

News of the Movement

Dr. H. Wahle and Henry E. Monroe, a well-known San Francisco attorney, will debate on the Single Tax at Trinity Center, Twenty-third street near Mission street, San Francisco, on Wednesday evening, March 8.

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Wm. L. Ross spoke at Rank and File Hall, Sunday evening, February 5.

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Dr. Mary D. Hussey writes from New Jersey that she expects to put in several months at Single Tax work in California this year. Dr. Hussey did fine work during the last campaign.

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Dr. Edward L. Hardy, president of the State Teachers' College of San Diego, was the principal speaker at the monthly dinner of the San Diego Single Tax Society, Friday evening, February 3. The meeting was held at the Y. W. C. A. Cafeteria Banquet Room as usual.

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Single Tax street meetings in San Francisco draw large crowds. We want more speakers and more meetings.

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Dr. Ng Poon Chew was the principal speaker at the dinner given at the Washington Hotel by The Great Adventure League on February 7. Dr. Chew spoke on "What Has the Washington Conference Accomplished for China?" Wm. L. Ross and Joseph S. Thompson, who presided, spoke also. Although it was a rainy evening there was a good attendance and everybody was pleased.

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The working program adopted by the State convention, where the Non-Partisan League of California was launched in January, included a plank demanding the exemption of farm and home improvements from taxation. George A. Briggs introduced an amendment to include the exemption of all other labor products. The amendment did not carry, but an animated discussion followed its introduction. Speeches favoring the Single Tax were made by George A. Briggs, W. L. Ross, George Cartwright, Charles James and Walter Thomas Mills, who presided.

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H. A. Mason, secretary of the California League of Municipalities and expert in the office of the Board of Supervisors, has accepted an invitation to speak at the Single Tax dinner to be given at the Washington Hotel, San Francisco, in March.



The Henry George Standard

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The object of this publication is to abolish every tax now levied on the people of the United States and collect the entire rent of land for Federal, State and local expenses. The rent of land belongs to the people, not the landlords.

The Antis Ruffled

The old wolf of privilege has his fur ruffled again. This is made plain by some recent statements of the San Francisco newspapers. The following editorial appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on February 4:

THE SINGLE TAX AGAIN

We Shall Vote On It Every Two Years Until We Change Our Initiative Law

A correspondent writes us that "an automobile is on our streets bearing banners inscribed, 'Vote for the Single Tax and get your home free and a good living.'" He states that four years ago a paper advocating the Single Tax used the following argument:

"The people of Russia, who only yesterday were the starving slaves to a Czarist aristocracy, are now for the first time living on their own lands, in their own homes and working their own fields and factories.

... People do not starve when there are none to take the food from their mouths. ... When the people of any country go hungry it is because they are denied access to natural resources. The people of Russia have taken their natural resources and also their industries and will not go hungry."

And so on for far more than we have space to quote.

Comment is unnecessary. Millions of Russians have starved and are starving, nor can the contributions of the whole world save but a minority of them. And yet it is by such statements as we quote that the Single Tax is advocated, not by all Single Taxers, but by those whose utterances reach and influence the great majority of those who vote for the Single Tax. A man who got rich making soap and selling it left a large part of his fortune to support a propaganda for the Single Tax, and as long as our laws remain as they are we shall have such doctrines as we have quoted brazenly advocated every two years at the expense of foolish men and women with a surplus of money.

If 5 or 10 per cent of our voters wish to propose a law badly enough to voluntarily go somewhere and sign a petition the law ought

to be submitted. If they do not it ought not to be submitted. We shall have these shameless performances as long as our law permits anyone with a few thousand dollars to hire people to get signatures to petitions for laws which few of the signers know anything or care anything about. The remedy is to permit no initiative proposition to be submitted except upon affidavit that nobody has paid one cent for securing signatures to the petition. The present law permits silly plutocrats to keep us in continual turmoil.

The correspondent who wrote to the Chronicle must surely be afflicted with strabismus, or, to use plain Market street English, he must have just squinted at the signs on our automobile. The quotation is not within gunshot of being correct. Everybody knows this who has read the signs.

How can we be expected to believe the further quotation, which is about Russia that the Chronicle says their correspondent read four years ago? When he hits so wide of the mark the first time, how can we be expected to believe the second statement?

Doesn't the Chronicle know what has impoverished Russia? The Chronicle and the whole plutocratic tribe of monopoly defenders ignore the fact that Russia was lying on her back exhausted and bleeding when the czar's armies broke down. The people of Russia were compelled to stagger to their feet and manage their own government. With famine caused by lack of rain and with broken-down transportation, added to the brutal conduct of her former allies in blockading her ports, what can we expect in Russia but starvation?

But the Chronicle mixes a little sense with its nonsense. It admits that, in advocating the Single Tax, all Single Taxers do not use such statements as they have quoted. Yet it says it is such statements that reach and influence the great majority of those who vote for the Single Tax. Oh, judge!

This editorial article also says that money left by a soap manufacturer pays for securing the signatures to the initiative petition. Joseph Fels, the manufacturer hinted at, died eight years ago and no money is being contributed to the California movement by Mrs. Fels, or from any fund left by Mr. Fels.

The Chronicle wants to change the initiative law SO THAT A SINGLE TAX AMENDMENT cannot be submitted to the voters except by securing a number of signatures so large that it would be prohibitive. The Chronicle and the rest of the ants tried their best to hamstring the Single Tax by crippling the initiative at the last election, but their amendment was defeated by nearly 125,000 majority. They are perfectly willing to use the present initiative law for their own purposes, but want to deny the same opportunity to those who would establish the Single Tax.

The San Francisco Examiner also has called attention to

our car. See what Hamilton, who writes the political news, has to say about it. The following appeared on February 1:

SINGLE TAX APPEARS

I saw a little automobile running the streets yesterday that had a tendency to send chills down the spines of property owners and realtors. For on the front of the machine was a banner reading: SINGLE TAX MEANS LESS RENT, MORE JOBS

And a rear view of the small car disclosed the legend: VOTE FOR SINGLE TAX, NOVEMBER, 1922

The car bore the number 563439. And so that cruel war is on once more.

The newspapers also inform us that the State Association of California realtors, in their convention here recently, passed a resolution, "Supporting fully the work of the Anti-Single Tax Association"; also a resolution, "Urging future students to take the real estate course at the University of California."

When Marcus West called our attention to the value of advertising we agreed with him. We were glad to take his advice. We decorated our little car with flags and banners and Single Tax signs, and every day it is on the street unless it rains. It has much more than paid for itself in publicity. Thousands have had their attention attracted to these signs and have read them. As John Cairns said of the Single Tax slogans he had painted on his own car, "They are great thought provokers." It is to be hoped that others will adopt this easy method of publicity. It even inspires the newspapers to help us along.

W. L. R.

The Curse of California

It is not to be wondered that California is cursed with millions of acres of idle lands—lands fertile and productive—when it is considered that the great proportion of the holdings are in the hands of large corporations. In Siskiyou county, for instance, the Central Pacific Railroad owns 660,000 acres, over one-third of all the taxable land in the county, paying less than 10 cents an acre taxes on it. And John S. Chambers, State Controller, had the audacity to declare in a pamphlet that raising the taxes on these acres would raise the taxes of home owners! The Southern Pacific owns one-fifth of all the timber land in the State of California. In San Bernardino county alone the Southern Pacific holds 650,000 acres. In Merced county Miller & Lux own 245,000 acres. Just a little Single Tax would make some of these big fellows drop part of their idle holdings. Is there any wonder they get excited over Single Tax? Is there any wonder the Anti-Single Tax League has plenty of funds?

Every dollar counts now for the great campaign ahead. Send what you can—and give till it hurts—to stamp out the curse in California.