

stitutional change the immediate remedy for taxation evils in Illinois lies in the same disregard of tax laws as has made Houston, Texas, famous—and prosperous.

S. D.

### What California Has Lost.

The defeat of Home Rule in Taxation in California is as the conservative Los Angeles Graphic remarks, "a triumph for the Miller and Lux monopolists and their ilk." It is more than that, however. It is a postponement of industrial freedom in California. It lengthens by at least two years the time that California labor must submit to injustice and oppression. It is a misfortune which affects in the same way those mistaken ones who opposed it as those who supported it. Fortunately other states will seize the opportunity which California has rejected. That alone will serve to open the eyes of California voters to what they have lost. The "Miller and Lux monopolists and their ilk" will be kept busy indeed should they continue in their attempts to block industrial emancipation.

S. D.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### THE OHIO ELECTION.

Cleveland, O., Nov. 10.

There is comfort for singletaxers in the Ohio election. True, an apparently reactionary state ticket has been elected. On the other hand, the protest against Governor Cox was due primarily to his conscientious and efficient enforcement of undemocratic measures. One of these was a liquor license law, which he threatened to uphold locally with the militia of the State.

More to the point is the centralizing of the assessing function, which has forced a rigorous search for personal property, in contrast with the old custom of self-assessment under locally elected assessors. The people evidently will not tolerate the honest enforcement of a dishonest law. They prefer dishonest enforcement of dishonest laws and conceivably might be persuaded to vote for the honest enforcement of honest laws.

The result in Cuyahoga county is particularly significant. Mayor Baker made a vigorous platform fight against the Board of Commerce tax amendment and boldly ascribed the city's unfavorable financial condition to the \$200,000,000 of land increment that had been privately absorbed in the last four years. He secured the commitment of Cuyahoga county's legislative delegation to a home rule proposal as well as the gradual untaxing of buildings and commodities. As a result, Cuyahoga county went Democratic in a Republican year by 18,000 votes.

Do not overlook, either, the defeat of the Board of Commerce tax proposal, a measure whose meaning was never clear, but which was bad in so far as it was intelligible.

Robert Crosser's bold references to the land question in his fight for re-election also help to prove that plain speaking on the tax question is no longer bad politics in Ohio.

H. P. BOYNTON.

### NON PARTISANISM IN MINNESOTA.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 15, 1914.

The statement in The Public of November 13, that the Socialists elected one member of the Minnesota House of Representatives is both true and false.

Here are the facts: In the State of Minnesota all public officials, except Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Auditor of State, Railway and Warehouse Commissioners and Clerk of the Supreme Court, are elected on a non-partisan basis. None are elected as Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists, Socialists or any other party.

Richard Jones of Duluth, an avowed Socialist, a lawyer, and the youngest man in the Senate, was elected over T. M. Pugh, the oldest man in the last Senate (84). Pugh was a consistent reactionary who has opposed all fundamental democratic and progressive measures for four sessions of the legislature.

Jas. W. Woodfil, another Socialist, was elected to represent the extreme northeast corner of the State, including the counties of Lake and Cook.

Andrew O. Devold, another avowed Socialist, was elected to represent the Eleventh and Twelfth wards of the city of Minneapolis.

It is probable that a majority of both houses will favor legislation looking toward the Singletax.

I think Minnesota is the only State that has a non-partisan legislature, county and city officers and all judges and justices.

C. J. BUELL.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### A LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

Cincinnati, Ohio, November 10.

The Cincinnati Times-Star's staunch support of the protective tariff, and clear and forcible arguments from time to time in favor of the same, lead me, a free trader, to see the benefits of protection, and to suggest even a further and more radical application of the protective principle than has yet been offered by the G. O. P.

We ought to have a tariff wall around the state of Ohio. True, the constitution of the United States forbids any such thing, but constitutions can be changed, and the voice of progress demands that it should be done. We ought to be protected from the cheap labor of Pennsylvania and other states east; we ought to keep out the pauper products of Kentucky and other southern states, and close our western border to Indiana and other cheap western communities.

It can be easily seen that with a high tariff wall around the state, protected now only on the Canadian side, that prices would at once rise, and with them wages, while the moneys received from imports would completely defray the expenses of the state

government, eliminating all taxes and giving everybody employment.

Take potatoes for example. Our farmers are obliged to sell their potatoes for fifty cents per bushel, while hundreds of carloads of cheap Michigan potatoes come in here absolutely free. With a tariff of 50 cents per bushel on potatoes, our farmers could at once raise their price to one dollar per bushel since the Michigan potatoes, after paying the duty, would cost that much. This would encourage the potato industry in Ohio, and give employment to hundreds of men.

Or, suppose we had a tariff of \$2 per barrel on flour. Our merchants and manufacturers could at once raise their price to that extent, thus shutting out the cheap Minnesota flour, or compelling the makers thereof to pay \$2 per barrel toward the support of our state government.

Ohio is a large producer of coal, but she has to compete with the cheap coal of Kentucky and West Virginia. Give us a tariff of one dollar per ton on coal and see what an impetus would be given to Ohio mines. More men would be employed at better wages, and they could then buy more of the products of other Ohio industries.

Ohio has millions of dollars invested in breweries and distilleries, but our manufacturers must compete with the cheap beer of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and even that which made Milwaukee famous. Give us a dollar a barrel on beer and a dollar a gallon on alcohol and see what an impetus will be given this industry.

And, likewise on down the list, let us have a tariff on everything that Ohio produces. In that way outsiders will pay all the revenue needed to run the state government, and our people will get the benefits. There may be some slight objections to this program, but to tariff advocates, these are, of course, entirely chimerical. What the people want is work, a steady job all the year round, and we are the boys who know how to provide the jobs.

One thing I forgot to mention, we would need a respectable standing army, and a naval program calling for two battleships each year. Kentucky, jealous of our prosperity, might want to annex Cincinnati, or perhaps Pennsylvania might look with covetous eyes on Cleveland. The expense of acquiring and maintaining this armament would, of course, be met from the tariff receipts, so that our people would not notice it. With a sufficient army and navy, we could command the respect of neighboring states, and furthermore, there is no more potent argument for peace. But of course "it takes time" to make the people see these things.

J. WILCOX.



Earning a living—that's a cinch,  
But getting a living—there's the pinch.  
—Unidentified.



"Public meetings for Parliamentary Reform which do not tend to systematic work (as was not the case in the League) will be viewed by the aristocracy with complacency, as the harmless blowing off of the steam."—Richard Cobden.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

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Week ending Tuesday, November 17, 1914.

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### Woman Suffrage Convention.

The convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association began at Nashville on November 12. In her opening remarks the president, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, said in part:

All that women are asking is that men believe what they themselves say. They say they want a government "of the people, by the people and for the people," but by their treatment of women regarding the ballot they show they do not believe that. . . . The men of America make much of their boasted democracy, but this government is not a democracy; it is an aristocracy of sex.

The first action of importance taken was construed to be against conducting of indiscriminate blacklist campaigns against all congressional candidates of a party not committed in favor of suffrage, as has been carried on by the Congressional Union. This was said to be implied in resolutions adopted on November 13 declaring "That the congressional committee give out information and suggestions for congressional work in any state only through the machinery established for congressional work by the state associations or the majority of state associations of that state, who shall determine how this material shall be used." The next question that arose concerned the work before Congress. Opinion was divided as to whether there should be concentrated effort on securing passage of the Bristow-Mondell suffrage amendment, or whether the Shafroth amendment and other measures should also be included. The Bristow-Mondell amendment if adopted would at once enfranchise women throughout the union. The Shafroth amendment would institute in each state the right of eight per cent of the voters to compel a referendum on the suffrage question. By a vote of 194 to 100 it was decided not to limit work to efforts for the Bristow-Mondell measure. On November 14, a resolution was adopted directing the congressional committee to work for a federal statute giving women in all States the right to vote for Congressmen, Senators and presidential electors. In the discussion over this proposition the fact of its constitutionality was shown under the provision of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution which forbids abridgement by any State of "the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." At the final session on November 16 resolutions were adopted declaring the Association opposed "to holding any political party