

CORRESPONDENCE

VICTORIOUS ADVANCE IN CALIFORNIA

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The greatest victory in many years has been awarded the Single Tax cause in this State in the last election.

It is true that the Single Tax amendment No. 20 did not pass, but it is also true that there has been an advance of 80% to 100% in the total vote over that of two years ago according to the latest unofficial returns.

This advance has been made in spite of the fact—and, in a measure because of the fact—that the most violent fight ever made in this State against it was put up by the enemy. It is calculated that the enemy spent close to \$500,000 in an attempt to defeat the measure.

It is too close to the battle line to fully analyze the factors in this condition. Chief among them, however, are the facts of the harmonizing influence of Messrs. W. L. Ross and George A. Briggs, and the sudden swinging into the battle line of William C. deMille with the most brilliant piece of journalistic work that has been accomplished in at least eight years—that is, for the Single Tax. His series of articles—nothing short of classic—were conceived, executed, and promulgated through the press, at advertising rates, with the spirit and force of genius alone. They fell before the attention of more than half a million people like a flash of light from the darkened heavens—darkened by the cloud of falsehoods flooding a venal press and paid for by the enemy of the Single Tax. Nothing but the shortness of time, funds and organization prevented them from making tens of thousands more votes for the measure.

Los Angeles, Calif.

EDMUND NORTON.

A VETERAN OF OKLAHOMA

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Before the election we asked the question, What does either party offer that will benefit the common people, and no answer was given? November the second, we said, Now you will go and vote, and not one of you can vote anything that will help the common people. And they are beginning to see it. The Single Tax question is being considered in this State as never before. As soon as conditions permit I will help to organize the State, and I am sure we will accomplish much good.

It now seems certain that poverty will drive the people to ask what they need to remedy conditions, and we must be prepared to answer. I have found that there is no difficulty in getting a crowd that will listen to our message at out-door meetings. With organization we can make a lasting impression on the voters of this State.

Enid, Okla.

J. A. HAMM.

OUR OREGON HERO

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The campaign for the Single Tax in Oregon was conducted with a total sum of less than \$2,800. Most of the energy and money was devoted to getting on the ballot. No support for the measure was obtained from the press save the official labor organ, the *Oregon Labor Press*. One daily gave it for a time a half-hearted endorsement, but plunged off the bank early in the campaign and urged its readers to vote No. Another daily gave it considerable space by publishing communications for and against it, but it too advised its readers to vote No. Another of the city dailies gave it some consideration, but did not support it in any way and likewise advised No. The big daily organ of special privilege would publish no communication, constantly misrepresented it and of course advised its readers to vote No. Organized Labor endorsed it, but organized labor voters as usual were confused by reading the plutocratic press.

The Oregon Single Tax League was able to address a few meetings in Portland and vicinity, insufficiently covering only about a third of the population of the State. It was able to secure space in only a few publications, and to get before the voters a State pamphlet explaining in a few hundred words the meaning of the measure.

Considering the backwash of conservatism, the inability to organize the State, the small amount of money for expenses of all kinds, the vote cast for the first Single Tax measure ever presented to the voters of the State is encouraging.

A campaign for the Single Tax has never been made before in the State of Oregon. Several campaigns for measures involving the principle in greater or less degree have been made. The result of the 1920 campaign shows that as many voters will support the whole thing as any part of it. It shows that they will support it as readily in bald and brief form as when wrapped, camouflaged, trimmed, mutilated or offered in installments.

Fully 25 per cent. of the voters did not vote on anything. Many of the voters did not register. There were fully 50 per cent. of the voters of Oregon who might have voted on the Single Tax, but who did not take interest enough to register or vote on initiative measures when they did register.

If J. R. Hermann had had twice the funds for an organization and educational campaign that he did have there would have been 60,000 votes for the measure and perhaps enough to have carried it.

No man ever carried on a campaign under greater discouragements, and no man accomplished so much with so little. Properly supported he could have gone into every county of the State. The vote for the Single Tax in Oregon cost less than ten cents a vote. People are not shying at the name any more. For the first time in the history of the Single Tax in Oregon grave and reverend seignors who handp out this piffle were openly laughed at. And Hermann poked fun at them in a way that astonished them and sometimes grieved them.

When the Single Taxers of Oregon want to see a lively campaign with the Single Tax ahead of all and any other measure with a good chance to win, they will not begrudge 25 cents each for 150,000 affirmative votes.

Portland, Ore.

ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

OUR old friend, Edmund Norton, in an article in the *Citizens Advocate*, for Oct. 16, advocated the Single Tax amendment. C. F. Hunt had an article in the same issue. This paper, edited by Charles Alexander, in the interests of the colored race, did splendid service in behalf of the Single Tax during the recent campaign in that State. (California).

THE Birmingham (Eng.) *Gazette* of Sept. 7 contains an interview with Mr. W. H. Dunkley, whose recent visit to America has been chronicled in the REVIEW. Mr. Dunkley is quoted by the *Gazette* as saying:

"In order to advance reconstruction among the nations it is necessary that such countries as Great Britain, the United States, and Canada, now enjoying large measures of freedom, should lead in the work of single taxation in an endeavor to bring about international peace based on equity and justice."

WE acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet, "The Triumph of Christian Civilization," by ex-Senator Pettigrew. Its vein is satirical.

A FOUR column article by E. J. Craigie in the *West Coast Recorder* answers the contentions of the Australian Industries Protective League

TWO sons of J. G. H. Buck, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, whose long services to the Single Tax movement have made him well known in the West, served with distinction in the world war, Major-General Beaumont B. Buck, and Major E. Carlton Buck. General Beaumont Buck is known as "the Hero of Cantigny," and for his action on that momentous field he was decorated by the French Government with the Cross of the Legion of Honor, being the first American officer of his then rank, that of Brigadier-General, to receive this distinction. He was similarly honored by the United States and by Italy. Major Carlton rose from the rank of enlisted man to that of Major. He is twenty years younger than the General. The latter is well known throughout Texas and is immensely popular.