

NEWS—DOMESTIC

California

THE campaign for the Single Tax amendment to be voted on at the next general election was opened by a dinner in San Francisco, June 2nd. Joseph S. Thompson, president of the Pacific Electric Manufacturing Company, presided and opened the programme with a witty and interesting address. Excellent addresses were made by the brilliant orator, Walter Thomas Mills and John D. Barry, the noted journalist and lecturer, who has since consented to be a member of the campaign committee. Dr. Ethel Lynn gave an extended outline of organization plans and work in a manner which showed her to be familiar with this subject. E. Backus and two or three others also spoke. The meeting was well attended and was considered a decided success.

About a dozen Single Taxers met in Oakland and considerable organization work was begun. Mr. George Black represented the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa county, and was authorized to effect an organization. He reported that a strong organization could be developed and that he would undertake that work. George Cartwright accepted the chairmanship for Stanislaus county, Dr. Ethel Lynn of San Francisco county, and P. Y. Albright consented to help organize Alameda county.

A motion was carried that Mr. Frank Carroll of San Rafael be requested to co-operate with Mr. A. H. DeLisle in forming an organization in Marin county.

Mr. J. H. Talbot took an active part in the meeting and arranged to interview voters and distribute literature. Messrs. Haggstrom and Christensen, also Mrs. Cartwright and Mrs. Ross, took an active part in the meeting.

Arthur Brisbane made a favorable reference to the Single Tax in one of his recent articles in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Joseph S. Thompson is now treasurer for the Great Adventure League. Mr. Cartwright did excellent work as temporary treasurer.

Gerrit J. Johnson, Mrs. Lona Ingram Robinson and others in close touch with the work during former campaigns are unanimous in their statements that more activity was shown during the last campaign than during any previous one. The Anti-Single Tax League Amendment was snowed under by nearly 125,000 majority and the Single Tax Amendment gained 100,000 votes over the votes of the preceding election. The present campaign gives promise of still greater activity as the field of operation has been enlarged.

One-half the population of California is in San Francisco and Los Angeles with their suburbs. More people live in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Alameda Counties than in the other fifty-five counties combined. San Francisco is the center of the commerce and industry of California. It is the focus of exchanges—the great banking and financial beehive of the Western World. The great centers of learn-

ing are just at its door at Berkeley and Palo Alto. It is here in this great center, this great political and economic metropolis, with its population of a million people within its surroundings where the foundation for organization and intensive cultivation must be laid.

We have secured the services of Dr. Ethel Lynn as Organizer. Dr. Lynn has spent years at organization work. She comes equipped with ripe experience as a lecturer and successful author.

W. L. Ross,

Maryland

AS REVIEW readers know, the towns of Capitol Heights and Perryville exempted improvements and personal property in 1917. Perryville, unfortunately, returned to the old tax system a year ago. This was done at the direct instance of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which paid its taxes under protest and kept the last legislature from granting the town a new charter in which the Single Tax and a number of other advanced features were included. Ninety per cent. of the inhabitants, including the head commissioner, are in the employ of the railroad, the few outsiders were apathetic and the railroad's representatives had their way.

Capitol Heights, however, still flies the Single Tax flag, and Garrett Park and Hyattsville levy slightly lower rates upon improvements than upon land.

As a direct result of Single Tax propaganda, the towns of Easton and Gaithersburg doubled their assessments on land without raising improvements, but no further concrete results have yet been noted in the smaller localities.

In 1919 Baltimore City struck some thirty millions from its assessment rolls by exempting all raw and finished products in the hands of manufacturers, and a remarkable industrial expansion has followed. In the Fall of that year we had a rousing campaign for two charter amendments proposing the exemption of merchandise and a 10% annual reduction of the rate on buildings. Also a heavy increase on certain undeveloped sections which now enjoy a quasi-exemption. These interests raised the cry of Single Tax and succeeded in getting the Court of Appeals to rule the measure off the ballot. One of the excuses given was that the legislature has never passed an enabling act for the Tax Classification Amendment adopted in 1915. The 1920 session also failed to provide this, but we still hope to secure it next year.

CHARLES J. OGLE.

"LABOR disgraces no man, but some men disgrace labor."
—*Naco News*, published by National Malleable Castings Co. And by owning the earth, some men don't have to labor at all.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.

SOME want to "return people to the land" instead of returning the land to the people.—H. M. H.

ABOLISH Poverty and Culture will take care of itself.
H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.