

who has given any reasonable indication of an intelligent grasp of fundamental principles of taxation, together with a determination to execute the law as it is; and if fitness is to be a determining factor at the election, he ought to be placed upon the board of review by an overwhelming majority of votes.

In naming several single tax men last week (p. 435) who are Democratic candidates for important office, we by no means named all. Among the others are Henry Smith, a candidate for Congress in Milwaukee, and Robert E. Cresswell and Charles R. Eckert, candidates for Congress in Johnstown and Beaver, Pa., respectively. Mr. Eckert is editor of an excellent single tax paper, the *Commoner*, of Rochester, Pa., and his election is regarded as reasonably certain. Another of these men who are impressing the Democratic party with the growing strength of their cause is J. H. Quick, ex-Mayor of Sioux City, Ia., who is a candidate for a vacancy upon the supreme court bench of his State.

In Chicago, as we have already stated (p. 307), several candidates for the legislature have been put forward, regardless of party, by the Public Ownership league. Chief among these is Clarence S. Darrow, the law partner of the late John P. Altgeld, and who stands for what Altgeld did. Mr. Darrow is a candidate in the Seventeenth district. He is indorsed by the Legislative Voters' league, a body which scrutinizes candidates of all parties and recommends upon grounds of personal character alone. Besides Mr. Darrow, the Public Ownership league names Arthur L. Gettys, of the Third district, who is also recommended by the Voters' league; Julius A. Wessel, of the Eleventh, for whose good personal reputation the Voters' League vouches; George A. Mawman, of the Eighth, the "news-boy" candidate; Paul O. Hazard, of the Fifth; and Albert C. Berndt, of the Second. Under the

"plumping" method of voting for legislators in Illinois, the vote for these men can be multiplied by three, which is believed to make their election probable. Of the desirability of having in the next legislature a group of men committed to the public ownership of public property it is hardly necessary to speak; and all these candidates faithfully represent that principle. Mr. Darrow is, moreover, distinctively a leader in radical politics at this end of the State, and a man whose influence would be felt in any legislative body.

The State Federation of Labor of Illinois, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, took important action at its recent session in adopting the following resolutions on the subject of taxation:

Whereas, labor organizations in New York, Colorado and other states are agitating for changes in the present system of taxation; and, whereas, taxation has a vital effect upon the demand for labor and the rate of wages; Resolved, that a committee of nine be appointed to investigate the relation of wages to taxation and report to the next convention of the Illinois Federation of Labor.

These are the same resolutions that were offered at the international convention of the Typographical union at Cincinnati last Summer (p. 308), and for some unaccountable reason defeated. They are the same that were adopted by the Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union at that time (p. 309), and the same that have been adopted by the most important labor body of New York State. It was Mr. L. P. Straube, of Chicago, who proposed them unsuccessfully at the typographical convention, and who now has the satisfaction of having seen them adopted by the Illinois Federation of Labor. Even here he had to fight for them on the floor of the convention to overcome the adverse report of the committee to which they had been referred. Mr. Straube was made chairman of the committee appointed to carry out the resolutions. This opens the way for him to accomplish a work that at no dis-

tant day will be freely recognized as the best that can be done in labor interests.

The London conference of British municipalities which met this week and adopted the principles of land value taxation for local purposes, was an epoch-making body. Although the rate of tax on land values which it proposed is low—probably not more than half of one per cent.—the reasons given make it of special importance and peculiarly significant. When taxes on land values are urged on the ground that land values are public property, the reform takes on a very different color from what it would have if it were urged on the ground that all property ought to be taxed. And this is the character of the British agitation for the taxation of land values. It is made because those values belong to the public. Since, therefore, scores of British municipalities are demanding this fiscal reform, it is evident enough that a movement has begun in Great Britain which will lead on to the full taxation of these public values and the consequent exemption of all private values.

The recent street car strike in New Orleans has revealed a condition regarding the capitalization of the company which it was worth all the strike has cost to learn. It is stated upon excellent local authority and as the opinion of an expert that "the plant operated by the New Orleans Railways company in its entirety can easily be reproduced new and in better condition than it now is, for about \$30,000,000." Yet this New Jersey trust which owns the plant is capitalized at \$80,000,000, and is striving to earn an income on that extravagant valuation. This is one of the effects of allowing private corporations to own public property. The private property of the trust in this case is only \$30,000,000. Its public property—right of way—is capitalized at \$50,000,000.

Ex-Senator Pugh, of Alabama, is