

has been presented to the council by Councilman Austin E. Griffiths.

OREGON

OREGON TALKING SINGLE TAX.—THE ORGAN OF THE PLUNDERBUND VERY MUCH EXCITED.—THE ADOPTION OF THE SINGLE TAX IN THE EVERETT CHARTER HAVING ITS EFFECT IN OREGON.

Oregon newspapers are discussing the Single Tax more than ever. It is in the air. Among any group of men it soon becomes the subject of discussion. Many do not know much about it, and great awkwardness in expression and unscientific terms are characteristic of these group talks, but the ideas that taxation methods are rotten, that land monopoly is wrong, that some big tax dodgers are imposing upon the community, are expressed everywhere.

Recently the book stores have opened up a campaign all by themselves. The people are demanding literature. The book stores have signs in the windows, "Single Tax Literature For Sale Here," and the literature is rolling out.

E. P. E. Troy, the corporation exposé and expert statistician of San Francisco, has been working over the water power in Clackamas county, and reports over a hundred millions of values entirely escaping taxation, claimed by the local transportation trust that straddles and spurs half the population of Oregon.

A few facts like this, supported by unquestionable authorities, and giving the benefit of doubt to the tax dodger every time, will be generally set going throughout Oregon. The Oregon Single Tax League has plenty of ammunition which it is piling up for the bombardment of the special privileges of the State.

Already the organ of the plunderbund is so excited that it sees Single Tax in every thing that comes up for public discussion. The writer has been interested in the formation of two city charters, one of which may see the light through the initiative, and another which will not unless the city council so orders by resolution. Owing to the county being the unit of taxation under the Oregon law, the

matter of taxation in the charter attracted no attention, and any provisions are secondary to what the county does. However the plunderbund daily is suspicious that in some way the Single Taxers have worked, or tried to work a spell on the people and slip in some of their awful poison.

The question whether the campaign will be carried on as a county or State enactment is still awaiting the decision of the supreme court. That is expected before the end of the year, and then things will be moving in earnest. The effect of the carrying of any Single Tax measure in any part of the civilized globe is felt in Oregon more extensively now because of the talk about it. Everett, Washington, having amended its charter in this direction, is exciting some attention. If Seattle does the same then all Oregon will be "het up amazing," and the world will move a notch or two ahead.

The farmers are not as well along in economic thought as they should be. They are isolated, and the roads are bad. They are unable to get together, and they are not inclined to attend meetings when they can. They read a great deal, but a great deal of what they read from an economic standpoint is trash. Political matter and matter pertaining to initiative measures is too frequently flung aside or forgotten, but the file leaders are being reached, and the thinkers are looking into the matter with what light they can secure. The main hope of the land speculator and special privileged tax dodger in Oregon lies in keeping the farmer possessed of the idea that a tax on land values will bear more heavily on the farm. Without any evidence whatever to brace up the assertion the organs of plunder reiterate this falsehood with increasing intensity. It is hoped by increasing vehemence to make up for lack of truth.

"What I want is work," said a mechanic in a group of neighbors recently, "and as long as a lot stays empty I get no work on it. Empty lots do me no good. This Single Tax will make money go into buildings instead of lots, and make the lot speculator let go to somebody who wants to do something I want to help him do.

Empty lots don't help me do anything. It makes me tired to go by them. You fellows pay taxes on your homes out here, and the Single Tax will cut a lot of that out. Yes, it will. If it doubles the taxes on land and hurts you then it is a sure sign you have more land than you have buildings and stuff." I passed on. He was addressing his arguments to the crowd of little home owners, and while his economic terms would not suit some wise men, he was making more votes for Single Tax than I could.

If once the farmers learn that their land values are less than their labor values the day is won.

I understand that Henry George, Jr., is going to help us with speeches sent to the voters. This is going to pan out well as the people want to know, and his name will attract some attention. With some information such as W. G. Eggleston, W. S. U'Ren, E. P. E. Troy and other writers will furnish, the people will be better informed than ever. If some Oregon data is furnished them about well known farmers in different counties, as I understand is to be the case, then there will be a local and personal interest excited.—ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

IDAHO SINGLE TAXERS ORGANIZE.

On the last Friday evening of October, a few of the Single Taxers of Idaho met in Boise for the purpose of listening to the report of the writer regarding his trip to the Fifth International Tax Conference held at Richmond, Va. After such report each person was called upon to speak. It being agreed that we should organize the State Single Tax League the following officers were chosen: R. B. Wilson, of Emmett, Idaho, President; Hon. F. B. Kinyon of Boise, Secretary; and Hon. H. E. McElroy of Boise, Treasurer; Curtis F. Pike, of Boise was chosen Vice President for Ada county. Hon. Dow Dunning of Wickahoney, Vice President for Owyhee county; W. T. Callender of Emmett, Vice President for Canyon county. Vice Presidents for other counties are to be chosen. One lecture has already been held under the auspices of the organization.

The State league will meet somewhere in Boise every last Friday evening in each month.—R. B. WILSON.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

The Henry George Commemoration Social was held at Adelaide on August 29, and was a great success. An energetic committee of ladies had decorated the hall very prettily, and it presented a very fine appearance. The president of the League (Mr. James Rogers) occupied the chair, and in a few words referred to the progress of the movement, and indicated the work that would be taken in hand during the coming year. The vice president (Mr. R. L. Druier) read the Joseph Fels Fund Report, which showed that £223-12-1 had been collected during the year. This amount would be supplemented by Mr. Joseph Fels. The money had been spent chiefly in connection with local rating campaigns, but it was the intention of the League to bring the Free Trade question prominently before the public. Mr. E. J. Craigie delivered an address on "Henry George, His Life and Work." Musical items were rendered, and greatly appreciated, after which refreshments were partaken of. The gathering was a record one from both a social and financial aspect.

The Henry George Social in connection with the Purnorg League was held on Friday, Sept. 8th. This League was established at Purnorg on the banks of the River Murray by a few enthusiastic Single Taxers and has done good work. The president is Mr. J. H. Groth, and the secretary Mrs. I. Evans, both very energetic workers for our cause. In response to an invitation I went there to deliver the Commemoration address. The Hall was crowded, many of those present driving over fifteen miles. A very nice programme of musical and elocutionary numbers was presented, and those responsible for the celebration are to be congratulated on the success that attended their efforts.

The State Budget has been introduced,