

deputies, was recently proscribed, but, being warned in time by his friend, General Blanquet, he fled to Vera Cruz last month, and took ship for Europe.

Huerta's preparations for escape seem well timed, for a plot to assassinate him in the capital on May 24 was only discovered by an accident, and involved the death of ten Federal mutineers at Tacuba, D. F. When even the Pretorian guard begins to mutiny, it is time for a tyrant to take heed. Hitherto, Huerta has exhibited the utmost recklessness to personal danger; he has ridden around without guards and could be seen often of mornings at the Globo public cafe in Mexico City, drinking brandy with one or two companions only. This careless conduct perhaps indicates more shrewdness than bravery on Huerta's part as he well understands the degeneracy and cowardice of the populace of Mexican cities.

RESIDENT OBSERVER.



McNAIR'S VICTORY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 11.

It appears to be popular to be known as a Singletaxer in Pennsylvania. During the recent primary campaign the Palmer-McCormick-Rowley ticket was supported by the National Administration. The Budd-Ryan-McNair ticket was actively supported by the old reactionary element. Of all these candidates but one was openly radical, namely McNair. McNair was the conspicuous Singletaxer. When at a meeting of the Singletaxers Mr. McNair proposed to enter the campaign as a Singletaxer he was strenuously opposed by our local Singletax leaders on the ground that it would hurt rather than help the cause.

Here is what happened:

On the Administration ticket were Palmer, McCormick and Rowley; on the opposition ticket were Budd, Ryan and McNair. Palmer beat Budd by 49,050, McCormick beat Ryan by 20,270; but McNair turned the table around and beat Rowley by 32,080. The newspapers of Pennsylvania were so sure of the complete sweep of the Palmer-McCormick-Rowley ticket that for nearly a week they kept on printing Rowley's name as among the winners. McNair's Singletax activities gave the unpopular Budd-Ryan ticket thousands of votes, and likewise Budd's anti-Wilson speeches on the Panama toll question, and Ryan's "afraid-as-death" attitude to say something radical lost McNair many thousand votes. If McNair's name had been associated with the administration side it is safe to say he would have led the ticket.

The Democratic ticket as it stands is: For Senator, A. Mitchell Palmer; for Governor, Vance C. McCormick; for Secretary of Internal Affairs, William N. McNair.

H. W. NOREN.



Willis: What's the election today for? Anybody happen to know?

Gillis: It is to determine whether we shall have a convention to nominate delegates who will be voted on as to whether they will attend a caucus which will decide whether we shall have a primary to determine whether the people want to vote on this same question again next year.—Puck.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

REFORM IN ASSESSMENTS SPREADING.

Cleveland, O., June 11.

The city of Austin, Texas, will hold an "informal" election some time during the month of July, at which the citizens and taxpayers will, upon the request of the City Council, vote on the question of the adoption of the Somers System for the re-assessment of the real estate of that city. The City Council by a vote of 3 to 2—the 2 votes being in favor of accepting the proposal for the installation of the System—at first decided to submit to a referendum an ordinance for the adoption of the Somers System and the making of a contract for its installation. It was afterwards provided, however, to hold an "informal" election which would not be mandatory upon the Council. Although the election will not be mandatory, three of the five members of the Council declare that they will be bound by its results.

Mayor Wooldrige is a very strong supporter. He declares that the city cannot continue to prosper and progress unless there is more money raised for general expense purposes. The campaign in behalf of the system in Austin has been directed by the Young Men's Business Club. Editor A. C. Baldwin of the Austin Tribune has taken a very active part in the movement, and declares that he anticipates the election will result in a 6 to 1 affirmative vote on the adoption of the proposal.

San Antonio and Corpus Christi are the two latest Texas cities to adopt the Somers System, the reassessments in those cities having been completed within the last week.



In Multnomah County, Oregon, the commissioners having charge of the assessment of the cost of good roads have adopted the Somers depth percentage, as used for measuring the depths of city lots, as the basis for distributing the cost of the roads to land lying a mile on each side thereof. Lands nearest the good roads are of course benefited more than those at a distance, and it was found that the Somers depth percentage used for measuring values of inside lots in cities presented a very fair relation for the computation of benefits.

Assessor Henry E. Reed of Portland, Oregon, last November invited a proposal for the installation of the Somers System, with the result that it was accepted and the work of reassessing the entire city is well under way at this time. Of the 50,000 buildings in Portland more than 40,000 have been measured and appraised; of the 120,000 lots in the city about 30,000 have been computed, the basis of such computation being the judgment of the assessor of the values of the Somers unit-foot upon the various blocks. There has been no opposition in Portland, but the most cordial co-operation has been shown by the owners of real estate throughout the city.

Under direction of the State Tax Commission of Arizona the Somers System has recently been used for the revaluation of the land in Phoenix, Tucson and five other cities in Arizona. The members of the Tax Commission recently visited the various