

Campbelltown, a Borough, carried the reform by 101 to 86.

Avenal, a Borough, carried the reform by a majority of 5 to 1.

Petone, a Borough, carried the reform by 811 to 112.

Dunedin South, a Borough, carried the reform by 847 to 117.

North East Valley, (Dunedin,) a Road Board carried the reform by 202 to 172.

Hobson County, a large county north of Auckland, carried the reform by 221 to 197.

(Note. The exact figures for Avenal are not given, but the proportion is 5 to 1.)

This brings the total number of local bodies which levy rates on land values exclusively up to 71. The total number of local governing bodies in the colony is 198. Other polls on this question will be held shortly. Considerable interest is being taken here in the Fairhope experiment, and it is rumoured that a similar settlement is to be started in New Zealand. Land suitable for the purpose situated within 20 miles from one of our largest cities could be bought for about 4 or 5 pounds, (\$20 to \$25) per acre, and if a number of families settled near together, a small township would soon be formed. One important advantage of having such a settlement in New Zealand would be that it could be established in a district where Rating Unimproved Values is in operation. Under these conditions all improvements would be exempt from taxation. I received a letter last week from a Single Tax man living at a distance of over 900 miles from Auckland, who stated that he was willing to be one of a party to form a Single Tax settlement in the North, and hoped that the proposal would be carried out.

The Auckland *Liberator* continues to be published and circulated. This paper is printed by the Single Tax League, and all surplus copies are distributed from door to door. The daily newspapers of Auckland are all unanimous in condemning the Single Tax as a scheme to rob the poor man of his allotment and let the rich bank manager and wealthy merchant off scott free. The poor working men, however, are not guided altogether by the newspapers, and are doing a little thinking for themselves. In New Plymouth a number of open air meetings have been held, and the land reformers have made considerable progress there during the past few months. New Plymouth is the centre of a large dairying district, and there is quite a slump there at the present time, in spite of the fact that butter is bringing about double the price it was a few years ago. The value of the farming land has risen from 200 to 500 per cent., which is the reason for the depression this district is suffering from. All material progress adds further proof to the soundness of Mr. George's conclusions. The improvements in farming methods and in cold storage of produce have had the effect of raising the price of land and of nothing

else. Natural laws will operate whether people choose to recognize them or not, and so long as the majority of the people refuse to recognize the justice of taking land values for public purposes so long will idlers live on the workers and workers be ground down with poverty and lack of employment.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

Auckland, New Zealand.

GERMANY.

GERMAN MUNICIPALITIES STEADILY APPROACHING THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES—INFLUENCE OF ADOLPH DAMASCHKE—EXPERIMENT IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF GAS WORKS IN FRANKENSTEIN, UPPER SILESIA.

There have been no sensational developments in the movement in Germany during the last half-year such as marked the preceding six months; the passing of a law for the taxing of the "unearned increment" in Frankfort-am-Main instance. But there has been steady progress all along the line, particularly a gathering together of the forces of reform, and a more concerted open action on questions of the day. The Land Reform League has taken an open stand on the Colonial question, which through the continued slaughter and cost of the campaign in South West Africa, is coming to be a matter which the German Government must settle soon, if a general uprising of discontent is to be avoided. The Land Reform League has been exposing the practices of the various land companies to whom a short-sighted home government has given privileges that make for the swelling of the revenues of these companies, but that do not make for a healthy settling of the districts concerned. So eminent an authority on colonial matters as Admiral Boeters does not hesitate to say, in official utterance, that the manner in which the land companies have robbed the natives of their land, their only means of livelihood, has been, in very large part, an active cause of the present disastrous and costly war. The statements showing how the land thus robbed from the natives is sold or rented at an exorbitant price to German settlers, is very instructive as an object lesson on speculative methods of opening up a new country.

Another matter in which the Land Reform League has been concerning itself actively for some time is the question of mortgages and mortgage speculation. The increasing crushing debt on agricultural land throughout Germany, and the unhealthy economic conditions consequent thereto, have for some time been an object of anxiety to the government. The Land Reform League has lost no opportunity to

make its offered solution of the problem known to those in authority, and to also engage public opinion in the question. An increasing interest for the suggestions for releasing the farm land from its burden, as proposed by Damaschke in his book, and as carried in the platform of the League, is being shown wherever the land mortgage question is discussed by the state or county authorities.

The recent important strike in the coal regions of central Germany has also given the Land Reform League an opportunity to agitate the question of government ownership of coal mines, something which is easily understood in a country where many public utilities are already public property, and a few more such disastrous labor disturbances would soon make this hope an actuality. The town of Frankenstein in Upper Silesia has just taken over its gas works from a private company, owing to universal discontent with the quality and price of the gas offered by the latter. The first result of the change has been a reduction of 10 per cent. in communal taxation, as well as a reduction in the price of the gas.

Taxation of land according to its selling value, which is slowly becoming law in the municipalities of all German countries, celebrated its greatest victory in April, when it was adopted by the City Council of Berlin, by 71 against 26 votes, as a method of raising the communal land and building taxes. It thus becomes a law in Germany's youngest and greatest city, the unprecedented growth of which has given cause for more abuses in land speculation than any other community in the realm can show. Head Mayor Kirschner made a speech in favor of the new law in which he states that there seemed to be little doubt that it was eminently just, and, furthermore, that the doubt which did exist as to its feasibility, had been relieved by the investigations of the committee into its effect in all towns where it had been already adopted. In no case had the law been repealed after use for a year or more, and almost all towns asked reported most favorably for it. The large suburbs of Berlin, where enormous fortunes have been made in the last twenty-five years by the unprecedented rise in land values, are now one after the other adopting this method of taxation, or discussing the matter in their councils.

An interesting social event in the history of the League was the special meeting given by it on May 6th in honor of the 70th birthday of Professor Adolf Wagner, the leading authority on Political Economy in German University circles, and the holder of the chair of Political Science in the University of Berlin. Prof. Wagner has long been Honorary President of the Land Reform League, and he, the foremost among his colleagues, was the first to openly acknowledge the fundamental justice of the

new doctrine. In every way, and most fearlessly, Professor Wagner has openly declared himself in agreement with the theories propounded by the League, and in many cases the stand taken by so eminent an authority has been of great assistance. It was therefore admirably fitting that the League should join as a body, in the open honoring of this ripe scholar, and his presence on the occasion made the occasion one of political importance as well as of personal import.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

QUEENSLAND.

FAR AWAY QUEENSLAND NOT WITHOUT ITS
APOSTLES OF THE TRUE FAITH—EVEN
HERE THE SEED IS BEING SOWN.

Here in this remote corner of God's earth, some fourteen or fifteen hundred miles from the nearest Single Tax centre, with no league, no organization and no paper, the principles of your great countryman, Henry George, are not without some advocates. There are those among us who are constant in season and out of season in discussing George and his works, in lending books where they are likely to be seed sown on good ground, and by refuting economic delusions when they appear in the local press, and in other ways trying to propagate the principles of our leader.

It is wonderful the amount of sympathy we find existing among reformers of all persuasions for these principles. It is the fashion in these days in this country for every reformer to call himself and to be called a Socialist, but when they come to define their positions they vary considerably and often fundamentally. Those who named the reform movement in Queensland the Labor movement probably did better than they knew, if it were to be renamed now there is every probability it would be called the Socialistic movement, which from a Single Tax point of view would be alarming retrogression. But with all tendency to socialism and its unscientific jumble of truth and error, we cannot ignore the fact that all Socialists believe in the abolition of private property in land, and also for weal or woe they have the confidence and support of the masses. For these reasons we do not so much desire to see the formation of a Single Tax party, as to see the principles of Single Tax infused into the minds of the people in the existing parties and to this end we exhort one another to see to it that we are the leaven in every organization to which we belong, which in time will leaven the whole lump. If we belong to the church let us preach God's mode of raising revenue; if to a trades union or labor party let us teach that socialism at the very best is only a means to an end, and if introduced to-morrow could not be more