

## THE STANDARD

Vol. X #26.

## DIRECT FEDERAL TAXATION.

A petition to the House of Representatives, praying for the adoption of a system of direct taxation in conformity with the Constitution, has been prepared and printed by C.H. Vorhes, of Maynard, Iowa. On the back of the form is a brief statement of the advantages of direct taxation, and a specimen tax blank for national, State and county assessments, by which the taxpayers would know precisely for what he was called on to pay. W.E. Brokaw, in sending me this petition blank, says:

"Is not the most practical Federal question we can urge a direct tax? This petition most Democrats can circulate as well as sign. It shows the most feasible substitute for a tariff, and brings free trade within the range of practical politics, without resorting to income taxes. Cannot the radical Democrats be induced to take hold and push this? The very form on the back is a revelation to lots of men who have never thought of getting tax receipts for what they pay Uncle Sam. Reading it will make free traders where other things have failed. It should be undertaken in such States as the Democrats can be induced to take hold, systematically by townships and wards, every voter in it being personally solicited for his signature. It can be done by resident free traders, a record being kept of all signers, the ward manager sending the petitions when his ward is complete to the man in charge of the county, he to the State. If this work is started, at once it will greatly aid in electing a free trade Senate and President. If one State, say

New York or Michigan, adopts the plan, others will follow. Let our influential single tax Democrats show the State committee that it will make votes."

In all of which I heartily concur. While the single tax men are pushing the question of taxation locally, as they are in so many different parts of the country, the time is ripe for pushing the question of direct taxes in national politics. The radical element that, without having as yet preached the single tax, has been brought by the discussion of the tariff question into hostility to protection, is ready for an aggressive movement; and all that is needed to make them out and out free traders is the bringing forward of some practical proposition for raising the Federal revenue without customs duties.

HENRY GEORGE.

Dec. 30, 1891.