

the cry for justice and which is worthy to rank as literature. The book is to be given a large circulation and I want to make it as inclusive as possible. I will be grateful to any comrades who may see this notice, and who will lend me scrap-books or collections containing such material. The same will be carefully preserved and promptly returned.



Tax Reform News.

The Executive Committee of the United Societies of Chicago accepted on August 26 the report of its Committee on Taxation. The report quotes at length reports of city officials showing unfair working of the present tax laws. In addition the committee presented examples of its own such as the following:

The valuation of State street property in the loop, which is valued on the assessors' books at \$13,000 per front 100 foot deep, whereas the only piece of land on State street in the market at present is held at \$35,000 per front foot, shows the inequality in tax valuation as to real value. Valuations of land in the loop district, as compared with valuations of improvements bear the ratio of 5 to 1, taken from Board of Review records.

The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

Home Rule in Taxation, enabling local taxing districts to raise their local revenue from such sources and in such manner as they deem best.

The abolition of the State Board of Equalization and the organization in lieu thereof of a State Supervisory Board of Taxation.

The separation of the sources of State revenues from local revenues by securing all State revenues from statewide public utilities as far as possible.

Having the Board of Assessors and Board of Review value according to actual sales and leases, 100 per cent of actual value as thereby determined.

Placing of full market value on all vacant properties held out of use by speculators, in order to bring them into use.

Sending to all property owners in advance of assessment tentative valuations giving said property owners opportunity to make protest at a public hearing, if objection is made thereto.

Dividing the work of assessment among the assessors upon property lines instead of district lines, with a view to each assessor specializing in one field of work.

The report was signed by C. R. Jandus, Chairman, and William C. Wulff, Secretary. On acceptance it was referred to the Political Action Committee which has questioned legislation candidates concerning their position on home rule in taxation, on separation of sources of state and local revenue, and on substitution of a State Supervisory Board of Taxation for the Board of Equalization. Candidates for the Board of Assessors and Board of Review have been asked to state their position on valuation of loop properties according to actual sales and leases at 100

per cent of actual values, on assessing at full market value "all vacant properties held out of use by speculators;" on sending tentative assessments in advance to property owners, and on dividing work among assessors on property lines instead of district lines.



The pending amendment in California for Home Rule in Taxation has been endorsed by the city councils of Stockton, Paso Robles and Watts, making a total of thirty-six municipalities which have so far taken such action. These municipalities represent eighteen counties from Siskiyou at the extreme north to Imperial at the extreme south. The amendment has also the endorsement of the League of California Municipalities, of the State Fruit Growers' Convention, and of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union. [See current volume page 807.]



The program of the National Tax Conference at Denver on September 8 to 11 includes discussion of the following subjects: Taxation of express companies, license fees on foreign corporations, uniformity in taxation of personal property, federal income tax, and singletax in Canada. F. C. Wade of Vancouver and Professor Clark of the University of Manitoba, both strong opponents of the singletax, have been assigned discussion of the latter subject. F. J. Dixon of Winnipeg is the only Canadian representative of the singletax movement assigned a position on the program.



The Ohio Progressive party state convention on August 25 at Columbus took the following stand on taxation:

We pledge our party to the support of county home rule in taxation and an equitable adjustment of taxes on mortgaged real estate to avoid double taxation, an exemption of \$500 of personal property for each person.



Commission on Industrial Relations.

The Federal Commission on Industrial Relations at Portland, Oregon, on August 24 heard the testimony of Mr. C. E. S. Wood, a very prominent attorney of the city. Mr. Wood declared the chief cause of industrial unrest to be misuse of land. If conditions were made so that it would not be possible to hold land for merely speculative purposes, there would be a vast improvement. Only those who use land should own it. The withholding of land from use by speculators prevents proper care of the unemployed in Portland. No one can even begin to clear the land, which is now useless, without paying some one for this feudal title. The same conditions prevail everywhere, Mr. Wood continued. For example, all the iron ore in the United

States is controlled either by James J. Hill or the United States Steel Corporation, and they are only mining a very small part of it. Four railroads control practically all of the anthracite coal and mine only a small fraction. He favored throwing open to use whatever part of these lands the present holders are not developing. This would open opportunities for employment to all who desired it. [See current volume, page 830.]



W. C. Banfield, vice president of Portland's Realty Association, declared that there are three classes in society: "Employers, employees and barnacles." Pressed to mention an example of the latter he finally admitted that he had trade union leaders in mind. Edward Gilbert, a laborer, told of troubles in caring for the unemployed in Portland last winter. In the face of strong opposition the city leased a building known as the Tabernacle and allowed the idle men to occupy it. Then after it had been opened it was suddenly ordered closed and the idle men turned on the street with no place to go, on one of the stormiest nights of the year. A few days later, however, the order was rescinded and the men allowed to stay until spring. The men at first sought for work and were determined not to accept charity, but were compelled, through lack of opportunity, to depend on charity after all. One man had offered to give work to all who wanted it at clearing a large area of stump land. The men accepted this offer, but before they could go to work their prospective employer was warned by his neighbors that he would be run out of the country if he employed these "vagrants."



In regard to the working of the minimum wage law, Father Edwin V. O'Hara, chairman of the Industrial Welfare Commission of Oregon said that the commission had fixed \$9.25 a week as the minimum wage for experienced women in mercantile lines for a fifty-hour week. The same applies to office work. The minimum for fifty-four hours work in Portland factories is \$8.64 a week. The reason a lower rate was fixed for factories was because a girl in a store or office needs more money for clothes. The law has been upheld by the State Supreme Court and is now pending before the Supreme Court of the United States. Miss Caroline Gleason, secretary of the commission, testified that the law had improved conditions and that the number of girls discharged for inability to earn the minimum wage was very small.



In Stockton, California, on August 26, Irving Martin, owner of the Stockton Record, told the commission of efforts to control his editorial and news policy. During a labor difficulty he had endeavored to publish both sides of the controversy.

Union leaders, he found, would bring their news to the office while reporters found it difficult to obtain statements from the employers' headquarters. Eventually he published an editorial advising arbitration, and for this some employers termed him obnoxious. Advertising fell off to some extent, but not, he believed, as the result of any concerted action.

NEWS NOTES

—The twenty-first case of bubonic plague was reported at New Orleans on August 28.

—At the South Carolina Democratic primaries on August 25 Senator Ellison D. Smith was renominated, defeating Governor Cole L. Blease.

—A conference of New York Progressives at Utica on August 27 endorsed Frederick M. Davenport of Clinton for Governor and Bainbridge Colby of New York City for Senator.

—In a statement issued on August 25 William Randolph Hearst announced his decision to make no further effort to secure the New York Democratic senatorial nomination. [See current volume, page 831.]

—Michigan State wide primaries on August 25 resulted in renomination of Governor Woodbridge N. Ferris by the Democrats, of ex-Governor Chase S. Osborn by the Republicans for his former position, and of Henry Pattengill for Governor by the Progressives.

—Statewide primaries in California on August 25 resulted in nomination by the Republicans of Congressman Knowland for Senator and John D. Fredericks for Governor; by the Progressives of Francis J. Heney for Senator and Governor Hiram Johnson for re-election; and by the Democrats of James F. Phelan for Senator.

—Republicans, Democrats and Progressives of Kansas held state conventions on August 25 to formulate state platforms. All declared for the Initiative and Referendum and also for national prohibition. Republicans and Progressives declared for national woman suffrage. Democrats declared for the Recall, and Progressives for Presidential preference primaries.

—Celebration at Washington of the seventy-fifth birthday of Henry George on September 2 has been announced by the Woman's Single Tax Club and the Tax Reform Association of the District of Columbia. The program includes speeches by Louis F. Post, Congressman David J. Lewis of Maryland, Congressman Robert J. Crosser of Ohio, and Congressman Edward Keating of Colorado.

—Former Governor Fort of New Jersey, chairman of the commission sent by President Wilson to settle the revolution in San Domingo, cabled the State Department that an agreement had been reached on the 27th by which President Bordas was to resign on the 28th, to be succeeded by Raymon Baez, head of the National University of San Domingo. President Bordas may be a candidate in the elections, which are to be conducted by the new provisional president. Baez will not be permitted to be a candidate. Lead-