

if that was the Single Tax he was a Single Taxer.

Zachariah Chafee, Jr., is a lawyer, the son of the principal owner of the Builders' Iron Foundry, who is a supporter of local option in taxation.

Others spoke in favor of this Act, among them Mr. J. W. Bengough of Toronto.

At the adjointed hearing organized labor was well represented in the persons of Messrs. Preble and Powers, officials of the labor unions of Providence and Pawtucket. Mr. Fraser is a business man of Providence and a Single Taxer. At the first hearing a number were present to speak who could not be heard for lack of time.

On March 10th Mr. J. W. Bengough, the famous Canadian cartoonist, arrived in Rhode Island and has been kept very busy ever since. He has given his wonderfully illuminating "chalk talks," demonstrating the principle of the Single Tax, on the following occasions: March 10th, the Mothers Club of Providence, over 300 present; March 11th at 9 A.M. at State Normal School, several hundred pupils present; at noon, luncheon at the Town Criers; evening, in a parlor at Lonsdale; March 12th before members of Carpenters' Union and other labor men in Loom Fixers Hall, Pawtucket; March 13th before Royal Order of Moose, 1,000 men; March 14th before the British Club in Providence; on Saturday evening the 15th he addressed the Peoples Forum, of Providence, all seats filled; March 16th, at noon, the Congregational Clergymen, and in the evening a large and select audience at Newport; March 17th the Young Men's Hebrew Club and the Public Hearing at the State House. On March 18th he filled two engagements in the evening, to wit, the Unitarian Club and the Olneyville Business Men's Association. He has began a series of "Noon Day Chalk Talks" to be held in the hall of the Peoples Forum, on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st.

Other engagements are: the evening of the 20th, D. K. E. Fraternity at Brown University; the Southern New England Textile Association on the afternoon of the 21st; Women's Political Union on Sunday evening the 22nd. The 23rd is Mr. Bengough's last day in Rhode Island. He speaks to the Baptist Clergymen at noon,

and to the Providence Carpenters' Union in the evening. For the 24th he is billed for the Progressive Club in Lynn, Mass.

Mrs. Bengough accompanied the lecturer on his first visit to Rhode Island and was welcomed by us all. She gave effective assistance to the active campaign for Woman Suffrage, now being conducted in this State.

L. F. C. GARVIN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

Since last writing, two polls under the Land Values Assessment Act have been taken in South Australia. On December 6th, at Wallaroo, the ratepayers were given an opportunity of saying whether they wished to exempt improvements from taxation. They decided by 299 votes to 272 to continue under their present system. We shall continue our educational work in this town, and we are hopeful that in the near future we shall be able to secure a majority of ratepayers in favor of revenue being raised from land values only.

Special interest attached to the poll taken at Thebarton. This municipality was the first in South Australia to adopt the principal of land values rating at a poll in 1907. The system came into operation in 1908 and immediately the land speculators commenced to unload. During the past year opponents of the principle secured control of the Thebarton Council, and at once set to work to discredit the principle. Instead of taking advantage of the Amended Land Values Assessment Act which gives Councils power to make their own valuations, the Council preferred to work under the Government assessment which was very much out of date as to values. The result was there was a shortage in the amount of revenue required to meet the needs of a growing town. Towards the end of the year the Council gave instructions for a new assessment to be prepared. When completed it was condemned both by friends and opponents of land values rating. The ratepayers petitioned the Mayor and asked that a public meeting should be convened so that the

matter of the new assessment might be discussed. The petition was turned down by the Mayor, although the assessment was full of anomalies; some values being too low, others being too high. Then six ratepayers, whose rates were increased under the land values rating system, petitioned for a poll of ratepayers with a view to returning to the old system of rating improvements. This request was at once granted. Two days before the poll an announcement was made that tenants would not be permitted to vote at the rating polls, the reason for same being that the Council were anxious to see the principle defeated. Our League interested itself in the fight, and issued a special leaflet. Steps were also taken to have evidence for a test case in the Courts in the event of the poll being lost on account of the disfranchisement of the tenants who had voted at all previous polls under the Act. It is gratifying to know that when the people were appealed to, they reaffirmed the principle of land values rating by 695 votes to 360. This was a great victory. After the system had been in operation for five years, the majority in favor of the principle had increased from 268 to 335; and that at a poll where some 300 tenants who had previously voted, were disfranchised.

Not only did the ratepayers reaffirm the principle at the rating polls, but every candidate for Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors opposed to land values rating was defeated by big majorities, and a sympathetic Council returned. It is not at all likely that the opposition at Thebarton will ever again ask for another poll. They were routed all along the line.

We have just had a by-election for the Federal Parliament. The death of Representative Roberts caused a vacancy in the Adelaide Division. The Labor candidate was Mr. G. E. Yates, secretary of the Labor Party. The Liberal Union did not put up a candidate. The Single Tax League decided to again run me for the seat as a protest against party politics, and because the policy of the Labor party is a policy of Protection. Under the present tariff the people of Australia are called upon to pay £15,000,000 a year. The

landlord only pays £1,300,000 a year. As good meetings can be obtained at election times it was regarded as a favorable opportunity for propaganda work. There was never any hope of victory, but it was a splendid chance for preaching land values taxation and free trade. A good number of meetings were addressed and a lot of literature circulated. As a result of our work the vote received this time was nearly double that secured at the general election last May. Considering that the district is a strong labor one, and a hot bed of protection, we are well pleased with the result. We shall continue to preach the glorious gospel of freedom until the people recognize that only by the application of Single Tax principles can justice be done. —E. J. CRAIGIE, Adelaide, South Australia.

RECENT ECONOMIC ERRORS.

In an address at Springfield, Mass., Secretary of Labor Wilson said:

"The problem of production has been practically mastered, but methods of equitable distribution still are to be devised."

The socialists also think distribution depends on a "device" or an invented system. Under freedom, distribution will be automatic. Besides transportation, distribution involves only exchange. People want to trade what they do not want for what they want, need no system or device, hence there is no "problem" of distribution. Abolish exploitation, then each will receive his due, and exchange will be left to personal choice. The chief causes of exploitation are: High prices due to taxes; High land rent due to land monopoly; and low wages.

Prices will drop to labor cost when taxes are abolished, and land rent is taken in their stead. The best no-rent land is the basis of wages. Give to labor land now vacant, and ALL wages will rise. Henry George says (Prog. and Pov. Book V. chap. II.)

"Suppose there should rise from the English channel or the German ocean a No-Man's land on which common labor should be able to make ten shillings a day,