

prises like the Krueger match trust, based on two forms of monopolistic advantage, (a) exclusive government concessions, and (b) combination between different manufacturers and in different countries; the Krueger monopoly, like most of them, was so waterlogged with graft and corruption, that it fell apart of its own weight, as Insull's aggregation of franchise values did; probably the change of habit—and mechanics—from wood matches to paper, and giving them away instead of selling, entered into this: now, anyone can buy a machine for \$6,000, that will deliver so many thousand "cartons" of paper matches per day, all printed; this type of monopoly, however, is only a fleabite to the monopoly of natural resources and economic rents that should have first attention: industrial monopolies can be taken care of, thereafter, very easily.

FAY CAPPEL, Office Secretary.

The California Campaign

LET all who are strong enough for combat, who enjoy the "rapture of the fight," come to California and they will be satisfied to the fullest. And their conflict will not be of a physical nature but that of ideas. On the one hand we have ranged in ranks of battle the strongly entrenched Real Estate Boards, accustomed to rule the State, Chambers of Commerce seemingly incapable of any comprehensive view of public affairs, the great newspapers influenced it may be by the large landholdings of their owners and the patronage of real estate brokers, a large proportion of the farmers who fail to realize the difference between "land" and "land values," and office-holders who are faithful to the voice of their real masters, the influences which obtained for them the little positions they may chance to hold. (Of course there are a few notable exceptions among the latter.) And then the greatest of all obstacles—inertia.

Against all these elements we have to oppose the organized influences of Labor—an influence our friends have been too prone to overlook in the past, the favorable attitude of the Epic movement, the general disgust with the sales tax, and the feeling that something is radically wrong with our social system. Above all we have the conviction that we are right, and "thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just."

Since I last wrote LAND AND FREEDOM the Governor has had a handpicked conference meeting at Sacramento, comprising about 100 men and women. *The Real Estate Magazine* boasts that approximately half the membership belonged to the Real Estate Boards. The prime if not the only real purpose of the conference was to devise, if possible, some way of defeating the amendment in which we are interested. Its two days of session emphasized the danger to its sympathizers of the adoption by the people of our amendment and the necessity of work to defeat it, but no plans were discovered of any importance to this end, or if they were they escaped public consideration. I spoke as an outsider for twenty minutes before the resolutions committee, but of course without visible effect, though with the manifest approval of a large

number of listeners off the committee. The conference of course resolved unanimously against us.

We have been the object of attack by what is known as the State Board of Equalization, which has charge for the State of the collection of taxes. To the action of the Board I have just made a comment, copy of which I enclose herewith. This Board never was created to advise the citizens of the State, and has no business to do so, particularly against the interest of the general public. But it has blundered on and must take its punishment.

It has long been a favorite contention of mine that nothing could be more educative than a public campaign upon a clear-cut matter of principle, not complicated by any partisan consideration. Certainly the present California fight can be cited to support such a theory. We are now about eight months before the election and from day to day the discussion grows in intensity. An illustration is the fact that for the month of February I was furnished with 400 clippings from the papers of northern California alone touching upon the question of taxation and nearly all of them about the amendment.

The burden of the fight on our side falls upon comparatively few men. In Los Angeles R. E. Chadwick and George W. Patterson are in charge and doing valiant and self-sacrificing work from the Philharmonic building and with Laurie Quinby, Haggerty Woodhead and others effectively speaking. In San Diego, E. M. Stangland is working usefully and tactfully. In San Francisco, Noah D. Alper is in charge at 83 McAllister Street. In Modesto, George Cartwright looks after matters and is furnishing a lot of important news to the press. Too much cannot be said of their devotion to the cause. But much ground has to be covered and the workers are all too few.

Will we succeed? In the broad meaning of the word, the campaign is already a success. More people in California today know more about our cause than might have been dreamed possible even three months ago. Real thought is going on. But you may mean by the imaginary question, will we succeed at the election? Who can tell eight months in advance when so much remains to be done? I believe we will, and from this belief have never wandered, despite almost literally "the gates of hell" against us. I could give you many straws, but will confine myself to one. Of fifty housewives in Los Angeles interviewed over the telephone a few days ago forty-eight declared themselves for us.

What work have we to do? In the course of the next six weeks we expect to get out a broadside which will go to not far from a million homes in the State and give our position and the arguments for it. This will be costly but essential, and there must be at least two repetitions before election. Then there is constant speechmaking before all manner of organizations, and our speakers as I have intimated are all too few. Besides

this comes the matter of constant letter-writing to the papers, to whose columns we must constantly resort.

To carry on our offices and to do all the work so roughly outlined calls for every dollar of assistance any friend can give from any quarter. The scene of our fight is California—the significance of it is universal as the world. We have a right to ask help, and are glad to say that our friends in the East are gradually waking up to the importance of the occasion. But time is short and the demands heavy.—JACKSON H. RALSTON.

LETTER FROM JACKSON H. RALSTON GENERAL
CHAIRMAN OF THE SALES TAX REPEAL
ASSOCIATION TO THE STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION.

Gentlemen:

ON March 10, removing the State Capitol so far as you are concerned (at whose expense?) from Sacramento to Death Valley, at the latter place you passed resolutions broadcast throughout the State "vigorously opposing" what you termed a "Single Tax initiative" on the November ballot. You have also resolved that the repeal of the State sales tax would deprive this State of such an amount of money during the next biennium as would threaten the "integrity of our public school system and require the levying of a ruinous ad valorem tax on property."

I would be the last to question the constitutional right of any one or all of your members to proclaim as loudly as you might care to do so your want of acquaintance with economic law and its inevitable workings. When, however, you gentlemen gathered together as a state board of equalization undertake to do the same, several questions arise in my mind which I submit to you for solution with as much respect as the circumstances of the case permit.

Is there anything in the laws of the State of California which make you an advisory commission to the voters of the State upon the subject of taxation? Is there any reason why you should enforce upon the people your more or less ill-digested opinions in the hope that, dazzled by the prestige of your office, they will be led to vote against the interests of the immense majority?

Are you able to cite a single recognized authority upon the subject of sales taxation who will defend such a system?

Do you know, individually and collectively, that even the Controller of the State has declared publicly as well as in correspondence, that the sales tax is not helpful to the small home owner, as of course it is not to the non-property owner, while he at the same time says that it is beneficial to the large holder of lands?

What excuses have you, collectively, for undertaking to advise the less fortunate classes of the State of California to vote against their own interests? Might not such advice be called a piece of simple impertinence?

Again I am inclined to wonder whether you know the meaning of the words Single Tax which you so glibly, and I may properly add, so inadvisedly, denounce. If you know the meaning, then you know that the amendment in question, while supported by many of the arguments which favor the outright Single Tax, does not propose the taking of all land values for public uses, but only such as are necessary, to replace taxes withdrawn from improvements, tangible personal property, and objects needed for public consumption.

Is it any part of your duty to attempt to excite prejudice against such a measure as this, which will relieve every non-property holder who, nevertheless, is and must be a taxpayer, and practically every one of the small householders of the State, transfer the burden of taxation which is crushing them, to the great owners of landed wealth created by the whole community and amounting to very many billions?

Is there any justification whatsoever for your allowing your statistical bureau to create hobgoblins as to the loss of property to ensue upon the adoption of the amendment for the purpose of persuading the immense majority of the people of the State to vote against their own interests? Why should you allow its chief to be a little Orphan Annie Kay to deceive the superstitious?

Are you not conscious that the measures you have taken as a body and through your so-called statistical bureau have been aimed at conserving the interests of the great landed wealth of California in the hands of its rich owners?

Are you excusable, much less justifiable, in undertaking to use the time which belongs to the State to engage in propaganda against the best interests of the community as a whole?

Have you not learned that the schools have created and are maintaining land values far in excess of school costs, and that these and not business, necessities and industry of the people should pay the expenses of education?

I refer again to the first question, and desire earnestly to know by what authority you as a board are undertaking to advise the voters, denying at the same time your right to give any advice as a board, whether in accord with my own ideas or opposed to them.

I ask information in the foregoing respects as at least an appreciable taxpayer in the State of California, and would be glad to know if it is not time for you to resume your administrative duties, rather than undertake to act in an advisory capacity to people whose needs you so manifestly do not understand.—JACKSON H. RALSTON.

Henry George School's Campus Now Covers 66 Cities

(SPECIAL TO LAND AND FREEDOM)

New York, April 1, 1936

STATISTICS just compiled by John Lawrence Monroe, field director of the Henry George School of Social Science, show that the School is now established in sixty-six cities of the world.

In the last semester classes were held in fifty-two cities. The gain, thus far, is fourteen. The total may be slightly larger, Mr. Monroe said, for reports are being awaited from cities abroad which have plans for launching classes in other cities.

Sixty-one of the cities are in the United States. The remainder are in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico. These do not include the countries in which Georgeist groups, with the cooperation of national headquarters in New York, are making preparations for launching extensions.

There are now twenty instructors at national headquarters and ninety-two extension instructors throughout the world. All volunteer their services as a living endowment.

Since Sept. 1, 1933, when the School, after several years of preparation, was established at headquarters by the late Oscar H. Geiger, there have been 3,624 students enrolled in 191 classes in the basic course in fundamental economics and social philosophy. Fifty-one classes have been held at headquarters, 140 at the extensions.

The School was chartered Sept. 15, 1932. That fall classes were held at Pythian Temple, with extensions