

in your officers generally *** men not only of undoubted ability for the work they have to perform, but men who are most loyal and devoted to the company, and who consider that one of their principal objects in life is to advance the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. No company was ever better served than ours has been, I think I may say, from its commencement (Cheers). I have a cablegram which has just been received from the Company's commissioner at Winnipeg ***. The cablegram is as follows: With considerable increased acreage under crop and climatic conditions in the main favorable, the outlook for a good yield is promising. The demand for agricultural lands continues to be active at good prices."

The anniversary of the birth of Henry George was celebrated in nearly all the large cities; in Denver, where George Creel, who is now writing an article for *Hampton's* on the Recall of Judges, Edward Keating, former editor of the *Rocky Mountain News*, J. R. Hermann, and James T. Smith, former State labor commissioner, spoke; in Los Angeles, where Messrs. Norman and Plant and Dr. Adah Patterson addressed a banquet of some forty of the faithful of the Los Angeles Single Tax Club. Mrs. Richard Hovey, widow of the poet and known as an art lecturer, also spoke. St. Paul also had its celebration by a notable banquet; two of the speeches delivered at this dinner by Louis Nash and John V. Bennett will be printed in an early number of the REVIEW.

GLADSTONE is a flourishing suburb around which the iron bands of land speculation is pinching. There are 102 improved lots in this beautiful river suburb of both Oregon City and Portland, while 1,487 lots are held for speculation. If improvements were exempt entirely and the speculative lots bore the added burden there would be at least 300 of those lots speedily utilized by home builders.—Portland (Oregon) *Labor Press*.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

OREGON NEWS LETTER.

THE COUNTY OPTION LAW NOW BEFORE THE COURTS—THE VANCOUVER NUMBER OF THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW STIRS THE PRESS OF OREGON—WHY THE OREGONIAN OPPOSES THE SINGLE TAX—AN INSIDIOUS ATTACK ON THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

In Oregon the question now before the courts of whether to allow county tax option, only slightly checks the educational work. In some ways it promotes it, for the fact of the courts having the question before them provokes thought and gives out news that is published far and wide over the State.

If the county tax measure prepared by the Single Tax League is not allowed on the ballot next year, then the same provisions will be proposed by the Initiative for the entire State at large, and in that case the campaign will have to be a thorough one. The constitution will be amended to give the largest measure of Single Tax possible and the fight made on fundamental grounds, for the people of Oregon have the right to amend their constitution, and can do it as easily as they pass a law. It is merely a matter of education of the people.

The distribution to the newspapers of Oregon of the special Vancouver issue of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW has caused more articles to be published in the country press on the questions involved than ever before. The big business organ of Oregon, the *Oregonian*, has issued a full page broadside against the Single Tax in a Sunday edition, and fights it in every way possible. Its principal proprietor is one of the largest stockholders in a big timber owning company that has many thousands of acres of the finest timber lands in the State. It is one of the happy family of the Timber Trust.

He also owns one of the most valuable sites in Portland, a full block, worth two millions, and held practically idle. It is pointed out as the only "farm" in Oregon lit up with electricity and gas on all four

sides and having a dozen lines of streets passing its front and rear doors.

The "Prince Royal" of the *Oregonian*, and referred to as the *Oregonian's* son-in-law, is said on very good authority to have not less than a million and a half. Naturally it fights the Single Tax and the more it fights the more it awakens interest. It has recently taken the stand that no Single Taxers in any way connected with the Fels fund need send in any articles or communications regarding the Single Tax. On one excuse or another it refuses any articles, and garbles and belies to suit itself. Conservative estimates place its interest in the Single Tax at not less than \$100,000 a year, that being the sum of increased taxation which would fall on the speculative holdings of its individual owners and the relatives and partners. It is rumored that a fund of a quarter of a million has been raised to fight the Single Tax in Oregon, and that of this the *Oregonian* will pull down \$50,000. Then it is greatly shocked to think anybody draws down a meal ticket to fight for economic justice.

The energies of W. S. U'Ren, C. E. S. Wood, Harry Yankwich, H. J. Parkison and others have recently been absorbed in defending before the State courts a very insidious attack on the initiative and referendum, backed ostensibly by the University of Oregon. It is a long story, but the contention of the University crowd is that if one or more fraudulent or forged signatures are proved to be on a book of say 500 names to a referendum petition then the entire lot must be consigned to the bottomless pit by order of the court, or perhaps the secretary of State. A referendum petition was filed on an appropriation of half a million dollars for new buildings for the University. It was not a wise move, and some of the signatures may be fraudulent, as alleged; but if the contention of the "Uni crowd" hold good then indeed the people have no more power of legislation in Oregon than you have in New York.

I am not in a position to say what will be done in the way of organizing an educational force to go throughout the State to carry the gospel of justice, but indica-

tions are that the people will soon be considering the question of taxation. There are known to be at least 9 and probably 11 tax measures sure to go on the ballot. Out of it can come only good. There will be among these measures one fundamental Single Tax measure. There will be two retroactive measures, and some efforts to go a small step in the direction of exempting labor products.

With 125,000 members of the Oregon legislature studying taxing laws and questions for a year there will something come of it. Why not the Single Tax?—ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

GOOD FOR THE LOS ANGELES SOCIALISTS.

The following declaration was adopted by the Los Angeles Socialists at their platform convention in that city. The subjoined paragraph was written by Edmund Norton, Single Taxer of that city, who not being a Socialist was therefore not entitled to the privilege of the floor. But the declaration received the strong support of Job Harriman, candidate for Mayor, Ed. Wolf and Fred Wheeler, candidates for City Council. Socialists elsewhere will please take notice!

"Believing as we do that all the sources of production and all natural opportunities belong to the people as a whole, and believing that the enormous unearned increments that attach to land are a social creation and belong of right to the people who create them, we declare that these social values should be taken into the public treasuries by taxation or otherwise and that the burdens of taxation should correspondingly be reduced upon the products of labor and the small homes and savings of the class on whom these burdens now fall with unjust and crushing weight."

SLOWLY, but none the less surely, the Single Tax idea is growing. People are coming to realize that a personal property tax is a tax on enterprise and a premium on the lack of it. They are coming to realize that a tax on consumption is criminally foolish.—*Will Maupin.*