanting. . . . Voters cannot be persuaded to decree an important legislative innovation which they do not fully understand and concerning which it is easy for the opposition in the heat of the campaign to deceive or confuse." And he declares "that the sum total of experience in the 30 years under review enforces the conviction that persistent education of the masses and the classes—by word of mouth and still more effectively by the printing press—upon the pure issue of the single tax as the normal and just basis for obtaining public revenue, is the true means and method of advancing this or any other great reform."



Thus is raised again the old question as to the relative merits of an independent movement, or a joining hands with political movements most nearly in accord. Theoretically, the question might be debated indefinitely; practically, it insists upon settling itself. The way has been open for an independent, purely propaganda movement ever since the first appearance of "Progress and Poverty," and some strong and forceful individuals have persisted in that course; but the mass continually resorts to the other method. But is it not possible that Mr. Fillebrown has made a distinction without a difference? He would persistently educate "the masses and the classes . . . upon the pure issue of the single tax as the normal and just basis for obtaining public revenue." Is

not this the very purpose of the political-action advocates? Instead of trying to teach the masses and classes in the way they ought to be taught, they have undertaken to teach them in the way they are accustomed to being taught, which, presumably, is the way they wish to be taught. In short, it is a question of rubbing the fur the right way. Proclaim a naked truth bodily, and it will be instantly accepted by a few whose minds are ripe for it. But when all those advanced minds have been reached, there is an end of converts. No more will accept it until they have reached that higher plane. What is the most efficient method of procedure?



If the independent course be chosen it involves the presentation of an idea to a man who does not wish to consider it. And when prejudice and obstinacy and indifference have been overcome and the man has been converted there must be political action to put it on the statute book. On the other hand, if the advance be along the line of political action the idea enjoys the advantage of a ready-made organization and a sympathetic disposition on the part of the radical party. It may not be known for certain that this is the better method, but it is the one men persist in following. When Mr. Fillebrown speaks of Canada as being at the head of the single tax column, he doubtless means Western Canada. Eastern Canada shows no more progress than the United States. Western Canada enjoyed the advantage of opening government land for settlement after the single tax was widely known. And when he summed legislative progress in this country in the one half exemption of improvements in Pittsburgh and Scranton in 1925, he overlooked the emphatic vote of Pueblo, Colorado, on the straight issue. But the sum of progress is not to be measured in this way. Both the Democratic and the Progressive parties are permeated from top to bottom with the single tax; and there is a good deal of it in the Republican party. It has in fact become a part of the thought of the day. Men still hesitate to take such a radical step, but the logic of events compels them to it, and they cannot much longer delay. Finally, the field is so large that there is room for all to labor; and the need is so great that neither Mr. Fillebrown nor the political-actionists should waste one ounce of energy in discussing the relative merits of methods. s. c.



Progressive Victory in Winnipeg.

There will be at least one thorough representative of democracy in the newly elected legislature