

ever adverse business and social conditions are caused by governmental extravagance—instead of by land-cost and taxation of improvements, personal property and business transactions—they will not be interested in anything except some plan that promises to reduce the cost of government.

It is also advisable to explain that several plausible proposals have recently been made to reduce taxation on real estate by "broadening the tax base" or substituting taxes on sales, small incomes, securities, personal property and business profits. But it should be considered that any such reduction in real estate taxes would not result in reducing rents of homes or business properties; and it is certain that the imposition of such other taxes would increase prices of commodities and service and further reduce buying power and business.

After the foregoing points are established, the business man is usually ready to hear and consider the following simple plan:

(1) To obtain State legislation that will permit any municipality in the State, by local referendum, to *gradually reduce taxes* on materials, machinery, merchandise and buildings;

(2) To obtain the required public revenue by *gradually increasing the tax rate* on all taxable land value in such municipalities.

Then explain that this simple change in taxing methods will:

(a) Greatly encourage construction of buildings and other improvements.

(b) Materially reduce taxes on homes, apartments and properly improved business properties and farms.

(c) Increase buying power, business and employment.

(d) Attract industries and home-seekers to communities that adopt this system.

(e) Create extensive and enduring demand for land, labor, materials and capital.

(f) Enable owners of vacant land and obsolete buildings to improve, sell or lease their holdings.

(g) Enable those of small incomes to own homes and farms.

(h) Encourage consolidation of suburban towns with cities.

(i) Reduce cost of government by creating opportunities in private industry.

(j) Reduce the burden of taxation upon those now paying more than their share by bringing more land into use, increasing business and employment and enabling many to pay taxes who are now unable to do so.

As evidence that this plan is practical, effective and beneficial we can show official reports and dependable opinions from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and many cities, towns and farming districts in the British Dominions and Denmark, where similar plans have long been in successful operations.

And as evidence that it is possible to obtain the required legislation in New Jersey, this league has enlisted the sincere approval of numerous substantial citizens, several associations and many influential newspapers throughout the State.

A bill originated and sponsored by the Progressive League of New Jersey, received 23 votes in the 1935 session of the State Assembly, 19 votes in the 1936 session (with several members absent who were in favor) and 31 votes in 1938 session which were enough to pass. It did not reach the Senate in time for consideration, although nine Senators had promised to vote for it.

This bill will be reintroduced in the coming session of the legislature, and with the support of many members of the Assembly and several influential Senators, we are confident that it will be enacted.

We are also confident that several municipalities in the State will promptly adopt the plan, and that the results will be immediately successful; this would serve as a demonstration and an inducement for other municipalities to adopt the plan and thus help to inaugurate the great reform for which we have all worked so long and faithfully.

Therefore, I hope all who are interested will do all they can to help us win this important fight. Progressive League of New Jersey, 206 Market St., Newark, N. J.

L. R. BONTA, Secretary.

The California Campaign

THE election is over and we of the faith find ourselves severely checked, although receiving between 300,000 and 400,000 votes. Never before had such a vote been given for as forward a proposition as we presented. For this reason I use for the word "checked" and not "defeated". To my mind we can never be defeated although we may be postponed.

We fought against such powerful financial and other organizations as have never before been arrayed to oppose the best interests of the people. We begin with the Real Estate Boards, with their thousands of members in every part of the state. These influenced the Chambers of Commerce, who largely represented the financial sinews. These in turn controlled the Parent-Teachers bodies, numbering into the hundreds of thousands, and who were persuaded that the abolition of the sales tax would mean the wiping out of support for the public schools. These refused to see that such belief was unfounded.

In addition we faced powerful official influences, the whole state officialdom being united against us under the lash of the recently defeated governor. These influences included the State Board of Equalization, which could and did convince those from whom it collected taxes that self-interest demanded that it should not be opposed.

On top of all the influences mentioned, and a lot of minor

elements, these were through them and otherwise the constant hammering into the minds of the people that the adoption of our amendment meant confiscation of their properties by the state, and no difference was ever suggested between the kind of property naturally public and that which was the product of the labor of individuals.

The instrumentalities I have mentioned, and a lot of others, including misguided farming organizations, spent into the hundreds of thousands of dollars on the radio, billboards, newspaper advertising (often covering five columns and probably in the majority of the papers), and through the mails.

Of argument against us there was practically none. Our opponents were for the most part content to declare that our proposition was the "Single Tax," and meant confiscation of homes and farms and places of business. These falsehoods for the time triumphed.

To oppose the above we circulated some four to five hundred thousand documents of what we believed to be of value. Our means in the active campaign did not equal one per cent of the amount expended by the opposition. The people, however, were assured that we were backed by the Fels millions, which were trying to put over the Single Tax in California. It was reported that this amounted to \$12,000,000, the income of which was to be expended till the hated doctrine should obtain in California. The reports were of such a wild nature as to lead a Palo Alto woman to inquire of one of my neighbors if it was true that at the time of his death King George left millions to me to bring about the Single Tax in California.

To turn to pleasanter points in the picture, the Executive Board of the State Federation, with the exception of two among twenty-one members, did their full share, though many followers failed. Our workers struggled nobly. It seems hardly justice to the many not named but deserving recognition to name any, but I must mention Noah D. Alper, Edgar Pomeroy, Ralph Huntington, J. Rupert Mason, S. Edward Williams in San Francisco. Conspicuous among the Federation were George Kidwell and Hugo Ernst and the secretary, Edward Vandeleur. In Los Angeles, there were Cornelius J. Haggerty, President of the California Federation of Labor, who sincerely helped in many ways, and Mr. Buzzell, the Secretary of the Los Angeles Labor Council, and many other Labor men, and Harry H. Ferrell, in charge of the campaign in the south, and Ralph Chadwick, George Briggs, George W. Patterson; and in San Diego, E. M. Stangland, Taber, Siebert, Edwards, and others. The Labor press helped unstintedly.

What of the future? Our plans are in process of formation. It is too early to make any announcements. This is certain that the work we have done will not be wasted through non-use. We have laid a wide and deep foundation. This cannot be thrown away.

What has the campaign taught us? We are too near to it to know entirely, but certain things seem to be on the surface.

The opposition thoroughly realize that they are the beneficiaries of an unjust system doomed in the end to perish. No other theory will account for their utter desperation and unprincipled fight. The ghost of what they call the Single Tax continually rises up to terrorize them, and will not down despite all electoral defeats.

The great weapon of the opposition is nothing other than fear, and this is easily invoked against anything seeming novel. This is the great enemy we have to fight. Fear of the unknown has many times checked progress in other ways and how we can expect anything else with as fundamental a reform as we struggle for?

Let us dissipate fear of the unknown.

There will always be a question of methods. We know that any attempt to invoke too great a change at once invites disaster. We were sufferers from past efforts of this sort, and we may ourselves have attempted too much in a limited time. This point requires a great deal of thought.

If I might make a suggestion (I think I have made before in some connection) to the Henry George School it would be that they establish a post-graduate school of study as to the best methods of making the doctrine for which they stand effective politically, for without political action their work is almost fruitless. Let them have a thorough study made of methods as illustrated by the history of the campaigns we have already had. These furnish food for the most acute thought. Let this study give light for the future. Do not let the experience be wasted.

Palo Alto, California.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

In a later communication, Jackson H. Ralston writes "As far as reported 360,000 votes were received, again about four times as many. A half million did not vote either way."

WITH want destroyed; with greed changed to noble passions; with the fraternity that is born of equality taking the place of the jealousy and fear that now arranges men against each other; with mental power loosed in conditions that give to the humblest comfort and leisure and who shall measure the heights to which our civilization may soar? Words fail the thought. It is the Golden Age of which poets have sung and high-raised seers have told in metaphor. It is the glorious vision which has always haunted man with gleams of fitful splendor. It is what he saw whose eyes at Patmos were closed in trance. It is the culmination of Christianity—the city of God on earth, with its walls of jasper and its gates of pearl! It is the reign of the Prince of Peace!

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.