

Dean Williams, Jas. R. Brown, and Mr. M. Buchanan. At each of these meetings about 5,000 cards, samples of which we inclose, were distributed to the audience, containing the announcement of the following Sunday's lecture, and having on the back of the card a few printed single tax remarks. We also gave away between 20,000 and 25,000 tracts. Our collection totalled over \$400, and with the funds of the society paid the whole expense of the meetings, amounting to about \$1,200.

Our meetings were reported in all the Monday papers, and in this way reached fully 200,000 people who were not in the audience.

Fifty or sixty new names were added to the society's list of single taxers, and several new active workers secured. The series was brought to a close by a social evening in St. George's Hall on Feb. 22d. The program consisted of short speeches, music by an orchestra, and refreshments. About 100 of our friends were present.

The *Toiler*, the official organ of the Trades and Labor Council, has a lot of good single tax matter in every week, mostly from the able pen of W. A. Douglass, and the leaders of the organization are becoming alive to the importance of the subject.

They requested the mayor to call a public meeting to discuss the report of the Ontario Assessment Commission, and is called a "Protest against the Taxation of Industry." The Commission, which was appointed by the Ontario government to consider the whole matter of taxation, takes in two pages of their report in considering the single tax, and then condemns it as "confiscation," because no other country had adopted it. They, however, recommend a tax on franchise as a direct result of our arguments and advocacy, for we were the only persons who asked for such a tax. The Single Tax Association have been framing a reply to the trustees of the Commission on our principles, and hope to have it ready for distribution among the members of the Legislature and others in a few weeks. If anything of importance occurs at the meetings I will report later.

—ALAN C. THOMPSON.

MONTREAL.

The custom of holding open air meetings is with you a popular one, not only in Single Taxdom, but in all sorts of political and religious movements. In Montreal it is a rather unusual sight to see an open air meeting upon any subject whatever. Now and again, during a political campaign, an aspiring candidate has been known to declaim upon the street corner, but those who give ear are seldom sufficiently numerous to attract the attention of the "move on" men. A so-called "overflow meeting" was held in one of our parks once, but the instigator

lost his deposit at the polls. In the throes of its despair, an occasional theological group congregates upon a corner to make its expiring gasp, and it does not even suffer martyrdom. So we do our principal work during the fall and winter months, and we strictly avoid the fresh air.

We opened up with our regular meetings on Oct. 3d last and have since held at least one meeting a month. The subjects treated were as follows: "The Progress of Single Tax Throughout the world," R. B. Capon; Oct. 17th: "Antæus and Hercules," showing how Hercules could only strangle Antæus by raising him from the earth, by B. A. Marcuse; Nov. 21st: "Questions and Answers, and Absurdities of Present Day Taxation," by John Anderson; Dec. 19th: Chart lecture by T. C. Allum, tracing the rise in land values, first, through increase of population, and second, through public improvements; Jan. 23: "Direct and Indirect Taxation," by Richard Dawson; Feb. 26: "The Place of Single Tax in Social Progress," by T. J. Griffith. On Mch. 18 four short papers were read: "Labor Unions," by T. J. Griffith; "Prohibition," by John Anderson; "Municipal Ownership," by Henry Timmis; "Immigration," by R. B. Capon. B. A. Marcuse, the president, referred to the fact that it was just 45 years ago to the day since the Berlin revolutionists were shot at the barricades in their fight for liberty. He then proceeded to point out that it was because the land had not been freed when chattel slavery was abolished, that industrial slavery was able to survive. Our next meeting takes place on Apr. 17th, when the election of officers for the ensuing year will be proceeded with and a *resume* of the past years work given. A paper will also be read if time permits.

During the season a circular dealing with municipalization, with a direct bearing upon the civic affairs of their city, was printed in French and English, and 5,000 copies of each were distributed where they will do most good. We have not had our usual public lecture owing to lack of funds, and it is not likely that we will now be able to have one. This is a matter of regret, but it is apparently unavoidable.

We have been able to secure considerable space in the newspapers, as a result of our monthly meetings, though in all truth it is not because of the large attendance. Thus we reach a much larger number of people through our meetings than a casual visitor might suppose.

At the best, however, the work goes on all too slowly. Not that we feel at all discouraged. I sometimes think that it would be quite impossible to discourage an out-and-out single taxer. We know that we are right and we know that eventually the people must find it out. From the very nature of our reform it is impossible to carry on a campaign of a revivalistic character. A man cannot become a single taxer

by repentance and by holding up his hand. Enthusiasm on the part of the exponent may make others think, but it can no more make single taxers out of them than it could make mathematicians of them. It might make them vote right if the campaign were once on, but the thinking part has to be gone into by the individual himself, and not as a half hour's diversion, but as a study ranging over some considerable period. This is why the wayfaring man is seldom to be found in our meetings. He may come once or twice, but nine times out of ten he will drift away again without grasping the subject. But once he grasps it thoroughly he sticks. I do not suppose there could be any backsliders in a single tax camp.

After all, it is the individual work which counts. I have made converts in a night talk on a train and I have made others in my room, but I cannot say that I ever knew one to be made at a meeting. Not that I discountenance meetings. They are excellent advertising mediums and we need advertising as much as any other movement does. I merely wish to encourage those who may feel disposed to allow their meetings to drop because they cannot see results. The results will come, no fear, but the individual work is that which scores the runs.

The Association has published a pamphlet, *La Vraie Reforme vs. La Reforme Pour Rire* (True Reform vs. Sham Tax Reform), which by those who desire to do missionary work among our French citizens may be had on application to Robt. B. Capon, 28 St. Matthew street, Montreal.

—T. C. ALLUM.

AUSTRALIA.—VICTORIA.

Single taxers have been generally very quiet in all the states with the exception of South Australia. The single taxers of that state made a proposal some time ago to hold an inter-state conference either in Sydney or Melbourne for the purpose of forming a National Australian Single Tax League, but at the request of Mr. Max Hirsch the project was deferred until after the settlement of the Federal tariff, now under discussion in the Commonwealth Parliament. There can be no doubt that such an organization would be of immense advantage at the present time, and I for one do not approve of the postponement of the Conference. It is not proposed that the National League should take an active part in politics on its own account, for it is admitted that our work is mainly educative, but with the consummation of federation a wider field is opened to us. The times are marching on, and single taxers should be prepared to lead the way. The site of the Federal capital will shortly be selected, and under the constitution it must become national property, and an opportunity will be afforded of an immediate application of single tax theories, and the question of

direct taxation ought to be kept in the fore ground. But besides the advantage of having a central organization to watch over Federal affairs, and to give our movement a superior status, there are other benefits to be derived from unity of action. A national league could assist the smaller body of single taxers by arranging for lecturers to visit the different centres, by printing and publishing and distributing tracts and leaflets. An Australian single tax newspaper or magazine could be started containing articles of general interest for all the states. And furthermore, a national league could make it worth while for your John S. Crosby or some other single tax orator to pay us a visit which would give our movement a wonderful impetus and be of advantage to the single tax cause all over the world.

—JOHN S. HIGGS, Echuca.

AUSTRALIA.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

There is not much news to report from here. The Commonwealth Parliament has passed a number of acts, but most of them are concerned merely with local affairs. The Alien Immigration Restriction Act prohibits foreigners from entering Australia unless they can pass a simple examination in some European language. It is really intended to keep out Asiatics.

The most important bill, the tariff bill, was introduced into the House of Representatives in October, and is still there. In spite of repeated promises by the Prime Minister (Mr. Barton) and other members of the ministry that the tariff proposals would be very moderate, the bill was a high protectionist one. I think I sent you a newspaper giving the list of proposed duties. Mr. G. H. Reid, leader of the opposition, moved an unsuccessful vote of censure, and then the bill was taken into committee. About three-quarters of it have been dealt with, and a large number of duties have been reduced, some of them considerably. It has afterwards to be dealt with by the Senate, where there is a free trade majority, so it may be still further reduced. But the Senate is not strictly a "party" house, so it is impossible to say what it will do. The bill has done good in an indirect manner by raising antagonism to protective duties. Melbourne, where Parliament is sitting, is the stronghold of protection in Australia, and much good has been done there, especially among the manual laboring people, by having great debates in Parliament on "Free Trade vs. Protection." Some of the best free trade debaters are labor members from New South Wales and West Australia. All the Victorian labor members are protectionists. When the bill is ready for the house I shall send you a paper for the REVIEW, showing the duties proposed and the reductions made.—ERNEST BRAY, Carrowa.

As you know, we have a Federal Government in Australia now. Most of us strongly