

the St. Louis *Courier*, a Single Tax paper published in the 90's which some of our readers will remember.

Mr. Priesmeyer's death appears to have been the result of an accident as he dropped to sleep near an open gas jet. He died without pain, though of late he has been a great sufferer.

Percy Pepon writes us: "I don't think he had any religion. But he had done his work to secure a better world and had no cause to fear meeting God face to face should there prove to be a personal deity."

Our friend could not make a Single Tax speech to an audience, but he did other useful work. He compiled a mailing list of those who expressed themselves as being favorably inclined to our cause in the press or elsewhere. Mr. Boeck has this list numbering nearly two thousand.

He requested that the cost of his funeral service was not to exceed \$300 and that he be cremated. A minister from an independent church conducted the service.

A touching tribute has been printed from his Single Tax friends in St. Louis, Messrs. Boeck, Menger, Forshaw, Lischer and Kauffman. We quote the concluding words: "He saw that good will and peace among men is only possible when all have equal rights in the bounties that are here for all. He is at rest after a life of unselfishness. We will greatly miss his going, but with a satisfaction that his life's work is well done."

Single Taxers Organizing For Annual Convention

RABBI MICHAEL AARONSOHN, who spoke so eloquently at the last Congress in New York City, has been appointed by President George E. Evans of the Henry George Foundation as Chairman of the 1936 Convention Committee and preparations for the Eleventh Annual Henry George Congress to be held in Cincinnati, November 12 to 14 are being actively sponsored by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship, which held a large and enthusiastic meeting on June 24.

The Cincinnati Committee is very ambitious and optimistic with regard to the prospects for a big attendance at this year's convention and is aiming for 1,000 delegates and visitors as its goal. In view of the greatly enhanced interest in economic problems and the rapid development of educational activities throughout the United States, Chairman Aaronsohn and his committee feel justified in their anticipations of the largest Single Tax gathering yet held and they propose to leave no stone unturned to bring this Henry George Congress to the favorable attention of the friends of the movement in all sections of the country.

While it is too early to give detailed information concerning the convention programme, the committee has extended invitations to some persons of outstanding importance in public life and one or more prominent figures

from abroad are expected to participate in this year's gathering.

President Evans has appointed the following persons as members of the Convention Committee.:

Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Chairman; Ed F. Alexander, Charles G. Baldwin, Charles H. Berning, Hon. Herbert S. Bigelow, Robert C. Bowers, Frank Chodorov, Grace Isabel Colbron, Albert S. Colby, R. A. Cowing, Otto Cullman, Edmund P. Donovan, Samuel Danziger, Clayton J. Ewing, Arthur W. Falvey, Richard G. Farabaugh, Edward E. Hardcastle, Charles H. Ingersoll, Fenton Lawson, J. C. Lincoln, Charles G. Merrell, Dr. Mark Millikin, Joseph Dana Miller, John Lawrence Monroe, John S. MacLean, Hugo W. Noren, A. W. Pittman, Jackson H. Ralston, Charlotte O. Schetter, Lewis W. Schott, George J. Shaffer, Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr., Carl D. Smith, Walter G. Stewart, George M. Strachan, Grace Swigart, Bertha Timmerman, O. A. Toepfert, G. W. Wakefield, Hon. Abe D. Waldauer.

The California Campaign

WHAT of the fight in California? Since I last wrote to LAND AND FREEDOM events have been progressing rather rapidly. Our opponents have with great skill secured the endorsement of a number of organizations, some of which have no natural affiliation with them. The State Board of Education, controlled as it is by politics, and politics in turn controlled by the great interests of the State, has pronounced against us, and has apparently swung the California Teachers' Association and Parent-Teachers Association into line. In our opinion, their hold from now on upon the teachers will have to diminish as the teachers come to realize that the Chambers of Commerce and Real Estate Boards have no sympathy whatsoever with their just aspirations and that they are being used to favor great landed interests. Every appeal, therefore, to the teacher organizations mentioned, is likely to grow weaker and weaker.

The State Board of Equalization which, in a broad sense governs taxation in the State, collecting the sales tax and adjusting county taxation, is the most active agency against us. Unfortunately for it, scandals of the gravest nature have broken out affecting its management, and, fortunately for us, making any representation made by it regarded with proper suspicion. Its statements, widely circulated nevertheless throughout the State, have included falsehoods of the most barefaced character, multiplying by as high as ten the possible rate of taxation on land values. All this is done for the purpose of creating a feeling of alarm among the lesser tax payers, which feeling will inure, they hope, to the benefit of the large ones.

In perhaps the majority of the counties the Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations referred to, have formed bodies for the purpose of bringing about our defeat if they possibly can do so.

Against all this, up to the present time, we have been able to oppose resistance weakened because of the lack of money, although we have to thank many of our friends in and out of the State for contributing as liberally as they have to the necessary running expenses of the campaign. This situation has, however, to a perceptible degree changed within the past two or three weeks. We were fortunate enough to receive \$5,000 from the estate of F. F. Ingram, formerly of Detroit and San Diego. This enables us to meet our immediately pressing necessities and plans, though but a fraction of needed support for a big campaign.

While we were still pressed very much for money, we were able to have the substance of our principal document put in the shape of a speech inserted in the *Congressional Record* by Senator Shipstead. In accomplishing this result we were largely indebted to Mr. Judson King, Secretary of the Popular Government League of Washington, D. C. 500,000 copies of this document have been ordered for circulation in the State, and a considerable proportion of them will go out within a week or two.

Congressman Byron Scott, of the Long Beach district, also placed in the *Congressional Record* an admirable address given over the radio by Mr. Ralph E. Chadwick of Los Angeles. Up to the present, 100,000 copies of this document have been ordered for general distribution, particularly in the southern part of the State. We feel under deep obligation to Congressman Scott and his secretary, Mr. Bartlett, as well as to Mr. Judson King for our success. We are not, therefore, without important documents entitled to immediate distribution through the mails without further expense than that of addressing them, although, to be sure, even this expense makes a considerable hole in our resources.

Only yesterday there came off the press a four-page paper entitled "The Sales Tax Repealer" reviewing the whole subject of taxation in a series of well-timed articles, one admirably written by Mrs. Kathleen Norris. Our work in gathering together the material and putting it into shape for publication was performed for the most part by Dr. W. G. Eggleston, whose name will be familiar to many because of his work in the past, Mr. George Cartwright, former secretary to Tom L. Johnson, and Mr. Noah D. Alper, Manager in San Francisco. There have been printed of this paper 150,000 copies, which will be largely circulated in the business districts of San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles.

With all this work in hand and about to be brought before the people, we believe a new complex will be put upon the campaign.

Under the California system of direct legislation, a voters' pamphlet, giving text of all propositions and arguments for and against, is sent to every voter in the State about two weeks before the election. The Lieutenant Governor names those who are to write the pamphlets on either side. At our suggestion, he named

Edward D. Vandeleur, Secretary to the State Federation of Labor, Kathleen Norris, well known writer, and myself. The Secretary of State requires this material to be in his hands by the twentieth of this month, and we have prepared the document, which is limited to 500 words.

With few exceptions, the country press is against us, influenced largely by its interpretation of the position of the farmer. Some of our leading city papers have taken no position as yet, although many of the more important ones are antagonistic. Our newspaper support is small. Fortunately for us, on the other side, the general public has become very distrustful of any position taken by newspapers, and they are left with comparatively little influence where they should be leaders of opinion.

Meanwhile, we can truthfully say that the people of the State are receiving our gospel gladly. The storekeepers are all direct sufferers from the sales tax, and everybody feels its oppressions. When we point out to them the true source from which revenue should be derived they largely recognize the truth of our contentions and illustrate it often by some reference to local conditions.

As I have written heretofore, the labor organizations are without exception giving us their undivided support, and the labor press is unitedly and effectively for the amendment.

It is entirely too early to make any prophecy as to the result, but despite all adverse influences, we are more than hopeful of the outcome. We are more hopeful because, despite the influence of the Chamber of Commerce, certain business organizations have thrown or are preparing to throw their influence in favor of the amendment. I do not care to enumerate these at the present time, but one or two of them have statewide connections and ability to reach a large proportion of the voters of the State.

If you want to get into a real campaign upon real issues, my suggestion is that you come to California. If you cannot come, do not hesitate to send according to your means such financial assistance as you can render.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

THE freedom to earn, without fear or favor, a comfortable living, ought to go with the freedom to vote. Thus alone can a sound basis for republican institutions be secured.—SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

IS it not a notorious fact, known to the most ignorant, that new countries, where the aggregate wealth is small, but where land is cheap, are always better countries for the laboring classes than the rich countries, where land is dear? Wherever you find land relatively low, will you not find wages relatively high? And wherever land is high, will you not find wages low? As land increases in value, poverty deepens and pauperism appears.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.