

THE EQUITY TAX LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

ORGANIZED at the State Tax Conference in San Francisco, Jan. 13th to 15th, 1917. The largest and most representative tax conference ever held in the State.

HON. JAMES G. MAGUIRE
Honorary President

J. STITT WILSON
President

J. H. RYCKMAN
Vice-President

D. WOODHEAD
Treasurer

STATE HEADQUARTERS

514 LISSNER BUILDING, 524 SOUTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES
H. W. McFARLANE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Telephones, F3040 and Broadway 5469



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July 19th, 1917.

COMPOSED OF duly accredited delegates from Single Tax, Socialist, Labor and all other organizations which have manifested a desire to unite their efforts on a democratic basis with other associations, to keep up intelligent discussion and agitation of the subject of taxation, with a view to improvement in the system and enlightenment as to the correct principles.

THE OBJECT OF THE LEAGUE is the abolition of involuntary poverty by the overthrow of land monopoly; and to prepare and have submitted to the voters from time to time, constitutional amendments of fundamental character designed to give immediate and permanent force and effect to the supreme purpose of our Republican form of government as expressed in the preamble to the Federal Constitution, as follows:

"IN ORDER to form a more perfect union; establish justice; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare; and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

TO VITALIZE THESE ASPIRATIONS there must be economic equality as well as political equality. There must be equality of opportunity in farming, in mining, in forestry, and in transportation and credit, as well as in manufacturing, trade and commerce and in all the varied activities of life.

HOW TO DO THIS is the problem of the hour. All cannot be done at once. But the sooner we make a beginning the quicker there will be a consummation.

AS A FIRST STEP, the Equity Tax League submits the following self-executing constitutional amendment; and asks the personal and financial support of all who wish to see California take the lead in progressive legislation; and immediately settle on her immense tracts of uncultivated and unimproved lands the millions of people that her matchless advantages of climate, soil, scenery and situation entitle her to.

EQUITY TAX LEAGUE'S AMENDMENT for submission to the voters at the general election in November, 1918.

The People of the State of California do enact as follows:

Art. XIII of the Constitution is hereby amended by adding the following as Sec. 5 thereof:

Sec. 5. On and after January 1, 1919, all personal property, except the franchises of public service corporations, shall be exempt from taxation thereafter to be levied.

On and after Jan. 1, 1920, all improvements on land shall be exempt from taxation thereafter to be levied, but the value of land and the value of such franchises shall not be so exempt.

Provided that Sections 11 and 14 of Article XIII of the Constitution shall not be affected in so far as they concern State revenues.

All provisions of Art. XIII of the Constitution in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This amendment shall be self-executing.

INITIATIVE PETITIONS must be signed by 100,000 qualified voters before December 31st, 1917—a large and difficult undertaking. Blanks will be cheerfully supplied to all who will circulate them. Immediate action is imperative.

Mr. A.C. Pleydell

New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-- As secretary and manager of the Equity Tax League, I take pleasure in directing your attention to the character and purpose of our organization, as shown in the printed margin hereof, which we hope will meet with your commendation. An executive committee of fifty or ore is being perfected which will be representative of the different organizations composing the League and of the best citizenship supporting it in all parts of the state.

Initiative petitions have been in the hands of ~~several~~ volunteer circulators several weeks, but paid canvassers will have to be employed if the required number of signatures is obtained in time for filing by December 31st, 1917. This will require efficient campaigning and that requires money. It is estimated that \$7,500.00 will put our amendment on the ballot and enable us to inaugurate a state-wide and persistent campaign that will insure the adoption of the amendment at the election in November, 1918.

It is my pleasure to state that all adherents of the Equity Tax League have been and are contributing and will continue to contribute most liberally-- many of them beyond their actual ability-- for we recognize that in this contest, as in all similar disinterested efforts in the cause of humanity, the burden will necessarily bear most heavily on the few willing supporters nearest the scene of action.

We appreciate in the highest degree the deep sentiments of loyalty to the single tax cause and to the interests of its adherents in California, expressed in your joint circular letter of May 3, 1917. Nothing could have been more encouraging or helpful at the time, in view of the distracted conditions then prevailing, which I am glad to state have since been greatly clarified and improved.

It is confidently believed that in existing conditions in California--- under the wise, experienced, level-headed leadership of Judge Maguire, J. Stitt Wilson, Judge Ryckman, Judge Hubbard, Barry, Bucklin, Todd, McCloery, Troy, Dessau, Waterbury, Jacobs, Wells,

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Chadwick, Abramson, Welcome, Lincoln, Doyle, Dunham, Webster, Cadman, Miller, Norton, James and hosts of other devoted single taxers of the Equity Tax League too numerous to mention--- the success of the present campaign is unquestionably assured, if your recommendations as to assistance can be made available without delay.

With these considerations in mind we unhesitatingly present the facts as herein stated and earnestly solicit your aid in such form and to such extent as shall be harmonious with your own views, assuring you that whatever the form or the extent of the assistance you may be inclined to afford will be duly and deeply appreciated and will answer the prayer of every true single tax heart in this commonwealth.

As you will readily understand, serious and considerable liabilities have been and are being created, that our need is urgent (owing to the short time allowed for securing so large a number of signatures) and that therefore whatever assistance is to be given us must be speedy.

We trust you will pardon us for expressing the belief that concerted action by the signers of the joint circular letter referred to would immediately bring this desired result.

With highest personal regards and best wishes, we remain

Yours for the Single Tax now in California,

Equity Tax League of California,

H. W. McFarlane
Secretary and Manager.