

**BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER.**

---

By **THE EDITOR.**

---

New Jersey is the present storm center of the movement. On another page we print the telling address of Hon. Mark M. Fagan, mayor of Jersey City under the Commission form of government recently adopted there. Nor is Mayor Fagan alone in his advocacy. The progressive leaders among the new Republicans are vying with one another in outspoken declarations for our principles. Perhaps the most remarkable utterance is that of Hon. Edmund B. Osborne, chairman of the Bull Moose party in the State, who has announced his candidacy for the governorship. He says:

"The challenge to the statesmanship of this generation is to seek out and destroy the causes of the undeserved and increasing poverty among the people who do the necessary work of the world. I am convinced that if we abolish privilege by law we can establish conditions under which every normal man can, by reasonable labor, support his family in decent comfort."

The Senate of Wisconsin has endorsed the home rule amendment, which will have to pass the next legislature before submission to the people.

The legislatures of Kansas and North Dakota have submitted amendments to permit the classification of property, and these will be voted on in 1914.

The Ohio legislature has proposed an amendment to exempt state and local bonds from taxation. This amendment passed ten years ago, but in the revised constitution state and local bonds were made taxable; it is now proposed to exempt them and the effort seems to have behind it an influential sentiment.

Governor Sulzer has surprised many, and some agreeably, by his appointment of a tax commission to revise the tax laws of the state. Three members of this commission of five are Single Taxers, known to all our readers. The three are William Lustgarten, John J. Hopper and Edward L. Heydecker. The other two members are Prof. Allyn A. Young and Thomas J. Creamer. Prof. Young is a member of the faculty of Cornell, and has spent many years in the study of the subject of taxation. He was formerly of the Washington University of St. Louis, and at the time of the pending of the Missouri Single Tax amendments took occasion, without committing himself unqualifiedly to our principles, to state favorably and with great fairness the position of the advocates of those amendments. He is far from being a reactionary. Hon. Thomas J. Creamer, while a member of the State Senate, aided materially in the passage of the franchise tax law.

It is a commission which reflects credit upon the governor. But as our readers may imagine, it has not escaped the criticism and attacks of the real estate interests. Allan Robinson, who is president of the Allied Realty Interests, and who seems to have taken it upon himself to act as the spokes-

man of the opposition to all measures for real tax relief, thus expresses his opinion and those of the favored class he represents in the following language to the Governor:

"I do not hesitate to say that the taxpayers of New York State view with the greatest apprehension the creation of a commission for the purpose stated, a majority of which is made up of Henry George Single Taxers. You will understand, of course, that I make no reflection upon the character or ability of either Messrs. Hopper, Heydecker, or Lustgarten, all of whom are known to be men of high standing in the community. The presence on the committee of no one of these gentlemen is a menace, but the fact that they form a majority of the committee is decidedly a menace."

The Society to Lower Rents and Reduce Taxes on Homes, which is behind the bill to halve the taxes on improvements, is actively circulating petitions for the submission of the Salent-Shapp Bill to a referendum, and is carrying on a large and successful number of outdoor meetings throughout the city. Single Taxers and others hold forth at these meetings. The "others" make Single Tax speeches too.

This news letter would not be complete if it were to omit mention of the propaganda activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. Out-door meetings have been and are conducted regularly on Monday evenings at 145th Street and Broadway; Thursdays, 157th Street and Broadway; Fridays, at 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, and Saturdays at 181st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. In Brooklyn out-door meetings are held every Friday evening at the corner of Court and Remsen Streets. Those who hold forth at these meetings are Charles James, Hyman Levine, Samuel Levy, Thomas Ferguson, M. W. Norwalk and others. A noticeable feature of these meetings is the large number of copies of Progress and Poverty sold, which has established a record for such sales. Fifty copies in one month and often a dozen at single meetings, are unprecedented.

The signatures to the straight-out Single Tax bill now sleeping in the legislature at Albany are increasing, and over one thousand have been sent in to the club.

The movement in Colorado has taken the form of amendments to the city charters, under the home rule amendment adopted last Fall, and second class cities may amend their charters so as to exempt 99 per cent. of the products of labor. The one per cent. is left to avoid the re-classification of property. Pueblo will vote this Fall on a new charter amendment which will take advantage of the present home rule provision. Denver is entangled in a struggle for commission government, so Single Taxers are doing but little there for the present. But in Pueblo, where John Z. White held forth in June, there is a good chance of carrying the charter which takes advantage of this home rule amendment. The papers of that city are giving a goodly amount of space to the proposed charter amendment, and just now Pueblo is a real Single Tax fighting ground. Geo. J. Knapp, who is the secretary of

the Single Tax League of Pueblo, says that if the fight is kept up with the present spirit there is little doubt of the passage of the amendment.

Single Taxers in Rhode Island are busy sending letters to taxpayers of which the following is the form:

Dear Sir:

Your tax for 1912 was as follows:

\$.....on Land at	\$.....per \$100,	\$.....
.....on Improvements.....	“	.....
.....on Personalty.....	“	.....
.....on Int. Personal.....	“	.....
	Total \$.....	.....

If Improvements and Personalty had been exempt, as they should have been, the rate on your land would have been \$.....per \$100. Your tax would have been \$.....of Land at \$.....per \$100, \$.....  
Decrease \$.....

You paid \$.....for public service and received only \$.....worth For land value, being the only value that varies with the extent and character of public service is absolutely the only measure of the value of public service.

Are you content to pay \$.....more than your fair share of running the.....knowing that this means that somebody else is paying \$..... less than his fair share, getting for nothing what costs you good money?

Are you willing to contribute 10%, or as much thereof as you can conveniently give, or what you would have saved in 1912 to help win the fight for Land Value Taxation in Rhode Island?

If so, please remit by check or P. O. money order to

Treasurer.

802 Lapham Bldg., Providence, R. I.

A great increase in the number and value of buildings continues to mark the city of Houston, Texas, under the benign tax administration of J. J. Pastoriza, and the reason, in the advertisement of the city sent out, is given in the fact that Houston, Texas, taxes land 70 per cent., improvements only 25 per cent., and cash, household rurniture, stocks and bonds not at all. Under this system Houston has thrived amazingly.

Mention was made in our last issue of Minnesota's Tax Commission's report with its very striking endorsement of the Single Tax, and its prediction that within the next ten or twenty years every taxing district in Western Canada would have resort to this method for raising its revenues. Minnesota has not been the most laggard of the States in tax reform, for all state and municipal bonds are exempt, money and credits are lightly taxed, and the tax on mortgages has given way to a registration tax to be paid once for all when

the mortgage is recorded, which is similar to the measure secured by the tax reformers in this State.

New York is not the only State in which Single Taxers are appointed to tax commissions. In Nebraska a commission of five has been appointed by the editors of that State to examine into the tax system, and our L. J. Quinby is chairman. This report is certain to attain wide newspaper publicity, and ought to provoke a discussion that will go deeper than current editorial writing upon these problems.

Canada moves ahead with every step, and signs increase that in the backward province of Ontario we shall soon see victory ahead. At the Toronto Methodist Conference in June the following resolutions were introduced by the indefatigable W. A. Douglass and adopted:

"Whereas, there is an infinite difference between the use of the land for the multiplication of crops, buildings and other products, and the use of the land by speculators, not to add anything to the welfare of mankind, but to secure a share of the wealth produced by the industry of their neighbors, Therefore, be it resolved, that this Conference strongly recommends that the assessment act be so amended as to encourage the use of the land for beneficent production, and remove the temptation of speculation."

The Anglican Synod met in St. James Parish Hall, Toronto, on June 19, and the Hon. S. H. Blake, K. C., delivered a strong, earnest speech in support of a resolution declaring that land speculators can succeed in gaining a profit only by despoiling industry of its rightful reward, and that this Synod denounce this method of gaining wealth as contrary to the equities taught by Jesus Christ, and urge that the Assessment Act be so amended as to remove this temptation.

---

THERE is a natural and divine law anterior and superior to all human and civil law, by which every people has a right to live off the fruits of the soil on which they are born and in which they are buried.—CARDINAL MANNING.

---

CAREFULLY observe that a tax on land values is a tax on *land rent*, not on *land*. It will produce a reduction in the rent and price asked for land, and will bring land into the market.

---

WE wish to abolish all these unjust taxes which deny a man the results of his labor, and substitute a simple tax on land values—values which are created by the community as a whole, and which are greatest where revenue is most needed.