

News From Many States

CALIFORNIA. We append the measure to be voted upon in this State in November:

WHEREAS, since 1879, Section 2 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of California has declared that:

"The holding of large tracts of land, uncultivated and unimproved, by individuals or corporations, is against the public interests, and should be discouraged by all means not inconsistent with the rights of private property," and

WHEREAS, the value attaching to land is created by the people and of right belongs to the people, and should be taken in taxes by the community as needed for public purposes,

THEREFORE, to accomplish that end the people of the State of California do enact as follows:

Article XIII of the Constitution of the State of California is hereby amended by adding to it a new section which shall be numbered Section 15, and shall read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 15. On and after the first day of January, 1921, the following classes of property shall be exempt from taxation:

All machinery, implements, tools, shipping, manufactured articles, merchandise, moneys, credits, stocks, bonds, motor vehicles, and other vehicles, furniture and all other personal property; also planted trees, vines and crops.

As such exemptions become effective improvements in, on, under, through or over land shall be assessed on a basis of valuation and rate not exceeding that of the preceding year, and all other revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1923, all improvements in, on, under, through or over land shall be exempt from taxation.

As such exemptions become effective all revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1924, Section 14 of Article XIII of this Constitution (providing a system of State revenue) shall become in-operative and stand repealed hereby, and all public revenues shall thereafter be raised by taxation on the value of land exclusive of improvements thereon or therein.

And the legislature is hereby authorized and directed to enact appropriate laws for the apportionment and collection and payment to the State of revenues for State purposes, upon such repeal taking effect.

Nothing in this Section shall delay or prevent the collection of taxes levied before any respective exemption herein described becomes effective.

Provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the taxation of privately-owned public utilities for the use of the public highways.

And provided further that war-veteran, church and college exemptions are not affected by this section.

And provided also that charges for and revenues from publicly-owned public utilities shall not be affected hereby.

All constitutional provisions and laws of the State of California, or any portion of said Constitutional provisions and laws, in conflict with this section, or any part of it, are repealed hereby, such repeals to take effect as the provisions of this amendment become effective as above provided.

Over 900 copies of the bill have been mailed to the editors of the States, with "The Single Tax—What It is and Why We Urge It.

The Anti-Single Taxers have opened headquarters in the Citizen's Building and will wage an active campaign against the measure. An effort is being made to amend the constitution so that a 25 per cent. petition will be required on all initiative measures dealing with taxation. This initiative measure to be submitted to the electors is being prepared by Attorney-General U. S. Webb.

The People's Anti-Tax League will have charge of the campaign in Southern California and will cooperate with the Anti-Single Tax Association of San Francisco in the northern part of the State.

There is now no division among Single Taxers of California. They are united for a vigorous campaign. But they do not underrate the forces that stand opposed to them. These are determined that the Single Tax shall not be written in the laws of the State, and they realize that the present united front that Single Taxers are presenting to the enemy makes them more formidable than ever.

The campaign in the State will be conducted by Roy R. Waterbury, a capable and successful attorney of San Francisco. Mr. W. L. Ross will have charge of the Los Angeles office and the public distribution of the weekly Great Adventure bulletin and other literature for the campaign.

Mr. Gerrit Johnson is in Los Angeles where he has gone to help along the fight.

MISSOURI—The Single Tax Party of the State of Missouri has been organized. The following are the officers and members of the State Committee:

State Chairman—William Preston Hill, M. D., Ph. D.
1145 Lawn Avenue, St. Louis

State Secretary—Professor Charles Lischer
4247 Grace Avenue, St. Louis

State Treasurer—Henry Priesmeyer
822 North 7th Street, St. Louis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stephen M. Ryan, H. G. Heigold, Joseph Forshaw, John Dines, A. V. Darrock, E. H. Boeck, W. J. Flacey, Harvey Barkis, Alexander Vietch, and Herman Hermanlink.

All the above named gentlemen are representative Single Taxers of Missouri, and have taken active part in the recent referendum campaigns. Professor Lischer will tour the State organizing with competent and efficient State officials, headed by the veteran campaigner, Dr. Wm. Preston Hill; good results may be looked for in

Missouri. Mr. Stephen Ryan's earnest and untiring work in the cause is known everywhere.

Mr. E. H. Boeck is always "doing and giving". With Messrs. Heigold, Forshaw and Darrock active success is assured. Messrs. Veitch and Barkis are enthusiastic, and with the assistance of Hermanlink and that untiring and most earnest of Single Taxers, W. J. Flacy, the Kansas City group will be heard from.

We shall at an early date publish some of the writings of Dr. Wm. Preston Hill, who has a high reputation as an author. We cordially welcome the new organization.

NEW YORK—The New York Single Tax Party, now that the campaign is over, has turned to consider the advisability of getting on the State ballot this Fall. The difficulties facing such an achievement are such as to daunt the most courageous. There is no State in the Union that offers greater obstacles to the success of a new party. Yet these difficulties are felt by many of the party as by no means insuperable. Provision will certainly be made for getting on the local ticket.

The Henry George School of Economics, under the auspices of the party, will inaugurate a series of Sunday night meetings in the public schools of the city. The agitation that resulted in the opening of the schools to lectures and forums to which the public should be admitted which was begun a few years ago was started by a member of the present Single Tax party, a man who has been an earnest worker for the Single Tax since 1886, Antonio Bastida.

The first of these series of meetings held by the School of Economics took place in the beautiful auditorium of the Morris High School at 166th Street and Boston Road. Mr. Morris Van Veen, chairman of the lecture committee, deserves credit for the splendid work he has done in this connection. He has been a perfect dynamo of energy. A man whose private business is sufficiently engrossing to demand every hour of the working day has nevertheless found time to make these meetings a success, thus justifying Herbert Spencer's dictum that to get things done you must select a busy man to do them.

The first meeting took place Sunday Dec. 28. Bernard A. Rosenblatt was the lecturer, his subject being the Palestine Land Programme. Mr. Joseph Dana Miller acted as chairman and made the opening address. Joseph Fink also spoke.

On Sunday, Jan. 4, Rev. Herman Randall spoke on the Realization of Democracy. Oscar Geiger acted as chairman and made a graceful introduction, explaining the Single Tax. Robert C. Macauley, of Philadelphia, gave a splendid presentation of the gospel of our philosophy.

On Sunday evening Jan. 11, Mayer C. Goldman gave an interesting address on the Public Defender, a subject which Mr. Goldman has made his own, and on which he has written and spoken with keen intelligence and much knowledge of criminal practice. Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll acted as chairman and made such a statement of the Single

Tax as one would expect from a business man who knows the question as well as he knows his business.

On Jan 18, Capt. Charles Goldsmith, of Mayor Hylan's Rent Profiteering Committee, spoke on Remedial Legislation for Leasehold and Monthly Tenants. The Captain explained that his subject would deal with only such legislation as might be necessary before a remedy were adopted, and admitted that the Single Tax might be such a remedy. The Captain thus disarmed criticism. He made a very interesting and instructive address. George Lloyd acted as chairman at this meeting, and Frank Chodorov concluded the meeting by an earnest exhortation to his hearers to read and investigate the doctrines that the Single Taxers are seeking to expound. Mr. Van Veen also spoke.

OHIO. During the past five years Ohio Single Taxers have conducted a propaganda of education with a view to creating enough sentiment to make a Single Tax amendment possible. Meantime the numbers of vexatious taxes have increased and business men are harassed by these exactions. To the present burdens it is now proposed to add a state income tax, an excessive automobile tax, and an inquisitorial law for the discovery of intangibles—all in addition to the present load which the industry of Ohio carries.

Dissatisfaction with the present methods of raising revenue is greater than ever before. It seems to the Single Taxers of Ohio that the time has come to poll a vote sufficiently large on the question to force nationwide attention.

The amendment under consideration will exempt tools, machinery and materials used in manufacturing; all live stock, farm implements, wagons and tools used for agricultural purposes, and all improvements in or on land. After Jan. 21st, 1929, every tax save a tax on the value of land is to be repealed. The rate for local revenue shall not be limited except by vote of the electors of the taxing unit. Income, franchise and other special taxes shall be abolished in eight years from the date of adoption of the amendment.

The plan decided upon contemplates three committees to have charge of the campaign to enlist public sentiment in support of the amendment. These will be a manufacturing committee to urge upon business men the need of its adoption; a farmers' committee to appeal to the farmers of the State with arguments reinforced by the examples of land value taxation and improvement exemption in Canada where the farmers exercise a real power and are coming to exercise a greater; and a strong committee for organized labor. The movement has already secured the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor and the Ohio Federation of Labor.

One hundred thousand signatures must be obtained to the petition and must come from the forty-four counties of the State. To do this at least \$10,000 will be required and the task is not an easy one.

It is significant that at the very moment Secretary Hallenkamp begins the movement for the amendment the

legislature starts to have another classification amendment submitted to a vote of the people.

OREGON. Following is the amendment to the Constitution to be voted on in this State:

"Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oregon shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. From July 1, 1921 to and until July 1, 1925, all revenue necessary for the maintenance of State, county, municipal and district government shall be raised by a tax on the value of land irrespective of improvements in or on it; and thereafter the full rental value of land irrespective of improvements shall be taken in lieu of all other taxes for maintenance of government and for such other purposes as the people may direct. The intent of this amendment is forever to prevent the exploitation of the individual throughout the monopoly of natural or community made values and opportunities."

The referendum vote on the measure is now in progress among the labor unions and is proceeding satisfactorily.

An effort was made by the general assembly to restrict the operations of the Initiative but it came to naught. Mr. U'Ren went to Salem to head off this bill, which was reported out of the committee.

This is a danger that the Single Taxers of Oregon have reason to fear. But it is doubtful if there will be a similar attempt so barefaced to deprive the voters of Oregon of the power that they have won for themselves after many a hard fight. They will now resort to underground methods to defeat the Single Tax, which it is coming more and more to be seen has now more than a fighting chance.

There is nothing now to be feared from the general assembly which has now adjourned. The measure which it was sought to put over and submit to the voters at a special election in May, limited the action of the Initiative petition by providing that no amendment to the State constitution could be adopted until a majority of the voters should cast their votes in the affirmative at the time of the consideration of the measure. As less than sixty or seventy per cent. of the qualified voters get out to vote the labor people of the State were aroused to the danger of the proposal. The bill applied only to taxation changes inaugurated by the Initiative petition.

Mr. J. R. Hermann is writing letters to the papers, among these being the *Liberator*, with a circulation of twenty thousand among the farmers of the State. Alfred D. Cridge is also doing useful work along the same line. The Labor press is running "The Crime of Poverty" and is printing articles from the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, especially those items showing the progress in South America, which our Oregon friends are using to advantage.

Judge Ben Lindsay has promised to stump the State, and many mass meetings, picnics, granges and labor gatherings have been addressed. At all of these the response has shown instant appreciation.

Mr. J. R. Hermann expresses enthusiastic confidence in the outcome. It is believed that the measure will pass by a strong majority. The land question is a very live issue in Oregon.

TEXAS.—Organized labor in this State is getting clearer on the Single Tax and its purpose every day. Letters from the leaders in the State show this growing interest. It is easier to get a hearing before local unions. The response is more cordial. Organized labor is growing rapidly. Although not an industrial State, there are over 50,000 now affiliated with the State Federation of Labor. The four Railroad Brotherhoods in addition are cordially in sympathy with the Single Tax. A great opportunity is at hand.

The Nonpartisan League is growing. It is not likely to take political action this year, unless it may be in the election of legislators. It is to be hoped that the Nonpartisan League will not act prematurely and jump into State politics before they are sufficiently strong and have developed dependable leaders. The League should be a real force two years from now. Single Tax is not part of their declared programme, although Single Taxers generally will be gratified with their taxation plank. It reads as follows:

"Exemption of farm improvements and equipment from taxation and taxing undeveloped lands at least as high as developed lands of the same class."

It will be seen from this that the Nonpartisan Leaguers think only of farms and farmers to which their organization is confined. It is up to the Single Taxers to broaden the movement by showing that the same principle should be applied to all land values. Organized labor will help us to do this as labor mainly sees city values.

I spoke of the moribund Single Taxers. The most encouraging feature of our work are the new recruits. The average business man feels the increasing burden of taxation. He is looking for relief. The Single Tax League is the only organization that offers him a definite plan. Texas, like many other States, has about reached the limit under the general property tax. Years ago we resorted to "intangible assets" with our railroad, bridge and ferry companies. We are levying occupation taxes on gross receipts of utility companies. Our tax "experts" (?) are now proposing to broaden the range of "intangible values" so as to take in many apparently prosperous enterprises. In fact we are resorting to the Turk's method of hunting out where the money seems to be and going after it. These experts also propose to hunt out all the personal property that has been escaping. They also propose to follow Uncle Sam's example of going after incomes, but having the minimum limit \$5,000. These are current discussions, all of which promises well for the Single Tax. The average business man has to be bumped hard before he will see anything beyond his own ledger.

Some of the Single Taxers of the State have urged that we make the movement a political issue this year; that we

should have a candidate for Governor with the Single Tax as his chief plank. There has been considerable discussion, with final decision against the move now. It is the belief here that the State is not ready for it. Two years from now it can be. The issue was raised in the present legislature. It will be fought for in the next in such a way as to carry the fight into the election of 1922.

Missouri Notes

W. M. MARION REEDY, the esteemed and sadly abstemious editor of *Reedy's Mirror*, is again at his desk, after a delightful sojourn in the Jewish Hospital. He wishes the REVIEW to correct the report current that while there he conducted a "hunger strike" and was completely and forcibly fed. But let evil men beware, and good men rejoice, Bill's again at large.

There is a gathering of Single Taxers formally and officially once a month in the Public Library, but the real headquarters is 1026 Broadway, St. Louis. Here presides the veteran Steve Ryan, the man who dared introduce Rev. Father McGlynn to a St. Louis audience in the "dark days" when it meant sacrifice, and courage to stand for truth.

W. J. Flacy, of Kansas City, Mo., an untiring worker for the Single Tax, keeps literature in his establishment at 1018 East 8th St. ready to hand out to his customers and has made many converts to our cause, by his simple and effective style of presenting the problem and its remedy.

Harlan E. Read, author, and perhaps the best of story tellers (in both senses), spun to a delighted group in the "Statler" one evening a plain and unvarnished tale of a "movie picture" he had recently seen, something about the "Last of His Line." With rare skill he pictured it for us, and commented thereon, and with wit and fascinating humor portrayed the characters and the scenes. Well—Marion Reedy listened and when it was all told I noticed Reedy held a whispering session with friend Harlan Read and lo! the whole story appears in the next issue of the *Mirror* uncensored. Quick work.

The Single Taxers were so numerous at the Conference of "48" that friend Hopkins was fearful that if an announcement "that after the session the Single Taxers will meet in Room 1216" were publicly made, it would stampede the Conference. Why," he added, "I would feel obliged to go for I, also, am a Single Taxer."

Dr. William Preston Hill, State Chairman of the Single Tax Party of Missouri, is a potent force in this State. His scholarly attainments enable him with masterly skill to state his propositions and an inexhaustible fund of historical data furnishes convincing weight to his statements. He is a debater of rare skill, and an accomplished public

speaker. Dr. Hill's merit, distinction, and equipment, deserve a national audience.

Mr. Henry Priesmeyer, Treasurer of the Single Tax League, now a member of the State Committee of the party, has been an indefatigable worker in every movement for the advancement of the Single Tax.

It is comforting to announce that there is at least one young Single Taxer in St. Louis, in the person of "Bob" Webster, only sixteen years of age, but nearly six feet tall, a son of that sterling worker, Mr. Sheridan Webster. "Bob" has read "Progress and Poverty" twice and will be heard from in the future councils of the party.

JAMES A. ROBINSON,
National Organizer Single Tax Party.

Fairhope's Quarter Centennial.

ON Jan. 1st of this year was celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of Fairhope, the Single Tax colony on the shores of Mobile Bay. There was a dinner at noon and a general reception in the afternoon and evening of the same day.

Among the speakers at the dinner were Mrs. Cora Potter, Mrs. Young, Mrs. M. L. Johnson, President Commings, J. P. Hunnel, William Call and C. L. Coleman. Mr. E. B. Gaston then read the history of the Fairhope colony which appears in full in the issue of the *Fairhope Courier* of Jan. 9th. We quote a single paragraph:

"Unquestionably, the success of Fairhope has caused thousands of people to whose attention it has come, to consider the Single Tax as something of merit, containing some germ of great truth, even though in many cases, they have not been sufficiently impressed to become careful students of the proposition."

Mr. Gaston urged that the results achieved by the Fairhope policy should be brought before the Public Lands Committee. Mr. Gaston concluded his admirable history of the colony in these words:

"Certainly we Fairhoppers have cause for congratulation at the end of our first quarter century. But the question naturally arises, will the good work go on? Will those who succeed the pioneers 'carry on?'"

"I have faith that they will, for while another quarter century will, perhaps, see none left of the pioneers, a new generation is coming on, a generation trained to the conception of land as a common heritage, to be reduced to individual possession only for use in the production of real wealth, not as a means of extracting wealth from others; of public utilities to be conducted with a view solely to public service not of private graft."

POLITICAL economists talk as if the food supply was the result of years of saving. The truth is, the supply of one harvest is necessarily almost all consumed before the arrival of the succeeding harvest.—FRANCIS MINTON, M.A.