

WEST MAKES WAR UPON SINGLE TAX

GOVERNOR AND TAX COMMISSION
TO SUBMIT PLAN.

Oregon Equal Taxation League Joins
Hands With Executive Against
Tricky U'Ren and Fels Fund
Propaganda.

At the request of the State Tax Commission, which intends in its own measures to prosecute vigorously the war against Single Tax, the Oregon Equal Taxation League withdrew its initiative petition against Single Tax. This petition was signed by almost 14,000 registered voters and represented the sentiment of at least 50,000 voters, whom it was impossible to reach in time. The signatures were obtained by voluntary circulators most of them farmers. Over 12,000 of the signatures were obtained outside Multnomah County.

Fearing a chaotic condition in the minds of voters, Governor West wrote to the Equal Taxation League in Portland requesting that their measure be withdrawn.

Issue Clear Says West.

By so doing, he said, "the issue will be clearly drawn between two systems of taxation—one of which is Single Tax, the other in opposition to Single Tax, and at the same time presenting a rational plan of tax reform which will remove many of those causes which breed discontent, and give life and support to many radical schemes of taxation."

The letter was signed by Governor Oswald West, Secretary of State Ben W. Olcott, State Treasurer Thomas B. Kay and Tax Commissioners J. B. Eaton and Charles W. Galloway.

"While not specifically declaring against Single Tax the bills of the State Tax Commission will have the effect of nullifying the U'Ren campaign, and make it impossible to secure Single Tax county legislation by trickery or otherwise," said Phil Metschan, president of the Equal Taxation League.

"The decided stand taken by the Governor and the Tax Commission against Single Tax renders it unnecessary for our league to bring our bill before the people at the next election.

Joint Work to Be Done.

"Our organization will now get behind the Commission's reforms and at the same time we shall continue our campaign against the Single Tax measures proposed by U'Ren and the paid beneficiaries and emissaries of the Fels Fund."

In writing to the Tax Commission and agreeing to withdraw its measure, the Equal Taxation League said:

"It appears to us, in view of the definite stand your Commission has taken against Single Tax, that by joining forces with you the opposition to the Single Tax propaganda in Oregon will be concentrated and made more effective and that confusion will be avoided. In other words as you say, 'the issue will be clearly drawn between two systems of taxation—one of which is Single Tax and the other in opposition to Single Tax.'"

The numbers of the tax measures on the ballot, which will bar Single Tax are 304, 305 and 308.

TEACHERS IN OPPOSITION.

If any one class of persons might be expected to favor Single Tax, it would be teachers and those who have studied Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." Yet the instructors of Oregon revolt at the scheme. They realize that Single Tax spells state ownership, and while personally they might be a little the gainer—for a time—they know that ultimately the taxes will be just as high or higher, for precisely the same sum as before will have to be raised. Willard W. Austen, County School Superintendent of Grant County, who lives at Hamilton, Oregon, is but one of the many teachers who boldly expresses himself on the subject. "I am now and have always been strongly opposed to the Single Tax idea," comments County School Superintendent Austen.

ACTION PLEASES NEWSPAPER.

The Grants Pass Observer recently had this to say, following the action of the Josephine County Grange in condemning the proposed Single Tax measure: "The action of the State Grange in condemning the proposed Single Tax bill will go a long way to putting an end to that fake measure in Oregon. No landowner who understands the Single Tax scheme will be foolish enough to vote for a measure, the real purpose of which is to destroy all private ownership in land."

THE PROHIBITION CONVENTION

The Prohibitionists met in convention July 26, at Dallas, and after organizing and appointing committees, proceeded to nominate a local ticket. The proceedings in part were as follows:

The Prohibition party, of Polk county, Oregon, in convention assembled in Dallas, on the 26th day of July, 1912.

Hereby resolve, That we give our hearty endorsement to the state and national platform of the prohibition party and candidates nominated by the conventions of the party, and pledge our hearty support to the "Out-to-Win" campaign of 1912 for nation, state, district and local offices.

We invite the co-operation of all citizens who believe in the destruction of the liquor traffic and the enactment of progressive measures. And call attention to the fact that in this county, the number of votes cast for the Prohibition Amendment in 1910 would be more than sufficient to elect every candidate on our county ticket.

The automobile campaign was left to the county executive committee and the organizer to make definite plans for, with a tentative route as follows: West Salem, 8:00 a. m.; McCoy, 9:30 a. m.; Ballston, 10:45 a. m.; Dallas, 12:30 p. m.; Monmouth, 2:30 p. m.; Independence, 3:30 p. m.; Falls City, 8:00 p. m.; all on August 19, and on the 20th Airline and Buena Vista will be visited in the forenoon.

The candidates for some of the county offices and O. A. Stillman, of Salem, candidate for congress from the first district, and B. Lee Paget, of Portland, candidate for United States senator, will accompany the automobile and give speeches at each of the points. This is the first time that the prohibitionists have ever put up an automobile campaign, but they are in an "Out-to-Win" campaign this year and people are beginning to realize that the prohibition party are winning and they are joining the water wagon brigade.

The nominating committee then brought in their report and the following candidates were nominated: Representative, Chester P. Gates, Dallas; County Judge, Peter Kurre, Independence; Commissioner, Oliver E. Dennis, Dallas; Sheriff, J. Ray Fawk, Rickreall; Assessor, A. G. Rempel, Dallas; Clerk, H. H. Dunkelberger, Dallas; School Superintendent, J. J. Arnold, from Rogue River Valley school district.

As this was also a joint representative convention and the candidate who had been nominated before had declined to accept the nomination, B. C. Black, of Newport, Lincoln county, was nominated. The convention, both county and joint representative, voted to empower the county executive committee of Polk county to fill all vacancies occurring by death or resignation of the county nominees or the nominee for joint representative.

The minutes of the convention were adopted and the convention then adjourned.

In the evening Mr. O. A. Stillman, candidate for congress from the first district, gave a strong address to a good-sized crowd in the court room. Mr. Stillman is an able, progressive and practical man and gave a very interesting discussion of the principles of good government and the issues of this campaign. His slogan is "Conscience and Intelligence in Politics" and we think it is about time when we should have this.

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Mr. Stillman certainly is a man that is capable of fulfilling the duties of congressman if elected, and with the assurance of support from some of the most prominent men in the district and the campaign that will be put out, we expect to see Mr. Stillman occupying a seat in congress this fall.

State Secretary E. E. Taylor was at the convention in the afternoon and gave an excellent address on the organization of our state, district and county work.

After the convention had adjourned the Dallas prohibitionists met and organized an "Out-to-Win" Prohibition Club, and elected temporary officers, as follows: President, C. P. Gates; secretary, D. G. Rempel; treasurer, H. H. Dunkelberger; reporter, A. G. Rempel.

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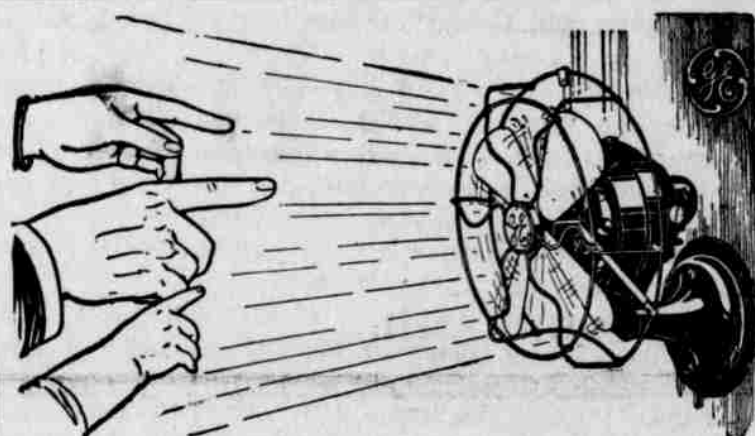
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