

CALIFORNIA

Mention might be made of other States where the advocates of the Single Tax have not been idle. But the movement in California where Henry George lived for so long and where *Progress and Poverty* was written has been such as to attract nation-wide attention. It was here the first organization to spread the teachings of Henry George was organized, with the late Joseph Leggett as its first president; and it was under the auspices of this organization that Henry George delivered his first formal propaganda lecture in the Metropolitan Temple in San Francisco, March 26, 1878.¹

The campaigns of James G. Maguire for governor were not Single Tax campaigns. Judge Maguire was a friend and adherent of Henry George, but he was the regular Democratic nominee, and though the Judge's opponents sought to inject the Single Tax into the campaign the candidate declared it was not an issue. He was defeated, but whether his well known reputation as a Single Taxer tended to militate against his success cannot be determined.

The actual operation of measures approximating to Single Tax, namely, the exemption of improvements in the irrigation districts of California, is treated elsewhere in this work.² The two campaigns for local option in taxation, advocated by the Single Taxers avowedly for the purpose of having the Single Tax tried out in some locality, secured in 1912 a vote of 169,321 to 243,959 and in 1914 a vote of 267,618 to 375,634. In the second election the vote in favor was increased nearly one hundred thousand, as will be seen, but the adverse vote was increased in even greater proportion.

In 1916 a straight-out Single Tax measure was submitted as an amendment to the Constitution. Its provisions were as follows:

¹Young's History of the Single Tax Movement in the United States.

²See article succeeding.

Public revenues, State, county, municipal, and district, shall be raised by taxation of land values exclusive of improvements, and no tax charge for revenue shall be imposed on any labor product, occupation, business, or person; but this shall not prevent the assessment of incomes and inheritances to provide funds for old age pensions, mothers' endowments, and workingmen's disemployment and disability insurance.

Land holdings shall be equally assessed according to their value for use or occupancy, without regard to any work of man thereon; this value shall be determined in municipalities, and wherever else practicable, by the "Somers system" or other means of exact computation from central locations.

The intent of this provision is to take for public use the rental and site values of land, and to reduce land holding to those only who live on or make productive use of it.

This amendment received 260,332 affirmative votes against 576,533 negative, the affirmative vote being 31.1 per cent. of the total.—EDITOR.