

OREGON.

SOME NEWS-PAPERS IN OREGON FAVORABLE TO THE SINGLE TAX—ORGANIZED LABOR IN PORTLAND NEARLY SOLID FOR IT—LITERATURE AND SPEAKERS NEEDED.

Oregon has troubles and issues of its own. People in the east do not always understand just what the Oregon folk are driving at.

Recently a movement to recall Judge Coke of the second district, or circuit, was started over his rulings in a murder trial. Papers and dispatches made a great deal of to-do about it. To get one citizen out of four to sign the recall petition is practically impossible in this case. He will not be recalled.

The petition for the application of the referendum to an extra (not the regular) appropriation for the State University is being questioned in the supreme court. It is alleged that two thirds of the names signed are forgeries or irregular in form. As a result of it some of the circulators of the referendum petition seem bound for the penitentiary. That some fraudulent signatures were filed is a certainty, and that detectives acting for the friends of the university helped secure fraudulent signatures in order to "quacer" the referendum petition is also strongly suspected. Of course enemies of the referendum principle are using the sensation to excite opposition to the principle and to hamstring it if possible.

The certainty of the tax issue being before the people in several measures is making everybody take interest in the Single Tax. In every crowd that gathers the tax question slips in. I find that many men have been in British Columbia or some other part of western Canada, and in any little bunch of men there are one or more who know something about the operations there and can tell about it.

If the Vancouver issue of THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW could be generally distributed with a little talk by some Single Taxer at each place throughout the State, the people would be generally informed.

H. D. Wagon, F. E. Coulter and myself have been speaking in a few places on the

streets and to Grange and special meetings in nearby towns. The people do not understand, but they eagerly ask questions and take literature.

In Yamhill county, which lays about 30 miles south of Portland, the Taxpayers League is expected to resume active operations as soon as harvest is over. It is an organization almost entirely composed of farmers, and they are all dissatisfied. The *News-Reporter* of that city has had several good tax articles in a Grange column published every week. S. W. Babcock is editor of it, and while a Socialist is very liberal along economic lines.

W. G. Eggleston has compiled and written a little four page pamphlet which is being widely circulated, giving a concise explanation of the Single Tax.

The plunderbund organ, the *Oregonian*, helps out with articles on both sides of the question.

The *Journal*, a very able and widely circulated evening daily, having probably the largest circulation in the State, gives correspondents considerable space, and points out a few things in editorials. Its proprietor is C. S. Jackson, who is an avowed Single Taxer. He has recently sent to a large number of prominent men throughout the State copies of Henry George's books with personal letters.

In a dim and uncertain way the mass of the people are recognizing that something is bound to happen as a result of Vancouver and the other British Columbia cities exempting improvements.

The *Daily News* has its editor-in-chief traveling in British Columbia now and sending in special letters teeming with information and comparisons. So far Dana Sleeth has not said much about taxation, but as he is a Single Taxer to all intents and purposes, and a very virile and rasping writer, there is no doubt but what he will make things hum at the right time. The *News* has a very large circulation in Portland among the middle and working class. It is a penny paper, and "yellow," but hot, and it stands by the people, the common cuss, the taxpayer who works for his taxes. Two years and a half ago it was the only paper that supported the tax measure up at that time, which was called a Single Tax

measure, but was only a half way measure at best.

There is no doubt but what it greatly aided in electing the present governor of Oregon and the present mayor of Portland. It has helped smash up several machines, and the Single Taxers of Oregon are hoping that it will smash the greatest machine of all, the one on which all the others stand.

The *Labor Press* of Portland is owned by the Central Labor Council. It has published many hundreds of tax reform and Single Tax articles in the last two years. Organized labor in Portland is pretty well lined up for taxation of land values exclusive of improvements. The rank and file do not understand it so well, but they know more than you might think. They are as a mass good enough to vote Single Tax. They have done so to the best of their ability in the past, and although many are Socialistic in inclinations, they are voting on measures according to their merit, regardless of party. Both editor W. M. Marshall and the associate editor, the undersigned, are Single Taxers, and the three former editors are Single Taxers.

Organized labor feels pretty "sassy" in Portland because it has shown a voting strength for both individuals and measures that makes it a power to be reckoned with. In spite of opposition of three great dailies, with only the support of the *News* and the *Labor Press*, a man was elected Mayor on the Republican ticket who was named and fought for by organized labor. Five union men sit on the new city council out of 15, and the other night one of them presided over the Central Labor Council in place of the regular president who himself is a member of the city council, while a police commissioner took a prominent part in the proceedings.

What is needed in my opinion in Oregon is literature and speakers in every hamlet. We will have the literature, and I believe speakers will naturally drift in.

Some of the county assessors realizing that something is happening, have agreed on what is already dubbed the pig and rag carpet tax amendment. It will specifically exempt household furniture, a certain number of domestic animals—and repeal

the local county tax option clause of the constitution.

There will be at least six tax measures up, of which four are to head off the Single Tax.

The petitions for the exemption of improvements from taxation in Clackamas county, called the county Single Tax measure, will soon be numerous enough to file. It is the real thing. It will do the business if and when and where in operation. Meanwhile the Single Taxers of Oregon are smiling, hopeful and snuffing of the dust of the approaching battle.—ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

NEW CHARTER FOR PORTLAND, OREGON.

Portland, Oregon, has two charter commissions at work preparing charters which will be submitted on the 9th of January next at a special election.

One commission was appointed by the retiring mayor last July. The other, called the People's Charter Commission, was formed by business and industrial groups and will draft a progressive commission form of government. Mr. Alfred D. Cridge, associate editor of the *Labor Press* and the *Review's* special correspondent, is one of its members, representing the Central Labor Council thereon, which has two representatives out of the 15. The question of taxation will not come before that body in any way other than as regards licenses. Mr. Cridge is an earnest advocate of Proportional Representation, and has strong hopes of being able to secure some recognition of the principle. He will be assisted by Harry Yanchwich, a very able attorney, and W. S. U'Ren, as well as many others, in preparing a draft of the provisions sought.

Under the operation of the initiative both charters can be drawn up and submitted. Portland may lead off with more than one progressive method of doing public business. If Multnomah county, of which Portland is nearly the whole, adopts the land value tax and proportional representation in 1912 there will certainly be more