

*Can any thing like this be done in Mass.?
Note the political method.*

TO THE VOTERS OF WEST VIRGINIA

According to the Report of the United States Geological Survey for 1911 West Virginia has 17,000 square miles, or 10,880,000 acres, of coal lands, containing 78,420,000 acre-feet of coal, or 149 billion tons, worth, at 25c. per ton, \$37,250,000,000. Less than 1 per cent is being worked.

It also has 2,729,894 acres of oil, of which 2,689,188 are leased. About 98 per cent is held out of use. There are about 13,000 producing oil wells and about 6,000 gas wells.

Most of these oil and gas and coal lands are owned or leased by non-residents.

A tax of 25c. per acre-foot of coal would yield \$19,605,000; and this would be no burden except on those holding coal lands out of use.

A tax of \$2 per acre on the lessees of UNUSED leased oil and gas lands would yield about \$5,400,000.

Such total tax of about 25 millions of dollars, or 10 times the present revenue, would be paid almost wholly by non-resident monopolists; would give 10 times as good roads, schools, and other public utilities as now exist; would compel increased production of coal and oil and gas, and prices would fall; and this increased production would employ more labor, and wages would rise; and all these results would make all West Virginia people the most prosperous in the Union, and poverty and crime would almost disappear.

It is commonly stated as a fact that the State is controlled by the oil and coal interests. How long are the people going to stand it! If they don't elect a legislature next November that will enact such a tax law, they will well deserve to bear the slavish burden that now rests upon them. Nominate and elect no man to the

next legislature, regardless of personality or party, who does not publicly and daily pledge himself to enact such a law. It is up to the voters themselves, and they must begin the work now, and keep it up until election day, and then see that each legislator keeps his pledge. Let every voter realize that he counts as a factor only when he insists personally that candidates comply.

Study this until you thoroughly understand it.

It cost about 2 cents to place this paper in your hands. What is it worth to you? This campaign cannot be carried on unless those to be benefited contribute something to help. Donate 10c., \$1, or \$10—according to your ability. Bulletins showing the progress of the campaign throughout the whole State will hereafter be sent to contributors; and they will be quite interesting.

You are now taxed to pay half the expense of local government of the District of Columbia. The land speculators in the District are the sole beneficiaries of this bounty, and all the rest of the people there are greatly injured by the resulting extortionate prices of land. Are you willing to stand this tax? If not, write forthwith to Sen. Wm. E. Chilton, Washington, D. C., and tell him so; protest against the continuance of the "half-and-half," and urge that all said local revenue be raised by a tax on ground rentable values as proposed by me in the bill presented to his Committee. Later write the same to Sen. Nathan Goff and to your Representative.

If you sympathize with the foregoing, post it in a conspicuous place, and call the attention of others to it.

C. B. Hemingway, 902 12th St. N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

2 8/16.

Dear Mr. Mackendrick:

To help "Singletax for the District of Columbia!" please write forthwith, as Sec'y of your League, to each of your Senators and Representatives, and ask each to send you copies - as many as he can - of the report of the hearing of C. B. Hemingway before the Joint Committee on Fiscal Relations bet. U.S. & D.C. Ask each, if it is not yet printed, to request Sen. Chilton to have it printed.

Every singletaxer should read it.

The printing is being held up, to our detriment, and Rep. W. W. Bailey has been unable to get them. Support him.

Get all other clubs in Mass. to do the same. It is worth doing.

This will help in many ways.

Yours truly,

acknowledged
17 Feb + wrote
C. B. Hemingway.
Lodge & initials MM