

substitution of investigation into the economic conditions, the manner of living and other wrongs thrust upon these children by society and its laws—a trial in fact of the causes of offences rather than of the offenders.

"The Law and the Adult" was the topic Mr. Gilbert E. Roe chose and if any went away with a superstitious reverence for law, it was surely not the fault of this famous lawyer. Laws are so frequently built upon old unjust conditions that for intelligent people to be acquainted with their origin should be sufficient to cause a change in their form and scope.

The closing address was made by Frank Stephens, who by argument and anecdote proved the futility of any effort to benefit mankind while the fundamental right to the use of the earth is denied. He showed how the application of the Single Tax would secure that right for all time to all men.

#### MR. F. F. INGRAM'S WORK FOR A PARCELS POST.

Mr. F. F. Ingram, Single Taxer and former Lighting Commissioner of Detroit, is chairman of the Committee on Freight and Transportation of the Manufacturing Perfumers' Asso. He has prepared an admirable report bringing out some new and important facts on the Parcels Post, which has been incorporated in the Congressional Record and sent out by thousands under frank. Mr. Ingram contends that the establishment of a parcels post will be the beginning of the end of railroad control of government. Mr. Ingram's report is reprinted in the *Twentieth Century* for March.

The Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club has been holding monthly meetings at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Franklin Avenue and Lefferts Place. On March 24th Mr. F. C. Leubuscher spoke on "The Taxation of Personal Property," and on April 21st Miss Jessie Wallace Hughes will speak on Socialism and Mr. James P. Kohler on the Single Tax.

## NEWS—DOMESTIC.

### OREGON.

THE OREGONIAN TRYING TO FOOL THE PEOPLE  
—ADDRESSING THE GRANGERS—F. E.  
COULTER, FIELD SECRETARY, AT WORK.

Oregon is not conscious of the attention she is attracting because of having passed a county local option tax measure. She is still unaware to a great extent that something has happened.

The *Oregonian*, that associated press child of monopoly and defender of privilege, is trying to make the people believe that the tax amendment carried because it had a clause abolishing all poll taxes. It declares it was a trick on the people because there was no poll tax in Oregon. The legislature abolished the poll tax in 1907, we are told by this venerable sheet, and therefore the people should rise up and smite the local option amendment, hip and thigh, and restore the state of Oregon to its fond parent, land grabber and tax dodger.

Whereupon one Fred C. Denton, through the *Portland Journal* is showing up the hollowness of the stuff the monopoly organ is turning out about that "trick," for it appears that the repeal of the poll tax by the legislature did not repeal the power of the cities and counties to levy poll taxes, and nearly every one of them simply placed the dollar poll tax, formerly levied by the State, upon the two dollar poll tax levied by cities and counties, and the workman was mulcted just the same. Only in Multnomah county, in which is the metropolis of Portland, did the poll tax die a lingering death, that threatened at any time to be resurrected if the county commissioners happened to want some money.

Men were arrested and flung in jail for not paying this poll tax, and there was no doubt some hardships endured, and probably some grafting. From inquiries sent out on the subject by the *Labor Press* it appears to have been the almost universal custom to collect a poll tax in Oregon in the outside counties of three dollars per head right up to the time that the amendment passed. Indeed it was largely because of these impositions that the State

Federation of Labor endorsed the measure and placed the poll tax clause first. The workmen knew what they wanted, and they wanted justice.

If the Single Tax forces of Oregon accomplish nothing else they deserve the thanks of the workers for having knocked out that antiquated relic of barbarism. Not even the most hardened tax dodger proposes to revive it.

The last legislature did not do so much damage to us as it might have done but for the fear of the referendum and the vetoes of governor West, for Oregon has a habit of electing a republican legislature and a democratic governor, and finds it pays. The legislature adopted two amendments pertaining to taxation, both of which are retroactive in effect, and if adopted are expected to knock out any possibility of trying the Single Tax out in any county. The people are the final authority, however, and they are none too enamored of the legislature to jump at any bait they hold out.

Another amendment provides for the abolition of the poll tax, and repeals the county option clause, while providing that the people shall have the right of referendum on all tax laws passed by the legislature.

The people voted down the tax measures referred to them by the legislature in the election of 1910, and they will do so again, if properly approached and informed.

The Single Tax forces are engaged in getting up data and literature for the coming campaign. The undersigned has spoken to several Grange meetings, while H. D. Wagnon, in business trips about the State, has spoken to a number of gatherings and to leaders of thought in various localities.

No speakers have as yet been sent out on any regular trip, and until the tax data of the State for the assessment of 1910 have been assembled and digested so as to be up to date, there is not likely to be any systematic field work.

At this writing we are making preparations to receive Henry George, who speaks three times in the State. We had hoped to have him for ten days, but his public duties in the extra session of Congress have

no doubt caused the cutting down of the time to two days.

The discussion of the principles of the Single Tax is carried on by the Peoples Forum every Sunday evening, which is all the regular propaganda work carried on in Oregon just now through public gatherings. The writer found the farmers inclined to investigate, and wanting literature. There is a great field here neglected. They want to ask questions, and they will read a little after a meeting when they would not read before.

The forces of organized labor are friendly to the cause, and will vote strongly for any steps toward it. Our main opposition will come from the rural districts, where the prejudices are strong and the information on the subject small. This is an expensive constituency to reach, and the hesitancy of the Single Taxers to tackle the contract is but natural.

One effort that is being made is to secure 40,000 copies of a special edition of the *Journal* which will have some strong articles on reserved pages on the issue of taxation now before the people of Oregon. This work is being carried on by H. D. Wagnon, one of the veteran Single Taxers of the Coast. I understand that the expense of distribution is to be partly sustained by the Fels Fund and that with its issuance will commence a more active campaign than has ever been known before.

W. G. Eggleston, the head of the Oregon land value taxation literary bureau, is busy on his forthcoming pamphlet, and while he has been under the weather for some weeks since returning from a trip through Canada, he is evidently back to his old form of ability and expression.

The Henry George Association has recently appointed F. E. Coulter field secretary, and he hopes to be able to present a state wide tax measure to the people and to organize them along the line of opposing the exemption from taxation of special privileges and the equitable taxation of special privileges only.

A county measure is being circulated by A. M. Himes on behalf of an association formed locally by well known Single Taxers and tax payers which aims to secure

financial support for a very straight out Single Tax measure in the county of Multnomah, which is Portland, and a fringe of suburbs around it, with some speculative "farms" on the edge.

As time runs on it is apparent that the taxation question is going to be a hot one in Oregon. There will certainly be five, and maybe a few more, tax measurers up. There is certain to be a strong effort to stampede the farmers to vote down every new measure and to return to the good old way of everything in sight. If the amendments to the legislature fail of popular endorsement, then several counties are almost sure to be carried for land value taxation.

One amendment talked of is to exempt \$3,000 in personal property and improvements and to reconfirm the county option tax amendment. This is being carefully considered by the Fels Commission and that grand old man of progress, W. S. U'Ren. It may prove to be a hummer when it gets polished up. Anyway, there is a fight coming off that will make the witnesses know it was a scrap in earnest. Keep your eye on Oregon.—ALFRED D. CRIDGE, Portland, Oregon.

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#### RHODE ISLAND.

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Since the last issue of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW Mr. John Z. White has continued in charge of the work in this State. Together with his co-laborators, Messrs. Liddell and Chase, the most of his time, very many hours of every day, have been devoted to the making of figures and calculations therefrom. This labor corresponds very closely to what the farmers call subsoiling. It does not make much of a show on its surface, but often proves to be in the end the most productive of a sure and big harvest.

Some of Mr. Whites evenings, however, have been used to much advantage in addressing local organizations, such as church clubs, labor unions, etc. On February 27th he was one of the speakers at the Economic club, the largest and most popular of our many educational associations. The object of the club is to have diverse

views presented by several speakers upon some live topic. The question discussed at the Supper on Feb. 27th was in effect the New Nationalism. Although the 250 persons at the tables represented the business and professional classes mainly, Mr. White's democratic and home rule view was best received by the audience.

On February 28th a public hearing was given by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary upon the Local Option in Taxation bill. There was a fair attendance with a number of speakers in the affirmative, and an owner of valuable vacant lots in the negative. Mr. White gave an account of what is being done through local exemption of labor products in Western Canada. This general measure is not the one most counted upon to receive favorable action by the State legislature, and is not the bill towards which special effort is now being directed.

On the evening of March 2nd, the sixth annual triangular debates between Brown, Williams and Dartmouth colleges were held. The question for discussion was: "Resolved, That in American municipalities a tax on the rental value of land (exclusive of improvements) be substituted for the general property tax." Each college furnished two teams of debaters, and a debate was held at each college on the same evening. At Brown the discussion was held in a large hall and the attendance was good. The home team had the affirmative and that of Dartmouth the negative. Much work had been put into the preparation of the speeches, and both sides did themselves and their institutions credit. It is significant that at all three of the colleges the affirmative was awarded the victory.

Of outside Single Tax speakers we have had fewer than usual this season, but are hoping within the next ten days to enjoy a visit from both Charles Frederick Adams and Joseph Fels.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

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A DEBATE on Single Tax vs. Socialism was held on Feb. 15th, at Northport, L. I., between Eugene Wood, magazine winter, and Joseph K. Rudyard, railroad man and Single Taxer. The audience by a vote awarded the honors to Mr. Rudyard.