

Commonwealth Land Party News

IN another column will be found an article on Dr. Joseph Ferguson, Commonwealth Land party candidate for governor of New Jersey. In addition to the candidate for governor Essex County will have a full Assembly ticket of Commonwealthers to vote for. Many thousands of the Platform will be circulated. In the September issue of the *Pilot*, organ of the Federated Woman's Clubs of the state, appears a notice of Dr. Ferguson with liberal extracts from the Platform.

In Ohio, to which state Organizer Robinson has returned from his home in California, a Constitutional Amendment in the interests of the land speculators is to be voted on. It is proposed to hold a convention of the faithful in the Fall to combat this amendment. Fuller details will appear later. Mr. Mark Milliken, of Hamilton, makes the suggestion that follows in a letter to Organizer Robinson:

"My idea would be to make this affair a two or three days' session. I think that committees might be formed or appointed by say you, or Mr. Allen or Mr. Lincoln. Such appointments from either of you three men who have occupied prominent positions in the Single Tax activities of the C. L. P. would be approved, no doubt. Suppose that you had a committee on "Farmers;" another on "Forests;" one on "Homebuilders;" one on "Earned Incomes;" one on "Personal Property," etc. If members of committees were appointed by mail they could gather data before going to the convention. Then when in Columbus the various committees could go to headquarters and get more information. Committees could then draw up resolutions based on their findings. I think that an editorial committee could then make quite a good little pamphlet out of the combined researches of committees. We should then flood the state with such pamphlets.

"The standpatters will be getting out literature and make many converts to their plans because they are organized. As there is no election this year where Single Taxers could run with any good reason, we might all make our contributions towards propaganda."

The Commonwealth Land Party of New York City has nominated local candidates as follows: For Mayor, Laurence W. Tracy; for Comptroller, Edward M. Caffall; for President Board of Aldermen, Morris VanVeen; for President Borough of Manhattan, John L. Murphy; for County Clerk, George A. Hall. In Brooklyn the party has nominated for Borough President, Benjamin W. Burger; for Register, Morris W. Norwalk, and for County Clerk, Fred J. Deverall. This will enable any disciple of Henry George in New York to register his convictions at the polls if he so desires. The newspapers of the city have given generous space to the nominations.

Praises The Single Tax

AUSTRALIAN SAYS IT WOULD PREVENT A BOOM
LIKE THE ROCKAWAYS

SINCE the adoption of the Single Tax seventeen years ago the City of Sydney, New South Wales, has doubled in population and has experienced an unflagging building boom, while other large Australian cities have been left behind, according to James R. Firth, an Alderman of Sydney, who is now in New York. In his opinion the Single Tax in Sydney has operated to encourage the development of real estate and to discourage land speculation.

"Such a situation as New York is now witnessing in the Rockaway land boom would be impossible in Sydney," said Mr. Firth yesterday. "The holding of large tracts of land for a rise in value through improvements to adjacent property or better transit facilities is not profitable when land is taxed at its value, irrespective of improvements thereon. The result has been that tracts of land about the city have been opened up for homes and an amazingly large proportion of the population own homes.

"Many large companies, among them the tobacco trust, have been attracted to Sydney because the taxation is so much less than in other communities. In the seventeen years since the Single Tax was adopted more than two thousand new factories have been established at Sydney and the population has increased from 550,000 to 1,100,000, while Melbourne, Sydney's greatest rival, has lagged far behind it."

Mr. Firth arrived in this country Friday after a visit of several months in Europe. He declared that he found considerable Single Tax sentiment in Zurich, Switzerland, and in Berlin.—*N. Y. Times*.

Save Your Carfare and Give it to the Landlord

THE inexorable laws of economics assure to the landlord, rather than to the public, the ultimate advantage of cheap transportation for multitudes of people. It is considered a valuable privilege to be able at all hours of the day to travel ten or fifteen miles in a swift electric train for five cents, but the value of that privilege is quickly capitalized in the form of rent. Economic rent, equally existent whether the user of the land be the owner or tenant, inevitably exacts its tribute on the earnings of labor and capital. It is those into whose bank account flow the proceeds of economic rent, an infinitesimal fraction of the population, and not the public at large, who are the real beneficiaries of a five-cent fare that does not adequately return the cost of production.

—MCCREADY SYKES, in *Commerce and Finance*.