

date on the city ticket who stated unequivocally that he favored a referendum on this question was Herman A. Metz, and his astonishingly large vote is evidence that he is not only more of a democrat but understands the people better than either Mr. Mitchell or Mr. Prendergast.

E. CORKILL.



DIFFERENCE IN PROPAGANDA METHODS.

New York, March 3.

"A Significant Straw Vote," in the issue of February 27th, does the American farmer—unintentionally, of course—an injustice, by the implication that he is less intelligent than the Canadian farmer. In my judgment, the most significant thing in this straw vote, taken by the "Grain Growers' Guide of Winnipeg," is the positive evidence it gives of the superiority of the Canadian singletaxers' method of propaganda among the farmers, over that of singletaxers on this side of the line. It is a lesson for us on the most effective way to reach the farmers.

The farmers in Western Canada are not unlike the farmers on our side of the line, and singletax propaganda conducted among American farmers, as Canadian singletax propaganda has been conducted among Canadian farmers, would produce just as satisfactory results. And reversely, singletax propaganda among the farmers of Western Canada would have resulted as disastrously as did ours in Oregon, California, and Missouri, if the same methods had been adopted there.

In Canada the work among the farmers comes from within. It is a farmer movement, engineered by farmers within farm organizations. On this side of the line the movements have been from without, city movements, engineered by city dwellers, and the message carried missionaries and preachers from the cities.

The Canadian method follows the line of least resistance. Farmers will listen to farmers without prejudice. They know that men of their own calling do not organize to destroy themselves. Such a method is fraternal, co-operative, and involves in the highest degree the principle of self-help. The American method is the reverse. Instead of allaying prejudice, it has aroused it to the point of antagonism. The paternalistic method of preaching to instead of co-operating with the farmers through their own organized movements is resented by the farmers as a reflection upon their intelligence. Naturally, the sincerity of the purpose of those who come to them in this way is questioned, and the result is that singletaxers are classed with other exploiting city groups who are constantly trying to put the burdens of government upon the farmer.

The workers for the various reforms on this side of the line who have adopted methods similar to the methods of Canadian singletaxers in their educational work, have found American farmers no less responsive, no less intelligent, than the Canadian farmers. The backbone of the Direct legislation movement in Oregon, Washington, Maine and other States, was the farm organizations. This was true also of the Woman Suffrage movement. And had not the farmers been induced to take up the parcel

post, as their particular movement, and, through their organizations, been made the leaders in that movement, the country would be without a parcel post today.

When singletaxers learn the lesson of these successes they will realize that their present methods of attempting to reach the farmer are wrong, and they will awaken to the fact that the Canadian method applied to the American farmer will yield equal or even greater results.

GEORGE P. HAMPTON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, March 17, 1914.

Congressional Doings.

The Alaskan railway bill was adopted by the Senate on March 10 in the form that it passed the House, and on March 12 became a law through the President's signature. [See current volume, page 204.]



A modification of the bill of the late Congressman Robert Bremner of New Jersey, creating a bureau of labor safety in the Department of Labor, passed the House on March 11. It provides for appointment of a Commissioner of Labor Safety to investigate plans and devices to ensure safety of employes. He is further empowered to secure facts regarding vocational diseases. [See current volume, page 149.]



That to secure exemption of American coast-wise vessels from Panama Canal tolls, money was spent by shipping interests, was testimony given on March 12 before the Senate lobby investigating committee by Clarence W. DeKnight. Mr. DeKnight said he had contracted with Rear Admiral Bowles, president of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, to work for exemption. He had received a \$1,000 retainer, he said, and had been promised \$4,000 additional in case of success. On March 13 Dr. James Brown Scott, secretary of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told that his organization had spent \$30,000 in circulating literature in behalf of repeal of toll exemption. [See vol. xvi, p. 1186, current volume, page 181.]



A bill to repeal the Panama toll exemption of American vessels was introduced on March 13 in the Senate by Senator Owen. Representative Sims of Tennessee introduced a similar measure in the