

a lecturer mostly talks to those already convinced. They can do great good in smaller places where there are not so many things to take up the time of the people.

In most cases Direct Legislation work has been organized by veteran Single Taxers and a little financial aid extended for the taking of the last barricade is the help of brother to brother, and good campaign judgment. The sooner and the greater the number of petitions in the field the greater the discussion of the subject.

Mr. Paul explicitly states that in England they created a demand for the taxation of land values, or they would not have got it. Isn't that going to the people for what you want? Isn't that just what we propose to do? The work in England received a strong impetus from the travelers returned from colonies where the Single Tax is in practice. Our American people travel very little in the British Colonies and we do not receive such help. In England too they "heckle" candidates. Speakers are not allowed to proceed uninterrupted, and there is a strong public opinion against a man promising a thing before election and not keeping his word.

Direct Legislation is the open route and perhaps the shortest.—ANNA BEARD, St. Louis, Mo.

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#### WORKING AT THE ROOTS.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I congratulate you on the evident tendency of political thought in these strenuous days. "Things are coming our way" all unconscious though the chief actors be—the Insurgents—Conservationists, Trust-busters, etc., that they are playing into our hands. They are working from the top downward, while we Single Taxers are digging at the roots of the evils of the days.—R. J. REDDING, Griffin, Ga.

R. Ockel writes us from Bassrode, Belgium, of Henry George, Jr. "Most heartily I congratulate you on his election to Congress. I feel sure that this will give the history of the world a new turn if the largest legislative body has to listen to the wisdom of his great faith."

#### NEWS—DOMESTIC.

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#### OREGON.

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APPEALING TO THE FARMERS—LAND VALUE TAXERS GETTING BUSY—WATCHING THE SENATE.

The people of Oregon have seen their friends take control of the State government and the plunderbund element of special privilege worsted at every turn.

The state senate was organized with Ben Selling, president of the Peoples' Power League, president of the senate, and by the peculiar provisions of our constitution and the exigencies of fate, Ben was acting governor for a few hours.

The lower house swung into line with a man from the people as speaker, John P. Rusk; and then Governor Oswald West, democrat in an overwhelmingly republican State, was installed into office with a message along progressive lines that sent shivers down the backs of every lobbyist for special privileges anywhere in Oregon.

Governor West plainly says that with the new tax amendment there is "no reason on earth why we should not without further delay adopt the most progressive system to be found in any State in the union."

There has been considerable talk of the legislature attempting to set aside the will of the people of Oregon, and to endeavor to secure a repeal of the tax amendment without trying it. The official representatives of the railroads at a recent banquet served notice that the tax amendment was very obnoxious, and unless the people of Oregon quit monkeying with the tax laws the railroads would not build another mile of line anywhere in Oregon. There was a time when the legislature would have been badly frightened by such a threat; but now, with friends of the people in the executive, legislative and judicial places of authority, things look different.

To show how promptly the new order of things works, a proposed amendment to the federal constitution was adopted by the State senate in a few minutes without debate, unanimously, as soon as it organized.

It calls for the direct election of U. S. Senators by the people.

The following tentative draft of a tax law which is to be submitted in Multnomah county (Portland), and after that in all the counties of the State, if possible, will interest land value taxers all over the State of Oregon.

"All business, labor, trades, occupations and professions, and the right to conduct, work at or practice the same, and all forms of personal property and personal estates, and all improvements on, in or under all lands, shall be and are hereby exempted from taxation for any purpose within Multnomah county, and no tax shall be imposed upon any trade, labor, business, person, occupation or profession under the pretext of a license or the exercise of the police power within said county.

"All taxes within Multnomah county shall be levied on and collected from the assessed values of all franchises, rights of way, and the assessed values of all lands and all other natural resources in said county, except such lands as are used for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes already exempt from taxation by law."

This measure will receive some polishing, and probably some more definite clause relative to timber, but it is substantially the issue upon which the people of Oregon will decide in 1912.

At a recent meeting of a county Grange, called at Pomona, the writer spoke on this measure. The interest in it was great. Other issues, such as good roads, better schools, rural civic centers, etc., had occupied considerable time, but when the Single Tax got the floor the way those farmers straightened up and proceeded to fire volley after volley at questions to the speaker was a great delight.

One every able Granger from another part of the State came to the support of the speaker; another, with reservations, fell into line. The general impression of the attitude of the meeting is that the working farmers must be shown the moral justice of our demands. "Is it right?" is the symposium of their queries. These queries, made in good faith, though crissed and crossed with false ideas, must be patiently

and honestly answered, and the farmers of Oregon need only be approached by men who can tell the truth and show the beauties of a tax on land values. They must not occupy an uppish or lah-de-dah superciliousness in talking to some lowly appearing son of the soil, for he may be the Worthy Master of his local Grange, and be looked up to as a leader in economic thought.

Another phase of the talk that excites great interest is to ask the farmers what will be the effect on his own county if the county across the river swings into line for land value taxation. This appears to set them thinking vigorously and rapidly. "If the Single Tax folks work that string," said a farmer who button-holed me after a meeting recently, "then you have got us all going, for we want people to settle in our county, and we are not going to let narry a county in Oregon pass old Marion."

The county officials seem everywhere against the new tax amendment, and furnish some peculiar figures to the farmers, that while true, are at the same time false. The official data, free from crooked half truths, must be at the field worker's hand, or he will be told that the land value tax will make every farmer "pay all his farm is worth every year into the county treasury," as one man put it. The farmer counts his farm as consisting of the improvements and the values given the formerly wild land by clearing and leveling, all of which has to be patiently explained, over and over, using any and every diagram or illustration that can be thought of to try and create a doubt in the mind of the "juror," and induce him to "try out the new law on some other feller," after which he can oftimes be converted to trying it out on himself.

The Secretary of the Oregon Land Value Tax League, and Manager of the campaign, William S. U'Ren, is well aware of the necessity of meeting with the Grangers, and appealing to their moral sense of justice. The probabilities are that every county Grange meeting will be visited and the issue explained. They are held once in three months, and are sometimes very large gatherings.

The tax measure will be presented to the

State Federation of Labor, and the expectation is that substantially as worded above it will be endorsed. The appeal to the curiosity of the worker "to let us see how it will work," also is a strong argument. He has heard something of its operations in New Zealand, and he is able to appreciate the fact that twice two is four in Oregon the same as elsewhere in the universe. The forces of organized labor in the cities will accept the measure with pleasure. The organized farmers will be the hope of the special privileged of Oregon, but if they are approached under the leadership of U'Ren, and with men able to patiently present the arguments, their opposition can be melted away.

At this writing we are hoping for the legislature to do nothing rash, and if it does, for a chance to hold up their enactment through the referendum. It will require constant watching until the session is over, and our forces will probably be concerned in this rather than in active propaganda work for some weeks.

Because of the many inquiries from all over the world coming to a large number of people in Oregon from Governor to sub-editors a number of them have combined to issue a circular explaining briefly just what has been accomplished since Oregon established direct legislation. This document will be sent in reply to letters of an inquiring nature. Mr. W. S. U'Ren is simply overwhelmed with such letters, as are others who have worked with him.—ALFRED D. CRIDGE, Portland, Oregon.

The N. Y. *Times* in its Saturday Review of Books tells us a few facts concerning a well known Single Taxer and one of the five members of the Fels Commission, Frederick C. Howe. Mr. Howe is a graduate of Allegheny College and Johns Hopkins University. He has served as Secretary of the American Economic Association, and in 1894 he went to Cleveland, where he joined the law firm of the late President Garfield's sons, known as Garfield & Garfield. He was President of the Municipal Traction Company in Cleveland, and has served in various public and semi-public capacities.

## RHODE ISLAND.

JOHN Z. WHITE'S WORK IN THIS STATE—HE ADDRESSES THE LOCAL COUNCILS OF WOONSOCKET AND CENTRAL FALLS—RHODE ISLAND NOT SO CONSERVATIVE AS SOME PERSONS IMAGINE.

In the last three issues of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* I have expressed the hope and expectation of welcoming Mr. John Z. White to continuous work in this State. That hope and expectation has finally been realized. Mr. White has been here and has been very busy for nearly two months. He is not prepared as yet to make any public report to the Single Taxers of the country as to past progress and future prospects. Evidently he finds it necessary to do additional preliminary work—to cultivate particular fields, instead of sowing the seed broadcast, as we have been doing for several years.

The Tax Commission, which has been in existence for nearly two years, decided not to give any public hearings, but to leave the gathering of public sentiment to the legislature itself, after the Commission's report has been made to it. Rhode Island has six cities. The Mayors of two of them, the one a Republican and the other a Democrat, had endorsed the platform of the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association, which reads as follows:

"Local self-government is the right of a free people and every community is entitled thereto in all matters affecting itself alone. The method of taxation by which local revenue shall be collected is such a matter, and each city and town should have power to decide this for itself without being held back by those indifferent to the injustice and dishonesty of present systems."

Through the courtesy of these officials Mr. White was invited to address the members of the city councils of Woonsocket and Central Falls, upon the question of local taxation.

Although these are the only official bodies whom Mr. White has had an opportunity to meet, he has been getting acquainted with the field by observation, and the people have been getting ac-