

continue to rob the people, the social order will fly into space, and there will be no security anywhere. That if this awful Single Tax should carry, Oregon will become a hole in the earth and a kindly sea will fill the gap and the inhabitants will be engulfed under a tidal wave or be seen racing naked and hungry across the mountains to safe shelter.

A debate has been arranged by the Pine Grove Grange between C. C. Chapman, editor of the *Oregon Voter*, and J. R. Hermann. The State Chamber of Commerce supplies the opposing speaker.

It is significant that in this campaign the Chamber of Commerce represents the opposition. Never before have the forces favoring and opposing our reform been so clearly lined up.

To the printed arguments against the measure put out by the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Cridge has replied through the labor papers, and Messrs. Bowerman and Hermann through the Portland press.

James Richmond, of Coquell, is stumping the Coast on his own initiative.

The *Oregonian* remains strangely silent on the issue, and the Portland *Telegram* has printed only one editorial against it. Several bets are offered at even money that the measure will pass, with no takers.

Gerrit Johnson has thrown himself into the campaign with all his old-time enthusiasm.

Maryland

THE most important political movement in Maryland this Fall is the attempt in Baltimore County (the largest county in the State, which does not include Baltimore), to adopt a Home Rule Charter, which will give it a County Council, who will have power to pass local legislation and who will appoint a County Manager to conduct the affairs of the county in place of the County Commissioners.

A Constitutional Amendment adopted in 1915 provided that the legislature of 1916 should make a grant of express powers under which any county could elect a Charter Board and adopt a Charter giving it a certain measure of Home Rule. Twenty per cent. of the voters of the county had to nominate the Board, and, if the Charter is adopted, amendments thereto may be proposed by 20% of the voters, and adopted by popular vote.

The Charter Board was elected last Fall and has submitted a Charter providing a County Manager form of government, as above outlined.

The politicians of both parties are making desperate efforts to defeat the Charter at the polls. Ex-Judge Burke, who recently resigned from the Maryland Court of Appeals, has declared that it would legalize the Single Tax, and is leading the opposition, speaking in all parts of the county and making all sorts of wild statements regarding it. One of his assertions is that the County Commissioners being Constitutional Officers, cannot be abolished, so that the

adoption of the Charter will create a dual government and all kinds of chaos. Only extreme judicial bias could uphold a view of this kind.

The Taxpayers League of Baltimore County, who were instrumental in electing the Charter Board, are making a gallant fight, which if successful will be one of the few bright spots in this Fall's rather gloomy election.

James R. Brown of New York is booked to speak at the City Club here on October 9th on the "Problem of Municipal Revenues," and a meeting at which the Mayor will preside has been arranged for him in Annapolis the night before.

CHARLES J. OGLE.

Texas

MAYOR FRANK W. WOZENCRAFT, of Dallas, the youngest chief magistrate in the Union, speaking recently to a reporter of the *Houston Post* said:

"The amount of land between Houston and Dallas that is not cultivated nor even cleared of timber is very noticeable and covers practically half of the distance. From my position in the airplane I could distinctly see the outlines of timbered areas below. There is enough uncultivated land between here and Dallas to furnish homes and farms for twice as many people as are now living in that area."

That the big landowners of Texas are fearful of the agitation now proceeding to make land pay more of the burdens of taxation is shown by a letter which recently appeared in the newspapers from one of the largest landholders, calling Mr. Neff a "Socialist." The latter is the Democratic candidate for the nomination of Governor. Mr. Neff has declared in favor of a graduated tax on land.

The *Wichita Falls Labor Journal* comments on Sir Auckland Geddes statement that the crop shortage of 1914 caused the great war, that the usual surplus was lacking in that year, and that the ruling powers of Germany, looking about for new sources of supply, brought on the war. The *Labor Journal* says that if the war was caused by land monopoly then other and future wars are possible and should be averted, and points to the Single Tax as the measure that could have averted that war and will prevent another.

Wm. A. Black is now a member of the House of Representatives.

James A. Robinson, National Organizer of the Single Tax Party, who visited Texas with a view of getting the Party on the ballot in that State, found Texas a peculiarly fertile field for Single Tax agitation, offering an unrivalled opportunity for Party activity. He arrived too late to secure the Single Tax a place on the ballot for this presidential election, but the Party will go ahead to make the Single Tax a political issue as soon after the November elections as possible. Mr. Robinson believes that two years of Single Tax Party activity in Texas, with its great numbers of tenant farmers, would produce a revolution.