

secured, the Oregon Single Taxers will use a page of this paper and flood Oregon with the issue.

Meetings are held in the library every week. Early in January, Lincoln Steffens spoke in the New Labor Temple, the first meeting held in that hall. He redeemed himself largely from the speech made a year ago, and stated that Marxian socialism had not been a howling success in Russia. Mr. U'Ren presided at this meeting.

The Oregon Labor Press in attacking Mr. Hermann, for whom it apparently cherishes an animosity, says: "We have no quarrel with the Single Tax."

The names on the Petition lists are being copied, sixteen thousand in Portland alone, and literature will be needed to send to all these names. The great need is literature, in Oregon as elsewhere.

Rhode Island Wakes Up.

SINGLE TAXERS of Providence welcomed Robert C. Macauley on Sunday, January 1st, where he spoke under the auspices of the Church Community Forum on "The Moral Basis of Taxation." The *Providence Journal* gave a good report of the address. We quote in part:

"He set forth as a remedy for all the evils that, in his opinion, are resultant of the taxation system of the Federal and municipal governments of the country, the Single Tax plan, by which taxes on everything but land values would be done away with.

"The heritage of the people from God," said the speaker, "is the earth. Through the centuries grasping people have assumed property rights to the lands of the world, forcing other people to pay them for the privilege of living on the land and using it to bring forth various products. It is our coming to believe that a few people own the earth that results now in 7,000,000 in America being unemployed, 10,000,000 being paupers, and only 5 per cent. of the population of the country having a share in its lands.

"The only right a man has to own property is to have produced it himself or to hold a bill of sale from the one who did."

Toronto's Tax Exemption Petition

ONE of the most interesting campaigns in the history of the movement in Ontario, was inaugurated on Sept. 1st, when a representative committee of Toronto Single Taxers, including Ald. Honeyford—our champion in the City Council—organized to make the Municipal Tax Exemption Act effective in Toronto.

The amendment of the Act, that permitted this action, is as follows:

Where a petition signed by at least ten per cent. of the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws is presented to the council on or before the first day of November in any year, praying for the submission of a by-law under

this Act and setting out in the petition the percentage of exemption desired each year, it shall be the duty of the council to submit a by-law in conformity with the petition to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws on the day fixed for holding the poll at the next annual municipal election, and if the voting is in favor of the by-law it shall be the duty of the council to forthwith pass the by-law, and such by-law shall not be repealed except as provided in section 11.

The petition form circulated by volunteer and paid workers, read as follows:

"THEREFORE we, the undersigned, hereby petition the Council of the City of Toronto that, under and in accordance with the said Act as amended, there be duly submitted to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws, at the next annual municipal election after the presentation to council of this petition a by-law exempting from taxation for all purposes including school purposes for the first year in which the by-law takes effect 10 per cent. of the assessed value of improvements, income and business assessment, and from year to year thereafter an additional 10 per cent. of such assessed value until the whole of such assessed value is so exempted from taxation."

Ward captains were appointed, literature was prepared and distributed, meetings were held in the Labor Temple and other important centers.

Though our objective was 10,000 names, the required number of signatures or 10% of those on the civic list would be about 7,200.

On Nov. 1st, 6,000 signatures had been secured without the aid of any of the city papers, though they gave the movement much criticism and general publicity.

As the necessary number of names was not secured in time to force the hands of the Council, this year, it was decided to continue the work until 10,000 or 12,000 signatures had been received, and present a monster petition to the 1922 Council.

By December 15th, it was found that 12,000 property owners had signed our petition, and nearly 1,000 municipal voters. Nearly \$1,000 was subscribed for the expenses of the campaign, and above all, many new friends were discovered for the movement.

A number of college students assisted in this work and incidentally, had their first lessons in the political economy of Henry George.

It is encouraging to know that not only is Premier Drury, of Ontario, a Single Taxer, but so also is the Hon. T. A. Crerar, the able leader of the National Progressive Party, with a following of 64 members, elected to the Federal House, on Dec. 6th, and all pledged to the Taxation of Land Values as a means of securing national revenue.

Late in the year Alderman Resk, our chief opponent in the City Council, introduced a motion, asking that the electors be permitted by vote to repeal the partial exemption of homes by-laws, so unanimously adopted by the

electors on Jan. 1st, 1922. As there was no demand for this action on the part of the electors, the aldermen defeated this reactionary motion by 13 to 4 votes. S. T.

National Executive Committee Single Tax Party Meets

A MEETING of the National Executive Committee of the Single Tax Party was held Sunday, February 5, at Party Headquarters in this city. There were present Messrs Wallace and Loew, of New Jersey; Messrs Macaulay, Robinson, Haug and Dix, of Pennsylvania, and Messrs Van Veen and Miller of New York. Others who came from Philadelphia, not members of the Committee were Messrs Hetzel and Schaeffer.

A message of congratulation was sent to the Ohio State committee on the nomination of a State ticket, and a similar congratulatory message to Rhode Island where a movement to the same end is on foot.

A communication was sent to Arthur Griffith, Provisional President of the Irish Free State, urging the adoption of the taxation of the rent of land, and indicating the way out of her economic difficulties. This letter is accompanied by a copy of Henry George's Land Question and the Open Letter to De Valera, by Joseph Dana Miller.

A suggestion for holding an International Conference in Geneva this summer was well received, but the proposal was laid over for fuller discussion at the next executive meeting to be held three weeks from date.

Texas Notes

TEXAS is still on the Single Tax map and will continue to be the scene of activity until a large measure of the Single Tax principle is written into our Constitution. What I mean by a large measure of the principle can be understood better by a statement of our programme. Our Constitution now reads, "all property" shall be assessed for taxation. The change proposed is that "all land" shall be assessed for taxation and to make it more definite the amendment will recite that no taxes shall be assessed against improvements in or on land, or against personal property. We shall leave the power to the Legislature to impose an inheritance tax, taxes on incomes of natural persons and corporations, and occupation taxes on businesses that come within the police powers.

It is probable that the next Legislature may pass an income tax law to meet the growing needs of the State. The next Legislature will be elected this year and I believe will be a very much more progressive and courageous one than the present. It will be solidly Democratic but our progressive fights in this State are made in the primaries held in July. There are between 200,000 and 300,000 independent voters made up of farmer groups and organized labor that will come into the Democratic primaries with an agreed programme wherever they are strong enough to

control by holding the balance of power. The main effort of this big vote will be centered on Legislative candidates.

The press of the State is opening its columns to Single Tax letters and articles as never before. We encourage letters to the press on every possible occasion. Some of our people have finally realized how easily the people can be reached in this way. Every city and town has some local problem at issue. Almost all of them lend themselves to a discussion of taxation, whether it is the location of a factory, adjustment of a public utility, improvements of streets or what not. They are all touched by the tax question.

Opportunities to address business organizations are increasing. Women's Clubs also are calling for information on the Single Tax. We have a profound and determined move to improve our public schools. That movement is shot through and through with the tax problem, how to raise more revenues and how to reach the big property owners that have long stood in the way of educational development. I am to speak to the Manufacturers Association of San Antonio this evening. Two weeks ago I spoke before the Kiwanis Club of Waco and had more than half a column of excellent reports in each of the two daily papers. Fifteen Labor papers in the State carry an article on the Single Tax every week. Trade papers of the State request articles written with special reference to the interests of the trade they represent.

The Single Taxers of the country are entitled to know what we are doing in Texas and how we are doing it. We are using and directing the thought engendered by these troublous times. We are giving the people an opportunity to discover how simple and practical are the fundamental laws that must finally control and to which our statutory laws must conform if we hope for peace and prosperity.

WM. A. BLACK.

NEWS—FOREIGN

Single Tax Initiative In Brazil

FROM the *Journal of Commerce* (Jornal do Commercio) of Sao Paulo, Brazil, of October 12, 1921, we take the following significant items of news:

"*Land Tax.*—In its meeting of yesterday, the Agricultural Society of Sao Paulo approved unanimously a motion of Messrs. Octaviano Alves de Lima and Joaquin Bento de Lima, congratulating the President of the State on his appointment of Dr. Luis Silveira for an investigation of the practical means of applying this Tax. The motion was drafted as follows:

"To the Hon. Dr. Washington Luis Pereira de Souza, President of the State of Sao Paulo:

"Whereas, the newspapers of the city publish the notice that Your Excellency has intrusted to Dr. Luis Silveira the task of putting into practical shape all the information which is available in our country up to date on the Land Tax,